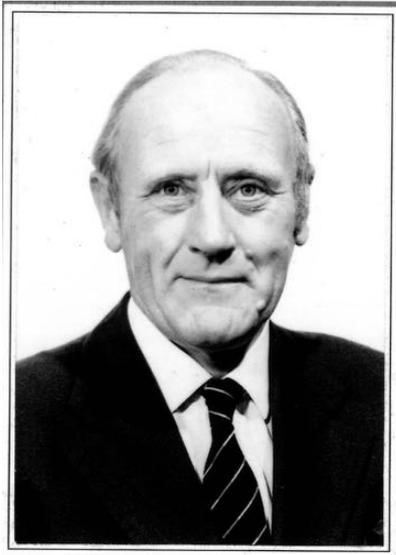


PARK LEGEND CHRIS WINN DIES

Welcome to Parknews. As this edition was being put together we learned of the passing of a Club legend. Chris win died peacefully last Saturday, and our deepest sympathies go to his wife, Val, and to their extended family. In addition to being an England International player, appearing eight times between 1952-54, he played first-class County cricket for Sussex and was a brilliant all-round sportsman. He served as President of Rosslyn Park 1981-82, and was still attending matches – and the AGM – last season despite having achieved the ripe old age of 90. He was still quite sprightly, but cancer was the final tackle that he could not quite shake off. We have decided that Chris deserves a better obituary than anything we can scramble together at short notice, so we shall pay due tribute to the great man next week. If anyone has memories of Chris that he or she would like to contribute please e-mail them to news@rosslynpark.co.uk by this Thursday.



On a more cheerful note, it was a hugely entertaining Friday evening last week when London Irish Wild Geese came visiting. Having had our defences thoroughly scrutinized for the previous two matches against Championship opposition, it was time to test out our attacking prowess. Firstly it must be said that Irish were a tremendous advert for the current standards in National Two South, providing far stiffer opposition than might have been expected. It took a little while for the oil to reach all parts of the Park attacking engine, but when it did there was some quite brilliant running and passing that Irish really could not cope with. We perhaps lost a bit of cohesion for the last 20 minutes as the bench gradually emptied, but generally it was an encouraging performance.

From a spectator's point of view it was terrific stuff. Understandably, Head Coach Kieran Power had a few more reservations in his after-match comments (see later). Certainly when the serious stuff starts against National One opposition in the form of Old Albanian (away) on Saturday, if we are going to play fast and loose there needs to be a bit less of the loose. What could definitely be said after Friday is that if we can win a good share of the ball, and if we can find a bit of space, we could damage any side. It is surely in those "ifs" that the attraction of competitive sport arises.

Friday Night
Before we get on to Old Albanian, this Friday please do come along and enjoy an evening's rugby while supporting a worthwhile cause in support of the family of Shawnton De Four, who collapsed and died during a match against our Nomads last season, leaving a wife and young children. The Nomads play against Old Emanuel for the 'Shawnton Cup'. It will be a 7:45 KO, there will be a BBQ and various fund raising, though we believe admission to the ground will be free. The Clubsides are expecting a decent turnout, but we hope that supporters from all sections of Rosslyn Park will get behind the match.

This Saturday
This coming Saturday we make the short journey to St Albans to open our League season away to Old Albanian. For some reason we have never played well at their Woollams



Park on the attack on Friday night
[Photo by David Whittam]

Next Fixtures

Friday 01 September

Nomads v Old Emanuel

Memorial Match for Shawnton de Four
Home 7:45PM

Saturday 02 September

Old Albanian v 1st XV

National 1

Away KO 3:00PM

Hatters v London Cornish 2

Zoo Sports Shield

Home (4G) KO 2:00PM

Saturday 09 September

1st XV v Blackheath

National 1

Home KO 3:00PM

To book for the pre-match lunch please call David Booth in the Club Office on 020 8876 6044

Havant 2 v Hatters

Zoo Sports Shield

Away KO TBA

Dorking 3 v B XV

Friendly

Away KO TBA

Law Society 2 v Nomads

Surrey Championship

Away KO TBA

Sunday 10 September

Crowthorne v Slingbacks

League

Away KO 2:00PM

ground, even on those occasions when we have won. The players will be keen to set that to rights on Saturday: we cannot afford a replay of the disastrous start we made last season, when we almost wrote off any challenge for a top spot in the first month. But make no mistake – while there may be a handful of clubs well-resourced above the rest, there are no bad sides in National 1, and OA are certainly not an exception to that rule. They went through a bit of a transition last term, but have recruited smartly and shown good form in their pre-season matches. Only our best will do.

The team really would appreciate your support to shout them on to a successful start to the campaign. Please come along if you can to be part of it. OA play at the Woollams Playing Fields, located on the northern outskirts of St Albans, on the main A1081, going north towards Harpenden and Luton. The full address for those with satnav is Woollam's Playing Fields, 160 Harpenden Road, St Albans, HERTS, AL3 6BB.

By train, St Albans City on Thameslink is the nearest station: you can get a cab from there, or it's a short walk up to the main crossroads (Blacksmiths Arms on the corner) where a right turn will put you onto Harpenden Road. From there it's a couple of miles walk along to the ground, but there's a regular (every 20 mins) bus service from the stop diagonally opposite the pub. From memory it is the 432 but do check at the stop. Look out for the goalposts on the right hand side of the road: the ground is slightly set back from the road.

First home match

Our first home League fixture is a cracking London Derby against Blackheath on Saturday 09 September, kicking off at 3:00PM. We enjoyed a "double" over our friends and neighbours last season, and they will be thirsting for revenge with a much strengthened squad. Please do make a note of that one in your diaries.

Rosslyn Park 38 London Irish Wild Geese 10

Practice match



Rosslyn Park finished their practice matches by lighting up a Friday evening for a large crowd with a scintillating display of running rugby against a spirited and skillful Irish side, who drew first blood with a good try up their left wing on 9 minutes.

Park swiftly replied with a great move that saw centre Dan Barnes dot down for 5-5.



It was not until 25 minutes that Park broke through again, resorting to a forward drive that saw hooker Adam Bellamy score, Leonard converting for 12-5.



Irish replied two minutes later with a driving maul of their own for 12-10, but that was as good as it got for the visitors.





A rush of further tries from Harry Hudson, Rhys Crane and Frank Taggart saw Park reach the interval with a lead of 33-10.

Park emptied the bench in the second half and perhaps lost a little cohesion as a result. But they scored the try of the match when winger Alfie Dudman-Jones made a great run up the left and passed inside for flanker Nathan Thomas to score, Leonard converting for the final score of 38-10.



Now the really serious stuff begins as Park open their League campaign this coming Saturday, away to Old Albanian.

Park Head Coach Kieran Power said, "It was a positive that we won the game to take momentum into next week, but still lots to work on.

"For about 40 minutes, twenty minutes either side of half-time, we looked an organised threatening side. After that it was a game broken up with individual errors and set piece discrepancies which spoil the game.



"As a group we were glad of the result but frustrated as we felt we left some points out there - but we know there is so much more to come".

Park: Robinson; Crane, Henderson, Barnes, Weir; Leonard; Crow; Nwakor, Bellamy, Maguire; Frampton, Spivey; Taggart, Hudson, Spencer.

Bench: Gibson, Wade, Gratton, Gray, Thomas, Gash, Dudman-Jones, Cooke, Milner

First Annual Shawnton Memorial Cup
at Rosslyn Park Rugby Club

Friday 1st September 2017
Rosslyn Park Nomads v Old Emanuel 2nd XV

Kick Off 7:45

Bar and BBQ

Share your stories and raise a glass of rum for your teammate

PosterMyWall.com

400 Club

If you'd like to enjoy the chance of winning monthly cash prizes - including a jackpot bonus at the end of the year - while helping your club, then please

contact Boothy in the Club office.

Slingbacks

Slingbacks old and new have got involved with the #innerwarrior events in conjunction with the Women's Rugby World cup this summer. Including ITV's The Women's Rugby World Cup 2017 advert.

In collaboration with the RFU last Wednesday the Slingbacks hosted their own #innerwarrior recruitment drive for the new season. The session was a great combination of basic ball skills, fitness and fun. With numbers over 20, this was a fantastic session with a mixture of experienced and new players followed by a pint in the Hallway House, in Barnes.



The Slingbacks have been training with enthusiasm and have their first League match on Sunday 10 September, when they visit Crowthorne. Last season's fixture saw the Park girls grab an away win against the Crows, who they subsequently beat in the return match at the Rock. The Berkshire side will be thirsting for revenge but the Park girls will be keen to get their season off to a really good start. If you enjoyed the Women's World Cup, why not come along and support our own girls this season? The first home match is against Portsmouth Vlkyries on Sunday 25 September.



Talking of the World Cup, one important member of Park's medical team has been missing from the pre-season practice matches, in the form of Dr Katy Hornby (middle of photo above, next to Pippa Rollitt). However, you may have caught sight of Katy if you have been watching the Women's Rugby World Cup, as she has been working as the medical officer to the England team, who played so well before losing to New Zealand in the final.

City Lunch

We've arranged a very special City Lunch on Friday 20 October hosted by Ugo Monye. Our city lunches provide an informal way for members, friends and colleagues to get together and celebrate all that is great about our game. Further information is given in the flyer in this edition.

Away travel

After this Saturday our next away match is at Esher on 16 September. If you haven't been before, their ground is at Molesey Road, Hersham, KT12

3PF very close to Hersham station (turn right out of the station and the ground is about 300 metres along on the left). The only nearby pubs are in the opposite direction and about three quarters of a mile away. However, the Esher clubhouse is friendly, opens early and usually has a decent pint of Youngs available.

For the visit to Fylde on 30 September. It's the Virgin service out of Euston that you need – book to Ansdell & Fairhaven (change at Preston). The ground is close to the station with an excellent and friendly clubhouse which always serves a decent pint. There are no decent pubs near the ground – if you are travelling early then you could get off the stop before at Lytham St Annes where you are almost certain to encounter some fellow Park supporters. It's about half an hour's walk to the ground but there's also a frequent bus service.

Fixture calendar

Bob Fisher wrote in to point out that the calendar link given in the previous Parknews was to the wrong version! The correct link is:

<https://www.caltrics.com/calendar/rosslyn-park-fixtures-calendar/114>

Subs due

Membership Subs are now overdue, so if you are a Member, please do check that you've paid. If you don't already pay by direct debit please consider doing so as it considerably reduces admin hassle. If you are not already a Member, please consider becoming one - as well as free admission (or reduced admission depending upon which category you choose) it gives you a say and a vote in how your club is run.

Next Parknews

The next Parknews should appear on the website during Monday next week, as the Editor is off on hols. This imposes a tight deadline on contributors, so it may be a short one! There will not be a Parknews the following week, but all reports etc will be held over for a bumper edition the following week. After that things should revert to normal. If you would like to receive a 'tweet' immediately it appears then subscribe to the @RPNoseyParker twitterfeed. Letters and other contributions from readers are always welcome: the usual deadline is around noon on Tuesdays.



BOOK
NOW

Rosslyn Park RFC City Lunch

with
UGO MONYE



Date: Friday 20th October 2017, 12pm - 5pm

Venue: Brasserie Blanc, 9 Belvedere Road,
Southbank, London, SE1 8YP

Tickets: £90 (excl. VAT) each which includes a Cocktail Reception,
3 Course Meal, Venue, Guest Speakers and Celebrity Appearances

Group Bookings Available!

Dress code: Smart / Casual

Contact: dom.shabbo@rosslynpark.co.uk or 07787301691

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