

NOT BAD FOR STARTERS

Welcome to Parknews. A good turnout for Saturday's 'friendly' against London Scottish and an encouraging start for Park, despite the final score of 28-47. It would have been easy to set up practice matches against lesser teams and to go into the League fixtures brimming with false confidence. In tackling full-time professional Championship sides first time up we will know exactly where we need to improve. There was certainly no place to hide on Saturday when Scots strung a few high speed attacks together. However, Park held their own in most areas and that has to be encouraging.

Rugby returned to a large attendance at the Rock on Saturday



Park always looked dangerous with ball in hand and to score four tries against a well-drilled and speedy Scots defence was really very encouraging. There were times that our own defence looked a bit exposed to Scots' speed of foot and handling, but it is precisely to highlight these things that these pre-season practice matches are held, and there are not going to be many National 1 teams who can put together some of those moves!

It was a moment of some concern when Hugo Ellis was helped from the field early on but, fingers crossed, let's hope it wasn't as serious as it first looked.

First scrum of the season



This weekend

The coming Saturday we face a stern test, playing away at Hartpury who went through the whole of last season winning every match in National 1. They are now a Championship side, and have further strengthened their squad for the coming campaign. While it may look at first glance as if this is 'mission impossible', we did run Hartpury close in both matches last season, and everyone in our squad will be playing for a place in the first League match. There's not a lot of point in rolling over weaker teams and starting the season with a false idea of our own strength. If there are still areas we need to work on they will certainly be exposed at Hartpury!

Your support on Saturday would be very much appreciated. Kick off is 2:30PM and Hartpury will not be charging for admission. By car, leave the M4 at Junction 15 and follow the A419 towards Cirencester. At Cirencester the A419 becomes the A417. Follow the A417 towards Gloucester and the M5. At the roundabout at the Air Balloon pub, take the first exit towards Gloucester. Take the second exit at the next roundabout. At the next roundabout take the third exit (A40) towards Ross-on-Wye. Continue on the A40, heading straight on at the next two roundabouts. At the third roundabout, take the A417 towards Ledbury. After leaving Maisemore, the College is signposted at the second turning on the left.

By public transport, cheaper advance rail tickets are on sale and Gloucester (from London

Next Fixtures

Saturday 19 August

Hartpury v 1st XV

Practice Match
Away KO 2:30PM

Friday 25 August

1st XV v London Irish Wild Geese

Practice Match
Home 7:45PM
Admission Free

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

Home (4G) KO 2:00PM

Saturday 09 September

FIRST HOME LEAGUE MATCH

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

Park on the attack last Saturday



Paddington) is the place to book to. Legend has it that there is a bus service from there to Hartpury College, but our 'regulars' have never discovered it and rely on getting a cab. If you are travelling alone, you will almost certainly find some friendly faces in the Fountain Inn (53 Westgate Street - opens 11:00) with a view to cab sharing - it cost about £14 last year - but do be there by around 1:00PM-ish.

We have two further home matches before the season proper gets under way. On Friday 25 September there is the last First XV practice match at the Rock, with London Irish Wild Geese providing the opposition. Admission is free for all and the Clubhouse will be open for those coming directly from work for the 7:45 kick off. It should be a really great start to the weekend, and if the weather treats us kindly it should be a fine evening to enjoy a few alfresco refreshments – so please bring your friends down and show them what Park has to offer.

Ollie Hutson launches into a tackle



Rosslyn Park 24 London Scottish 47 Practice Match

Rosslyn Park blew off the cobwebs with a tough practice match against their full-time professional neighbours, London Scottish. The performance, rather than the final score, is the most important thing in these matches as the Coaches try different combinations and new signings. On that basis both sides will be well satisfied.

Park announced attacking intent and piled over the Scots line in only the third minute, flanker Harry Hudson touching down, for 7-0.

However, the slickness and pace of the Championship side saw them reply quickly. They built up a 28-7 lead with two tries from Ross Neal and one

Andrew Henderson swerves round a defender



from Ben Mosses, all converted, before Park were able to score a decent try, sending through prop Ali Wade, whose effort was converted by Harry Leonard for 26-14.

Park soon followed up with a super try, finished off by centre Dan Barnes to close the scores to 28-19.



Harry Leonard offloads in the tackle to Nathan Thomas

Scots put their foot back on the accelerator with tries from Mosses, Luca Smith and Dan George to increase their lead to 47-19 but Park were never out of it and their fitness held up well against their full-time opponents, a tribute to their close-season conditioning work.

Park had the final word as a concerted attack saw fly half Harry Leonard break the Scots defence to score for 47-24, greeted by the final whistle.

Next Saturday Park face potentially an even tougher test, travelling to Gloucestershire to face another Championship side, Hatpury, who have considerably reinforced a team that went through last season unbeaten.



Park Head Coach, Kieran Power, said, "It was a solid first outing for us this season, and have some real encouraging signs to take into what will be a tougher test next week against Hartpury.

"But at this time of year it's about our development as a squad as we build up to our first league game".

Park: Robinson; Crane (Hutson), Barnes, Grove (Weir), Henderson; Leonard; Crow; Nwakor (Higgins / Smith), Gibson (Vaughn Edwards), Maguire (Wade / Gratton); Frampton, Spivey (Gray); Taggart, Hudson (Thomas), Ellis (Cooke / Hudson).

Bench: Vaughn Edwards, Wade, Grey, Gash, Weir, Higgins, Gratton, Cooke, Thomas, Hutson, Smith

Park scorers: Leonard (T, 3C), Hudson (T), Wade (T), Barnes (T)

Opening League match

Our opening League match is away to Old Albanian, one of the easier away grounds to get to, so it would be a great boost to the team to have a small army of Park supporters there. OA play at the Woollams Playing Fields, located on the northern outskirts of St Albans, central Hertfordshire 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, and there is no price advantage in booking an advance ticket: the cheap day return on the day is the same price. You can get a cab from the station, 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. Look out for the goalposts on the right hand side of the road: the ground is slightly set back from the road.

Support a good (rugby) cause

The night before the first League match, on Friday September 1, please do come along and enjoy a Friday evening's rugby while supporting a worthwhile cause. You may recall the tragic death of Old Emanuel player, Shawnton De Four, who collapsed during a match against our Nomads last season, leaving a wife and young children. The Nomads play against Old Emanuel for the 'Shawnton Cup' on Friday the 1st of September as a memorial to the player and to raise funds to assist his family. 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. It has always been a proud boast among the Rugby community that "We look after our own". Please do come along for what should be a big club night and show that Rosslyn Park cares.

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

Academy Training Camps

There are still just a few places remaining for our very popular Mini and Youth Summer Holiday Training Camps over five days from: Monday 21st - Friday 25th August 2017. The camps are aimed at players of all abilities, with

ROSSLYN PARK RUGBY CAMPS
MON 21ST AUG TO FRI 25TH AUG 2017

OPTIONAL SESSIONS FOR CAMP ATTENDEES: LIONS FOUNDATION STRENGTH
We've teamed up with Lions Sports Academy to offer additional sessions for camp attendees: helping young people to correct imbalances and co-ordination issues.
Learn correct resistance training techniques
Increase upper & lower body strength
Increase lower body power
Reduce injuries
Improve co-ordination
Increase confidence
£20 FOR 2 HOURS

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE

ROSSLYN PARK ACADEMY
U8s to U16s
RUGBY CELEBS
NUTRITION ADVICE
FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS
VIDEO ANALYSIS
CLASS WORK
FITNESS
£35 PER DAY OR £160 FOR 5 DAYS

ELITE CAMP
U12s to U16s
COACHED BY NIC ROUSE (ex London Irish & Sale Sharks)
PLAYERS MUST BE IN SCHOOL/CLUB'S A TEAM OR 1ST TEAM
£200 FOR 5 DAYS

TO BOOK
Call: 0208 8766044
Email: dom.shabbo@rosslynpark.co.uk

ROSSLYN PARK
ROSSLYN PARK RUGBY CLUB
160 HARPENDEN ROAD
ST ALBANS
HERTS AL3 6BB

sessions tailored to each individual age group between U8 and U16. Sessions cover both technical skills, team work and fitness. The Rosslyn Park Academy will be running two camps side by side. The Elite Camp is aimed at more advanced players who are currently playing in their school or club A team. Both camps will cover nutrition advice and video analysis with talks from professional players and special guests.

The Rosslyn Park Rugby Camps are open to both members and non-members. They are an ideal way for younger players to develop their rugby skills in a fun and professional environment prior to the 2017/18 season.

The cost for the Academy Camp is £35 per day or £160 for all five days. The cost for the Elite Camp is £200 for five days. Please make your application as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

If you wish to attend either of the camps please contact Dom Shabbo with any questions via email:

dom.shabbo@rosslynpark.co.uk

or phone: 020 8876 6044

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.

Away travel

Cheaper Advance tickets are also now on sale 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.

Slingbacks

The Slingbacks are still recruiting and have the Inner Warrior event starting at 7:30pm on August 23rd, aimed at getting some new players - fun filled, skills based session open to complete beginners. If you know any sporty young women – even if they have never played the game before – please do encourage them to come along to the event, or indeed to training on any Wednesday evenings, where they can be sure of a warm welcome. For more information they can drop us a message on Facebook or email slingbacks@rosslynpark.co.uk



The Slingbacks have assembled a pretty impressive all-woman coaching team for the coming season. Our outstanding fly half Alice Lovatt will bring her vast knowledge of the game to bear as player-coach and will be joined by two very experienced ex-Slingbacks. Amy Turner, who went on to play scrum half for England will be developing the skills of the backs, while Anna Butler who helped the Slingbacks win a place in Premiership 2 before moving on to several successful seasons propping at the top level (where she still commands a place) will be looking after the forwards. They will be assisted by others from time to time. It's a steep learning curve for many of the younger players but they could hardly be in better hands.

Clubsides' Fixtures 2017-18

Clubsides fixtures for this season have now been finalized, thanks to some hard unsung work by Will Thorogood.

Hatters

Zoo Sports Shield

Sep 02	H	L Cornish 2
09	A	Havant 2
16	A	Chobham 2
23	A	Cobham 2
30	H	Sutton & Epsom 2
Oct 21	H	Chichester 2
27	H	Kew (Friday eve)
Nov 04	H	Dorking 2
25	H	Guildford 2
Dec 09	A	Worthing 2
15	H	Merlins (Friday eve)
Jan 06	H	Chobham 2
12	H	Sutton & Epsom 2 (Fri eve)
Feb 03	A	Chichester 2
17	H	Havant 2
Mar 03	A	Dorking 2
24	A	Guildford 2
Apr 07	H	Worthing 2
14	H	Cobham 2

B XV

Middlesex Merit 1

Sep 02	A	Brighton 2
16	A	Belsize Park 2
23	H	HAC 2
30	A	Haberdashers 2

Oct 07	H	Hampstead 2
14	A	Belsize Park 3
21	H	H & F 3
28	H	L Cornish 3
Nov 04	A	Ruislip 2
11	H	Chiswick 2
25	A	Millfield
Dec 02		Cup QF
09	A	HAC 2
16	H	Haberdashers 2
Jan 06	A	Hampstead 2
13	H	H & F 3
27	A	L Cornish 3
Feb 03	H	Ruislip 2
17	A	Chiswick 2
24		Cup SF
Mar 03	H	Millfield
10	H	Belsize Park 2
24		Play-offs
Apr 07		Cup Final
14		Play-off finals

Fours

Middlesex Merit 2

Sep 02	A	Dorking 3
16	H	Belsize Park 3
23	A	H & F 4
30	H	HAC 3
Oct 07	A	Grasshoppers
14	H	Belsize Park 2
20	H	O Stretonians (Fri eve)
28	A	Ealing 2
Nov 04	H	O Priorians
11	A	Pinner
25	H	Kilburn
Dec 02		Cup QF
09	H	H & F 4
16	A	HAC 3
Jan 06	H	Grasshoppers
13	A	O Stretonians
27	H	Ealing 2
Feb 03	A	O Priorians
17	H	Pinner
24		Cup SF
Mar 03	A	Kilburn
10	A	Belsize Park 3
24		Play-offs
Apr 07		Cup Final
14		Play-off finals

Nomads

Surrey Championship

Sep 01	H	O Emanuel 2 (Fri eve)
09	A	Law Society 2
16	H	Exiles 2
23	A	Effingham 2
30	H	Esher Abbots
Oct 07	A	Ironsides 2
14	H	Marlborough Nomads
21	H	Reigatians 2
Nov 04	A	Wimbledon 3
11	H	Farnham 2
Dec 09	H	Camberley 2
16	A	Exiles 2
Jan 06	H	Effingham 2
13	A	Esher Abbots
27	H	Ironsides 2
Feb 03	A	Reigatians 2
Mar 03	H	Wimbledon 3
10	A	Farnham 2
Apr 07	A	Camberley 2
14	H	Law Society 2

Fixture calendar for phone and computer

There is now a Google calendar that shows all of the Park 1stXV fixtures

for the 2017/18 season, which you can download to your manifold devices. It will be automatically updated throughout the season. Even the Editor managed to download it successfully!

The link in iCal format is:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/rosslynparkfc%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics>

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.



**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

Brought to you by



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.

Facilities

Hiring out our facilities, whether the pitch or Clubhouse, is a really useful source of close season income. If you know anyone who might be interested, be it a birthday party, a one-off match or a whole rugby tournament, then please pass on the details to Dom Shabbo in the club office (020 8876 6044).

Readers Letter

Jonathan Crouch on the passing of his father, RA Crouch, a former player of distinction

Gentlemen,

You may be interested to know that my father Raymond Crouch died last week at the ripe old age of 95. This may be of interest for the Rosslyn Park newsletter/magazine. He may have been the oldest surviving ex player! For



RA Crouch is seated front row next to the captain's left shoulder

some reason, which he could never explain, he was known as R.A Crouch.

I believe I am right in saying that he first played for the Park at the age of 18 while still at Felstead School and played first team rugby until he joined the Coldstream Guards in 1940. After the war he played for the Park until his retirement in 1952 (please excuse me if my facts are not 100% correct). I believe he captained the side for a couple of years round about the 1950's and from what I can gather from the masses of press cuttings that I have, the Park was one of the top teams in the country.

They won the Middlesex Sevens under his captaincy as well as the Melrose Sevens. He played also for Middlesex, London, and the Eastern Counties and was a travelling reserve for England. According to an old friend of his and member of the first XV, John Reichwald, he should have been capped for England many times. If of any further interest, I can find some press photographs.

Kind regards, **Jonathan Crouch**

ED: Club Archivist David Whittam confirms that Ray was indeed a significant Park player, joining the club in 1940 and played through the 1940s and 50s as a wing forward, alongside surviving Park stalwarts J, V, Smith and Chris Winn. During this time he also played in the winning team in the Middlesex 7's 1947

Alfie's one of ours

The previous Parknews listed the new players signed for this season. Our former Minis supremo, Tom Blake, points out in respect of one of them that, "Alfie Dudman-Jones joined Park as an Under 12 in 2007 and was our leading try scorer from then until we disbanded after U17s. He was in the same Park age group as Tom Whiteley (Saracens – who captained their side at the Singha 7s tournament at Franklin's Gardens), Harry Glover (England 7s) and Kieran Treadwell (Ulster and now Ireland) – although it was a challenge to get them all on the same pitch! His Dad has been a regular supporter of the first XV for the past 10 years also".

Next Parknews

The next Parknews should appear on the website during next week, appearing by around Wednesday lunchtime. 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.



Nathan Thomas takes on the Scots' defence last Saturday