



Season 2017-18

Issue 25

14 February 2018

PARK SLIDE TO MUDDY AWAY DEFEAT

Welcome to Parknews The small band of supporters who made it up to Caldly on Saturday saw an object lesson in how to play on a quagmire of a pitch in wet and windy weather. Unfortunately it came from the home side – who are rather more used to these conditions. You could not fault the effort or application of the Park players, but the longer the game went on, the muddier the pitch got, the clearer it became that Caldly had the answers. Park started well and deservedly took the lead when Harry Leonard slotted over a penalty, but once Caldly were on the scoreboard they showed a lot of confidence in their own game.

Park tried to move the ball around and kick for position, but there was no way through an utterly committed home defence. Caldly were happy to receive any kicks that came their way and run them back, they put the emphasis on possession and – as far as possible in such conditions – kept the errors to a minimum. Park can have no complaints: it's a long season and you have to play in contrasting conditions. Caldly were the more effective team on the day and deserved their win. Off the field, Caldly were a very friendly club who made our supporters very welcome. Pity about the result...

That defeat puts Park back to twelfth position in the League, after Caldly (obviously) Esher and Cambridge overtook us. So this week's home match against in-form Old Elthamians looks like one we really have to win. The Elthamians pack – coached by our old friend Aaron Liffchak – put in a big shift last weekend to topple Plymouth Albion by 16-12. They also have dangerous backs, coached by another old friend of ours – Sam Howard. (Just to complete the Park connections, OEs are starting an Academy under the guidance of Mike Friday). Our 27-34 away defeat to OEs earlier in the season felt a bit unlucky at the time so there is certainly everything to play for. Park will need to be at our very best if we are to get the points we need to climb back up the table, please do come along and add your support.

Please do come along early and support our Fours who are closing in on the Middlesex Merit 2 title. They face a tricky match against the First XV of Pinner RFC on the 4G at noon and really would appreciate your support. The Clubhouse will be open by then, so you can take something warming out to watch.

Caldly 33 Park 3 National 1

A heavy pitch and constant rain suited Caldly's playing style a lot more than it did Rosslyn Park's. Both sides showed great commitment, but the longer it went on and the muddier the pitch got the more the outcome looked inevitable.

Park shaded the early exchanges and it was no more than they deserved when fly half Harry Leonard slotted over a fourteenth minute penalty to put the visitors in front at 3-0.

Park aspired to a more expansive game than did Caldly, but it proved to be an afternoon for pragmatism. Park could not find a way through an excellent defence, and Caldly looked happy to field any number of kicks and run the ball back.

With the half hour approaching it was the home side who got the first try through right-winger Nick Royle,



**Saturday 17 February
Curtain Raiser**

Fours v Pinner

Middlesex Merit 2
Home (4G) KO: noon

1st XV

v

Old Elthamians

League

Home (4G) KO: 3:00PM

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

Chiswick 2 v B XV

Middlesex Merit 1
Away KO:TBA

Hatters v Havant 2

Zoo Sports Shield
Home (Richmond Park) KO 2:30

Nomads TBA

Sunday 18 February

Windsor v Slingbacks

League
Away KO 2:30



scrum half Ben Jones converting for 7-3.

The big warning for Park came five minutes before the interval when the Caldly pack made mincemeat of Park at a scrummage and number 8 Josiah Dickinson picked the ball up from the rear of the scrum and bullocked his



way over the line, Jones converted for 14-3 at half-time.

Park started the second half determined to come back, had the better of the early play, but could not capitalize on some good approach work.

It was a hammer blow to Park's chances when, on 57 minutes, Dickinson



again scored a try fashioned out of tight possession, this time too far from the posts for Jones to convert, leaving Park just 23 minutes to get back a 3-19 deficit.



It is impossible to fault the effort the Park players made, but it was not the afternoon or the conditions to be playing catch-up rugby.

Caldy scored two more tries in the last ten minutes through replacements Stu Cross and Tommy Banks, both converted by Jones for 33-3.

The final tally probably flatters Caldly, but they provided a lesson on how to play in these extreme conditions. Park were left dreaming of the green, green artificial surface of home.

Rossllyn Park Head Coach, Kieran Power said, "The endeavor and application of the boys was brilliant, but territory and possession showed in favour of Caldly and that told the story of the game essentially".

Park: Robinson; Crane, Henderson, A Ellis, Amesbury; Leonard; Gash; Nwakor, Vaughan-Edwards, Wade; Spencer, Frampton; Ovens, Barnard, H

Ellis.

Bench: Hudson, Higgins, Spivey, Crow, Grove.

Park scorers: Leonard (P)

Slingbacks

The **Slingbacks** travel to **Windsor Dames** on Sunday, off the back of four straight wins. This match will be a real litmus test for how much the Park girls have improved. Last season they took an almighty thumping at Windsor by 65-0. Earlier this season Park lost the home league match by 7-24. Their opponents are seven competition points above Park in the table, so if the Slingbacks could make it five wins on the trot they would be within striking distance with three matches remaining. The girls would love to get some support there! The ground is on Datchet Road, in the shadow of Windsor Castle, very close to Windsor & Eton Riverside station (you'll see the pitches on the left just before the train enters the station). The Clubhouse were selling a decent pint of Guardsman last season.

Club sides

Will Thorogood reports that the Club sides did not play last weekend. This weekend the **Fours** play **Pinner** at noon on the 4G kicking off at noon, while the **Hatters** are also at home, to **Havant Twos**, but will have to play in Richmond Park this time. The **Bs** have to travel to **Chiswick Twos**. The **Nomads** currently have no fixture. Should that situation change they will either play away or kick off on the 4G after the First XV match against Old Elthamians.

Away travel

The players really appreciate the support they get away from home.

On Saturday 24 February we travel to **Hull Ionians** for the re-arranged League match. Check out the Hull Trains service for that one, which is usually a lot cheaper than the Virgin East Coast route and avoids changing trains at Doncaster. Brough is the nearest station to the ground. Their 09:27 service arrives in Hull around noon; after the match the train home is not until 18:48, but the Buccaneer pub very close to the station provides a convenient bolt hole before and after the match. The clubhouse serves Black Sheep bitter, and there's usually a man there who sells some beer brewed independently. The ground is about a mile and a half from there: if you want to get a cab then book it as soon as you arrive – we've always met with problems finding an available conveyance.

After that it's **Plymouth Albion** (03 March) with Plymouth obviously the station to book to. Their Brickfields ground really requires a cab ride from the station unless you are a keen walker. Our regular away supporters have a regular pub crawl that starts at the Dolphin in the Barbican area as close to 11:00 as transport permits. Look out for staggering red and white hoops if you fancy sharing a cab. There's a beer tent at the ground that sells some decent ales before, throughout and after the match.

Obolensky Dinner, 21 Feb. 2018

We are currently taking bookings for The Obolensky Association dinner on 21st February 2018. Tickets cost just £60.00 which includes a pre-dinner drinks reception, a three course dinner, crafted by The Butcher & Grill, and half a bottle of wine. All money raised goes towards supporting the aims of the Association and the Rosslyn Park Sports Injury Trust Fund.

The Association have secured the services of Graham Rowntree as guest speaker please book your place or preferably take a table or part thereof as fast as you can! To book your place or table please email Hannah Eborall hannaeborall@lifesearch.co.uk ASAP, she will then be in touch to confirm and arrange payment. Further information is available on the [Rosslyn Park Events page here](#).

National 1 focus

Hull Ionians v Loughborough
Amphill v Caldly
Birmingham Moseley v Fylde
Blackheath v Esher
Coventry v Cambridge
Old Albanian v Bishops Stortford
Plymouth Albion v Darlington Mowden Park
Rosslyn Park v Old Elthamians

Next weekend's fixtures

Hull Ionians v Loughborough
Amphill v Caldly
Birmingham Moseley v Fylde
Blackheath v Esher
Coventry v Cambridge
Old Albanian v Bishops Stortford
Plymouth Albion v Darlington Mowden Park
Rosslyn Park v Old Elthamians

400 Club

February winners are - Lindi Lawrence £100, Graeme Marrs £50 and John Newcombe £25. If you would like to help your club while having the chance to win monthly cash prizes (and an end-of-season 'Jackpot') then the 400 Club could be just what you are looking for. Contact Boothy in the Club Office on 020 8876 6044 for full details.

Next Parknews

Parknews appears on the Club website weekly, usually between Tuesday lunchtime / Wednesday afternoon. Contributions are always welcome and the deadline is normally at noon on the Tuesday of publication. 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.



SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY MAY 5TH, 2018

MASQUERADE Ball

BLACK TIE CHARITY BALL IN AID OF
ROSSLYN PARK INJURY TRUST AND CANCER RESEARCH

DINNER, DANCING AND AUCTION

LOCATION: ROSSLYN PARK RUGBY CLUB

PUT THE DATE IN THE DIARY AND WE'LL BE IN TOUCH
WITH MORE INFORMATION VERY SOON.