



Season 2017-18

Issue 07

04 September 2017

# 9-TRY PARK OFF TO A FLIER

**Welcome to Parknews.** Park's season got off to a great start on Saturday with a super display of running rugby that overwhelmed Old Albanian. The pre-match auguries were not all positive: there were several key players unavailable (consider that in the back row alone there was no Mike Macfarlane, Hugo Ellis or Josh Ovens). By contrast, Old Albanian website was saying bullish things about their own back-row reinforcements courtesy of Saracens. But as soon as the match itself started it was clear that – on the day – Park were by far the better side.

What was particularly impressive was the speed and cohesion with which Park attacked. If some wondered about the wisdom of playing a side like Hartpury pre-season, then here was the vindication as Park played at a pace OA simply could not cope with. Park's tackling was first rate to the extent that the home side rarely penetrated the 22. OA's kicking out of defence was inconsistent and many times Park ran the ball back crossing the gain line. The result, and the manner in which Park played, was testimony both to the strength in depth of the squad and to the hard work put in with the coaches in the pre-season.

## Competition for places

It looks likely that a few names one would have expected automatically to appear on the team sheet will have to work really hard to get into the team at this rate! However, some caution is necessary. In the same way as it was important not to panic when we made a poor start to last season, nor should we get too carried away on the back of one good performance here. We know from previous meetings that OA are a good side, but on this particular day they did not play at all well. It may be true that Park did not allow them the space to do anything, but they did not look capable of posing much of a threat. Blackheath this coming Saturday will represent a far sterner test.

It's impossible after just one match to make an assessment based on form but after Coventry, Plymouth Albion were the club most tipped as potential League winners. Blackheath beat them last Saturday by 32-31, admittedly with the last kick of the match in the form of a 40-metre penalty, but the game lasts 80 minutes. That looks pretty solid. If we can beat our old friends and rivals, then might be the time to allow a slight sense of optimism to creep in.

Coventry justified their position as favourites with a 20-63 away win at Hull Ionians, but were 14-3 in arrears at one stage and led by only 25-20 at half time. Superior speed and fitness showed in the second half. Two of the other favourites met each other with Amptill grabbing a 21-21 draw at Birmingham Moseley, courtesy of a last minute penalty. Many eyes were on Loughborough because of their new tie-in with Leicester but they went down by 33-23 at Darlington Mowden Park. Old Elthamians, coached by two former Park players in the form of Sam Howard and Aaron Liffchak, are rumoured to have money to spare but went down by 39-14 at Esher, who could well be dark horses, and are our next opponents away from home. The other two promoted sides played each other, Bishops Stortford beating Caldby by 49-26. Spare a thought for Fylde, one of the most entertaining teams in the league, their form slumped towards the end of last season and they started this one with a 12-25 home defeat by Cambridge.

## This Saturday

However, our primary concern is with Blackheath on Saturday. Last season for the first time in ages we did the 'double' over them, finally ending what had almost seemed a hoodoo whenever we met. They will doubtless be thirsting for revenge, so we shall need to be at our best. Judging from that Plymouth result they have strengthened their squad



Park attack through Henry Robinson at Ols Albanian on Saturday [Photo: David Whittam]

**Next Fixtures**  
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

Next 1st XV home match

Saturday 23 September

**1st XV v Bishops Stortford**

National 1  
Home KO 3:00

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

since last season, and will doubtless bring their usual contingent of noisy supporters, so please do come along and give the team your full-throated support.

**Old Albanian 0  
Rosslyn Park 58**

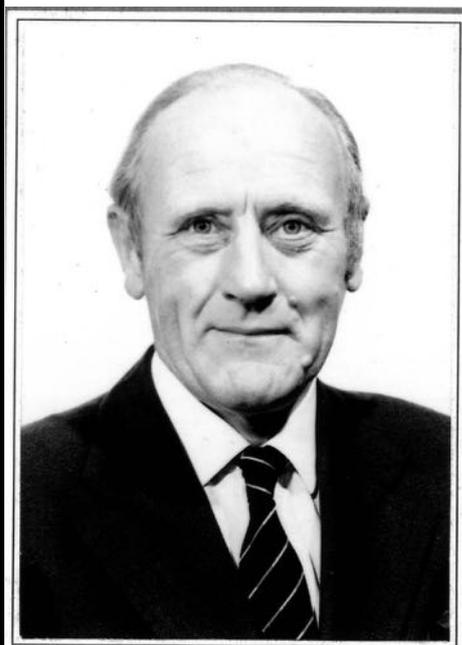


## National 1

Rossllyn Park's League season got off to a spectacular start on Saturday with a 58-0 away win at Old Albanian.



# CHRIS WINN (ROSSLYN PARK & ENGLAND)



We reported last week the passing of one of our most notable players, Past President Chris Winn. Christopher Elliott Winn was born on 13 November 1926 in Beckenham. He went to Oxford University where he was a gifted sportsman, winning blues at both cricket and Rugby union.

He joined Rossllyn Park as a player, one of the speediest wingers of his day. He made his England debut at the age of 25, appearing against South Africa at

Twickenham in January 1952 in front of a capacity crowd of 65,000.

England lost by 8-3, but those 3 points comprised a great opportunist try by Chris Winn (you can find the Pathe News footage at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nHkiIW6q1o>).

Another distinguished Past President of Rossllyn Park was at Twickenham that year to watch England play Ireland. Tony Tanner said, "My first memory of Chris was when I went with my prep school to Twickenham to see England against Ireland in 1952. A bitterly cold day with snow round the edge of the pitch where, according to the master in charge of our party, although Chris was on the wing he played as if he was a vigorous member of the back row. A few years later found me playing in the same Park side with Chris who, during the match was holding up a member of the opposition who had passed over the try line and I managed to trundle them both into the dead ball area thus averting a try. He was a fantastic, enthusiastic player who never gave up, a stalwart supporter of the Park who I have known since 1956. A great man".

Chris went on to win a total of eight caps, the final one being against France at Stade Colombes in 1954. He was also an extremely accomplished cricketer, winning four Blues at Oxford and going on to play first-class county cricket for Sussex. A left-hand batsman and occasional wicket keeper he appeared in 59 first-class matches, his total of 2449 runs included two centuries and a top score of 146 not out. He was a member of MCC, often to be found in the Long Room with the doyen of cricket correspondents E W Swanton, and was President of Hampstead Cricket Club.

When Chris married the top athlete Valerie Ball, five times British Champion at 400 metres / 440 yards at the White City, who survives him, there were photos in many national newspapers.

Chris kept up his interest in Rossllyn Park when his playing days were over, a constant source of advice and suggestions. In 1981 he served his term as President and was made an Honorary Life Member in 2012. He lived life to the full, a most convivial man to share a pint with and not entirely a foreigner to the odd small wager here or there, he never really lost the slight mischievous glint in his eye.

He was the product of a different age, when the unwritten rules of sport were just as important as the printed ones, but he never wavered in his enthusiasm for the game itself. Before a recent AGM he could be found out on the 4G by the goalposts passing a ball around with a few of the players, doubtless telling them how much more difficult it was when the balls were laced-up leather ones, sopping wet, slippery and heavy.

While mourning Chis's passing, and extending our deepest sympathies to Valerie and their family, it is difficult not to imagine that the great man would much rather we simply celebrated a true sportsman's life well lived.

*We understand that the cremation will be a private family affair, but there will be a Thanksgiving Service on Monday 02 October at St Luke's church, The Avenue, Kew at 3:00PM, and afterwards at Richmond Cricket Club, Old Deer Park, the London Welsh – and formerly Rossllyn Park – ground that Chris so often graced with his presence.*



Harry Leonard started things off with a penalty in the second minute.

Committed to all-out attack Park grabbed two converted tries, by Ben Marfo and Will Crow, for a 17-0 lead less than ten minutes.



The pressure was relentless as the visitors threw the ball around. Further tries from Henry Spencer and Andrew Henderson saw Park claim the four-try bonus point after only 23 minutes.

Henry Robinson dotted down on the stroke of half time for a lead commanding of 32-0.

The second period had the hosts reeling again from two tries in the first ten minutes, Mo Nwakor and Will Crow the scorers, Leonard adding the conversions for 46-0.

Albanian put everything on the line to stem the tide. But Park were ruthless. Stewart Maguire added a try for 51-0 on 74 minutes.



Russ Weir got round the outside of the defence with two minutes remaining for Park's ninth try, Leonard's conversion taking the final tally to 58-0

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Rossllyn Park Head Coach, Kieran Power, said, "Yesterday was a pleasing result for all involved and for the whole squad for their efforts put in over a long pre-season.

"Although the scoreline suggests a resounding performance, there were still facets of the game that we need to clear up before next weekend.

"It was a great start to the season, but we have to go away now and work hard to back that up against fierce rivals Blackheath next week in a game

that will be up a couple of notches in intensity and physicality”.

*Park: Robinson; Marfo, Henderson, Barnes, Weir; Leonard; Crow; Nwakor, Bellamy, Maguire; Frampton, Gray; Taggart, Hudson, Spencer.*

*Bench: Gibson, Wade, Gratton, Thomas, Gash, Grove*



*Park scorers: Crow (2T), Marfo (T), Spencer (T), Henderson (T), Robinson (T), Nwakor (T), Maguire (T), Weir (T), Leonard (P, 5C).*

## Clubsides



Will Thorogood reports quite a busy weekend, starting with the inaugural Shawnton De Four Memorial match on Friday evening, **Nomads** v Old Emanuel 2's. Both teams posed together before the match (photo by David Whittam above) and stood in tribute to Shawnton before the match (below along with an action shot from the match).

A good game, good crowd and dedicated to a good cause. I'm sure the Nomads will submit a full report of the proceedings, but an auction, "silent auction" and collection raised a substantial sum for Shawnton's family. In short, a very competitive game was played, which ended up with the scores being 20-20 with about 5 minutes left. Emanuels fired straight back at the Nomads, and constructed a well worked try, out on the right. So, Nomads 20 Old Emanuels 2's 25! Thanks to all concerned in playing, arranging, supporting, donating and officiating, and making it happen.



The **Hatters** played on Saturday afternoon, in a friendly against old rivals London Cornish 2's. 4 x 20 minute sessions, with uncontested scrums, unfortunately, but with plenty of open rugby, new season errors, and coughing and spluttering. At the end, and a few injuries, Hatters 22 Cornish 35.

The **4s** won away to Dorking 3, but I haven't had any feedback, as yet, as to how the **Bs** did at Brighton 2.

## Hatters 22 London Cornish IIs 35 Practice match

The Hatters returned to the field of play on Saturday for the first time since winning the league back in April with that memorable win over Richmond in the final.

Local friends and rivals, London Cornish, were the visitors for this training game, the Hatters' one and only warm-up game ahead of the season's opener away at Havant this coming Saturday, and it was the visitors who were to emerge victorious.

However with four and a half months featuring little to no rugby it was perhaps a bit of a surprise that it was the Hatters that got off to the faster start, with Ali 'big game' Crawford using the post to great effect as he bounced a chip off it to dot down unopposed.

It could have been more as Grant Somerville burst through on a brilliant line, only for the excesses of the Friday night to catch up with him at the crucial moment as the ball mysteriously fell from his grasp as he bent over to dot down.

The big wide 4G pitch began to catch up with the Hatters though, with a lack of communication and organisation beginning to set in as the lungs began to burn. Cornish capitalised, levelling through their slippery fly half before adding further scores for a decent lead as the game, split into four quarters of twenty, entered the third quarter.

Down four tries to one, the Hatters rallied. There was a determination not to let the success of last season go to waste this season, and they scored key tries in that third period through Paul Goodall, once again showing his nose for the line at the tail of the maul, and Jack Cooper, who put in a tidy performance in the unfamiliar position to him of scrum half.

It looked as though the comeback was on, and as they put in a huge defensive set against a determined Cornish attack, belief was coursing through the team. Unfortunately oxygen was not though, and as this well-organised Cornish side shifted the ball from one side to the other a final time, the Hatters just did not quite have the energy to move their men to the far side of the ruck, with Cornish going over in the corner to put themselves two scores clear.

Back came the Hatters though, with time ticking down they moved back into Cornish territory and a wonderful solo run from debutant, Adam Parmenter, capped his Man of the Match performance with a try. He was one of three debutants on the day, with Macca in the midfield and Will up in the engine room, all three of whom enjoyed handy first outings.

Result aside, it was a good blow out for the Hatters ahead of Saturday's opener. The only major downside was the number of early season casualties, which saw them play out the final 20 minutes or so with just 14 men.

Hats off to Cornish, who put in a great shift. With the two sides in different conferences this year it unfortunately means that this is likely the last time that these two will meet this season unless both reach the play-offs.

Full Time: Rosslyn Park Hatters 24-35 London Cornish

## Slingbacks

The Slingbacks have been drawn at home to Medway in the Cup competition this year: the match will be on Sunday 15 October. The girls have their first League match this Sunday, when they visit Crowthorne. Last season's fixture saw the Park girls grab an away win against the Crows, so 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 Valkyries on Sunday 25 September.



**ROSSLYN PARK RUGBY CAMPS**

**MON 23<sup>RD</sup> OCT TO FRI 27<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2017**

**LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE**

**ELITE SCHEDULE**  
**START 9.30am**  
 Registration and screening  
 Athletic development  
 Rugby skills/games  
 Lunch 12.15pm  
 Workshop/video analysis  
 Rugby skills/games  
**FINISH 4.00pm**

**ROSSLYN PARK ACADEMY**  
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**£35 PER DAY OR £160 FOR 5 DAYS**

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**£200 FOR 5 DAYS**

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

If you cannot make it to Esher then it is very likely that the Fours and Nomads will play consecutively on the 4G with the first match starting at about noon.

### Away travel

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. There is a pre-match lunch available, please contact the Esher Office on 01932 220295 to book places or tables. The charge is £20 per person.

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.

If you want to get the cheapest rail tickets it's not too early to be thinking of Darlington Mowden Park on 11 November. At the risk of stating the obvious, Darlington on the Virgin East Coast route is the station to book to.

### Law Amendments

Those of you who have followed Parknews assiduously through the close season will know this, but with our first home match this Saturday others might not be aware that there are six law amendments as a consequence of positive trials. These relate to the scrum (Law 20) and tackle/ruck (Laws 15 and 16), and are aimed at making the game simpler to play and referee as well as further promoting player welfare. They have been approved following extensive game data analysis as well as player, coach, match official and union feedback from the tournaments in which they were trialled. Please make sure you remember them before shouting at the poor old referee.

#### 1. Law 20.5 and 20.6 (d)

No signal from referee. The scrum-half must throw the ball in straight but is allowed to align their shoulder on the middle line of the scrum, therefore allowing them to stand a shoulder width towards their own side of the middle line.

Rationale: To promote scrum stability, a fair contest for possession while also giving the advantage to the team throwing in (non-offending team).

#### 2. Law 20.9 (b) Handling in the scrum – exception

The number eight shall be allowed to pick the ball from the feet of the second-rows.

Rationale: To promote continuity.

#### 3. Law 20.8 (b) Striking after the throw-in

Once the ball touches the ground in the tunnel, any front-row player may use either foot to try to win possession of the ball. One player from the team who put the ball in must strike for the ball.

Sanction: Free-kick

Rationale: To promote a fair contest for possession.

#### 4. Law 15.4 (c)

The tackler must get up before playing the ball and then can only play from their own side of the tackle "gate".

Rationale: To make the tackle/ruck simpler for players and referees and more consistent with the rest of that law.

#### 5. Law 16 Ruck

A ruck commences when at least one player is on their feet and over the

### Youth & Mini Rugby

There is another of the hugely popular Rugby Camps scheduled for October (see flyer in this edition). Don't miss out! As usual, Dom Shabbo in the Club Office is the person to contact (020 8876 6044).

### Fixtures for Saturday 16 September

There will not be a Parknews next week (editor on holiday) and was not room in the fixture panel on the front page to include matches taking place on Saturday 16 September, but these are:

#### Esher v 1<sup>st</sup> XV

National 1

Away KO 3:00PM

#### Fours v Belsize Park

Middlesex Merit 2

Home KO TBA

#### Nomads v London Exiles 2

Surrey Championship

Home KO TBA

#### Chobham 2 v Hatters

Zoo Sports Shield

Away KO TBA

#### Belsize Park 2 v B XV

Middlesex Merit 1

Away KO TBA

ball which is on the ground (tackled player, tackler). At this point the offside lines are created. Players on their feet may use their hands to pick up the ball as long as this is immediate. As soon as an opposition player arrives, no hands can be used. Rationale: To make the ruck simpler for players and referees.

#### 6. Law 16.4: Other ruck offences

A player must not kick the ball out of a ruck. The player can only hook it in a backwards motion.

Sanction: Penalty

Rationale: To promote player welfare and to make it consistent with scrum law.

#### An aid to Members & supporters? Download Park fixtures.

What a pain typing in Park fixtures into my phone, then a chat with Geoff Lloyd, Director at Caltrics, solved it by using his calendar website, and downloading the fixtures. Then better still, I could access fixtures for the Lions, Formula 1, 6 Nations etc. Even better, Tom Baigrie at Lifesearch said they would sponsor it. No Brainer as they say. So to automatically subscribe to Park fixtures use the link on **Park Life** or use this website address in your browser, or click on this link to start the process - <https://www.caltrics.com/calendar/rosslyn-park-fixtures-calendar/114> And we'll keep you updated on kick offs, or any changes etc. Hope you find it as useful as I did-Bob Fisher.

With due modesty Tom suggested I use this sentence on the calendar "that we are the UK's largest and most awarded life insurance adviser, recommended by Which? Compare the Market and many others" -Still not sure whether I will!

**\*\*A recent alternative calendar link published in Park News was private and unofficial.**

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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

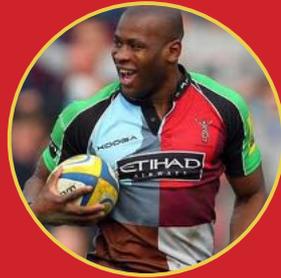


**BOOK NOW**

## 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](mailto:dom.shabbo@rosslynpark.co.uk) or 07787301691**

Brought to you by



tournament, then please pass on the details to Dom Shabbo in the club office (020 8876 6044).

#### Next Parknews

The next Parknews should appear on the website some time between Tuesday lunchtime and Wednesday the week after next, as the Editor is off on hols. There will not be a Parknews next week, but all reports etc will be held until 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.