



Season 2017-18

Issue 35

04 May 2018

# PARK SECURE NATIONAL 1 RUGBY AT THE ROCK

**Welcome to Parknews** In the end Park finish 7 points ahead of the third from bottom club, Hull Ionians, with a match in hand – no danger! But that did not make Saturday any less tense until we'd actually done it. If any early try calmed nerves, then when Old Albanian equalised only two minutes later, and took the lead with the conversion, the butterflies certainly had a flutter for a short while. Park soon had the game under control and there were some sparkling tries and great running rugby. It could be argued that things hinged on the incident on 21 minutes, when the Park pack shoved OAs back 25 metres until the maul was pulled down and OA lost a man to the sin bin; Park went again and were again stopped illegally for a penalty try and OA reduced to 13 men. Park punished them with two cracking tries from Rhys Crane and at 31-7 there was no way back for the visitors.

However the way that Park's marauding pack shoved the full strength OA pack backwards with such ease does suggest that the result would not have been a lot different without the cardings. Having said that, OA certainly did not look like a side already relegated, and on the rare occasions they had a decent bit of possession it was easy to see how they won six of their last eight matches. Park simply played to a very high standard and ran the opposition ragged. Anyone watching Park for the first time this season would have wondered how on earth Park came to be in trouble in the first place!

So we shall have National 1 rugby at the Rock next season. Much credit for that must go to Kieran Power and his coaching team who have weathered the season from hell in terms of injuries and sundry other bad luck, but never lost faith in playing running attacking rugby. Because we have a strong squad system it isn't obvious to the casual follower how many players are 'out' for a particular match. It was, I think, the situation for only our second match of the season that of 48 players who should have been available for selection only 22 actually were! Even for last Saturday we were lacking players that most would consider 'first choice': both props (Maurice Nwakor and Stuart Maguire) fly half (Harry Leonard) back row (Mike Macfarlane) and full back (Henry Robinson). Not many sides could go into a make-or-break match with five key players missing and rack up 55 points.

It's absolutely a tribute to the wider squad that we've managed to keep our heads above water. Every cloud has a silver lining and ours has been that a lot of younger players have been 'blooded' earlier than planned and, in rising to the occasion, have gathered experience that will strengthen the squad for next season. In that context there are concrete plans to further strengthen the squad for next season. There are definite irons in the fire. We need to appreciate, though, that the type of player we were after would not necessarily have wanted to play a lower division and so would not have committed a signature to paper until our position became clear.

We hope to bring some very positive news in a future Parknews, but please do be patient. There is always an active rumour mill without our feeding it, When all is signed and settled and definite then we'll tell Member and supporters before releasing the information elsewhere.

Saturday's match brought much relief, but not the end of the season. This coming Thursday sees the Capital's finest evening of Sevens action with the staging of the **London Floodlit Sevens, sponsored by Deloitte**, which kicks off at 5:00PM with Park's first match at 6:20PM. Gates will open at 4:00PM with non-stop action right up to the final at 10:20PM. This is one of the Club's main fund-raising events, so we hope the whole Club will support it. Everyone has to pay for admission (£15 on the gate, £5 for Under-16s) but you can get a decent discount if you buy in advance at £11.79 each by following the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/london-floodlit-7s-tournament-2018-tickets-42078248173>

There is a slightly different format this season, for which see an item further on.

## This weekend

This weekend sees the final match of the season, with the long journey to Plymouth Albion. For ourselves, a win – or a draw with a bonus point – would see us rise to eleventh



Nick Lovell scores the first of Park's 9 tries against Old Albanian [all 1st XV photos by David Whittam]

Thursday 03 May

## London Floodlit 7s

First match 5:00PM - Final 10:20PM

**Featuring: Harlequins, Worcester Warriors, Gloucester Rugby, London Irish, Bristol Rugby, Esher, The Army, Rambling Jesters and, of course... Rosslyn Park**

**Admission on the night £15 (£5 U-16)**

**Advance tickets from**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/london-floodlit-7s-tournament-2018-tickets-42078248173>

**at only £11.79**

Saturday 05 May

## Plymouth Albion v 1st XV

League

Away KO: 3:00PM

Sunday 06 May

**Last match of the season**

## Slingbacks v Crowthorne

League Match

Home (4G) KO 2:30PM

Free Admission: Clubhouse open

Monday 07 May

**Bank Holiday Monday - Surrey Finals Day**

## Hatters v Guildford 2

Surrey Tankard Final

Esher RFC KO 3:40PM

place in the table. Albion, however, must win if they are to go on to secure third place in the table. We are honour bound to give it our best shot out of respect to the other club involved in the battle for third place. The pressure is off us, so there is an opportunity to play some really great rugby, so it should be a great match.

Please do come along and support the lads. Plymouth are a very hospitable club. One word of advice though if you are travelling down by train: **there are works on the line out from Paddington** which means that either there will be a bus replacement service for part of the route or the train will divert around Oxford. All lines will be closed between Hayes & Harlington and Maidenhead, but a small number of long-distance trains will run to and from London Paddington, with journey times around 60-75 minutes longer. Other long-distance trains will start and terminate at Reading. Make sure you consult a timetable that reflects these changes.

On Sunday, the Slingbacks play their own final League match against Crowthorne. The girls played some sparkling rugby last weekend and a win this week will consolidate them in a respectable fifth place in the table.

## Rosslyn Park 55 Old Albanian 14 National 1



Park removed any doubts about their status as a National One side in such style, with this 9-try demolition of Old Albanian, that it was difficult to see how they got in such trouble in the first place.

After only three minutes a rampant Park pack drove OAs back over their own line out wide on the left for prop James Lovell to claim the try and a 5-0 lead.

OAs – who had won five of their previous seven matches - came straight back within a minute with an almost identical score, following a penalty kicked to touch. Lock Ross Hamilton claimed it and fly half Tom Bednall converted brilliantly for a 7-5 lead. For a moment it looked as if Park might have a contest on their hands.

Soon, though, the home side's sweeping moves had the visitors in all kinds of trouble. Park lost their own line-out but won back the ball and almost camped out on the OA line, probing for an opening before hooker Adam Bellamy got the ball in front of the posts and plunged over. Fly half Oli Grove converted for 12-7 on 17 minutes.

Four minutes later the home pack set up a terrific maul driving OAs back more than 20 metres before it was brought down illegally and OAs' hooker Alexander Post sent to the bin. A further offence at the restart saw a penalty try awarded for 19-7.

Park really made hay against reduced opposition with two super tries from winger Rhys Crane in the space of five minutes, the first the result of some slick running and handling, bringing the four-try bonus. The second saw Crane take a superb catch above his head and sprint for the line. Grove



converted the second for 31-7 on 29 minutes.

With OAs back to full strength Park did not ease up and Adam Bellamy grabbed his second, following a line-out four minutes before the interval for 36-7 at the break.

It took only five minutes of the second period for Park to increase their lead when good work sent winger Benji Marfo in up the left, Grove adding the extras for 43-7.

It looked as if OAs had sneaked a try, but play was brought back for a penalty to Park and OA prop Charlie Hughes was sin-binned for arguing rather too vehemently for the referee's liking.

It was still one-way traffic and ten minutes later the pack pushed OA back



over their own line for number 8 Hugo Ellis to touch down, Grove converting for 50-7.

OAs were nothing if not game and, as Park made substitutions, they grabbed a consolation try through centre Dom Morris, replacement half-back Morgan Thompson adding the conversion for 50-14 on 62 minutes.

Replacement hooker Owen Hughes set the seal on the win with a final try for 55-14.

Park Head Coach Kieran Power said, "We needed to pull it out today and the boys did that with some very controlled rugby.

"We've been inconsistent due to injuries and performance but to be honest Rosslyn Park is an established team and there's been a bit of arrogance too".

*Park: Henderson; Crane, Amesbury; Barnes, Marfo; Grove; Brand; Wade, Bellamy, Lovell; Spivey, Gray; Ovens, Barnard, Ellis*  
*Bench: Hughes, Gratton, Spencer, Crow, Vincent*  
*Park scorers: Crane (2T), Bellamy (2T), Lovell (T), Marfo (T), Ellis (T), Hughes (T), Grove (4C), Penalty Try.*



## Floodlit 7s timetable

This year's tournament has a revised format, involving ten teams with a qualifying round of five matches, with the five winners, plus best losers (in order of points difference) forming two semi-final pools of three teams each, playing on a Round Robin basis. The other four losing teams will contest the semi-finals of the bowl competition. If there's a tie on points difference to determine the order of losers, then it will be determined on points scored; if that fails it's a coin toss. For the Round Robin semi-finals, Loser 1 will be placed in the opposite pool to the team they played in the qualifying round.

### Qualifying round

5:00 A Worcester Warriors v B Esher  
5:20 C Gloucester Rugby v D Bath University  
5:40 E Rambling Jesters v F Loughborough University  
6:00 G Harlequins v H Seventy 7s  
6:20 I Rosslyn Park v J British Army

### Semi final pools

Pool 1  
Team 1 Winners A/B  
Team 2 Winners E/F  
Team 3 Winners I/J or Loser 1

Pool 2  
Team 4 Winners C/D  
Team 5 Winners G/H  
Team 6 Winner I/J or Loser 1

### Semi-final matches

6:50 1 v 2

7:10 4 v 5  
7:30 Bowl s/f Loser 2 v Loser 5  
7:50 1 v 3  
8:10 4 v 6  
8:30 Bowl s/f Loser 3 v Loser 4  
8:50 2 v 3  
9:10 5 v 6  
  
9:40 Bowl Final

### Final

10:20 Winner Pool A v Winner Pool B

## Youth Rugby

### Surrey RFU Harlequins Cup Finals Day at Farnham RFC Park Under-18s 36

### Guildford Colts 24

### Stoop Cup

*By Asher Smith Robson (RP U18s Scrum Half)*



The Rosslyn Park U18s - we are a group of boys all still at school, many who started playing rugby at Park at Under 7s, re-grouped after Christmas to play in the newly established Harlequins Cup. With the pressure of school commitments, sevens rugby, A levels and other distractions etc, we decided the ethos of the team to be that of a social side that never trained but just played matches to have fun and be with old mates.

The Harlequins Cup consists of 24 teams playing three matches in the group stages with the top eight decided on league points and score differential going through to the finals day, played this season at Farnham RFC.

The U18s topped the final eight teams with 17 points along with Rosslyn Park U17s and Effingham Leatherhead Colts but with the biggest score differential. However Surrey RFU correctly felt that two teams from the same club should not play for the top award, The Quins Cup, so they decided the Rosslyn Park U18s play in the third/fourth team final, The Stoop Cup, as we were only a second half of the season team.

With many of our players in the middle of their International Baccalaureate exams we were just able to field 15 players (no subs) against a very fit looking Guildford Colts team ....with 8 subs!

A tight physical first half with little in it at half time 12-10 to Park. In the second half Park got into their stride and we scored a number of well worked tries but were continually under pressure from a very determined Guildford. For a period we went down to 14 men after a yellow card but we showed true grit and spirit to hold Guildford back and on the final whistle 36-24 to Park.

A great way to finish the season and the end of an era – a big thanks to James Ranft, Simon de la Fosse and Tracey Brader Tan for keeping the team together and let us have lots fun before having to focus on A level exams.

## Clubsides

Will Thorogood reports that it seems to be the "Touring Season"...Tour de France, Tour de Force, Tour D'Eiffel or a Tour of Tours? France, maybe, who knows, as the 4's have had or will have a "secret destination tour". My theory is that past or present, they will or did meet at Gatwick Airport to assemble, and then catch the train to Brighton! A mystery.

The B's went to Dorset last weekend. Dorchester, in fact. With Birthday Boy Luke, B's scrum half and Old Dorcestrian (he of Dorchester) the guys played a winning game against his old club. Nobody seems to remember the score, but does that matter? Too much Badger Beer, maybe, but that's what it's all about?! It was a good day out with 6 former Dorchester players now playing for the B's being welcomed home. It was also an emotional moment as it was officially Nick Jones' last game for the B's after 12 years, including 6 as captain, 1 ming for player of the season and general stalwart, leader legend of the team.



Rumour has it that the Nomads have been or are going to Italy somewhere? If you've been, how did you get on? I could be totally wrong.

Anyway, the Hatters have a busy weekend. Two away games. On Saturday, they'll be waltzing their way to Vienna, and on Monday, a little more locally, they'll be performing at Esher RFC, in a Surrey RFU Gale Finals Day. Finalists in the Surrey Tankard against Guildford 2's. I believe kick off is at 3.40 pm? If you are at a loose end on Bank Holiday Monday do get down to Esher.

## Nick Jones

On Saturday, fittingly, in a 52-39 winning tour game against Dorchester, Nick Jones played his last game for the B's. Jonesy was brought to the team by the legendary Hegan brothers in 2004, was a young centre, who had been plying his trade for the Brighton Blues while at university on the South Coast.

During his 14 years playing for Rosslyn Park, Nick has been through many of the changes that men in their 20s and 30s go through and more. Some of the highlights include getting married, moving out of London, a long way from SW15, countless injuries, a decrease of the number on the back of his shirt; but the one thing that has remained consistent has been his unwavering commitment to the team.

He has had many of the highs that a social rugby player could wish for, such as winning Merit Titles (in 2008 and 2010), winning the "Ming" for player of the season in 2010-11, chairing a tour in Madrid in 2015, being top try scorer on numerous occasions, assisting with the running of the team in his earlier years, and of course a very successful period as captain from



2011 to 2015, with him stepping down as the B's were at the highest they had ever found themselves in Merit rugby.

Where Jonesy has marked himself is however in his overcoming of obstacles, whether on or off the pitch. What should have been his swansong as captain was spent on the sidelines on crutches, watching his side lose the Middlesex Merit 1 Final, having torn his cruciate ligaments during one of his trademark runs in the semi. This would have been enough to put most players into retirement, but Jonesy was determined to quit on his own terms and after two years of rehab managed to return to the team, not as a swashbuckling centre, but as a blindside flanker. It is no coincidence that as he returned, so did the team's fortunes and as he helped to lead a new-look team to yet again fall at the final hurdle of Middlesex Merit 1. During his last few months for the B's, Jonesy would struggle to walk, let alone run between games, but would still give his all on the pitch and carry with force, earning many calls for him to be awarded the "Ming" for a second time.

As the B's look to be promoted to the new second XV London league next year, they will need to re-build without Nick, but will have to keep in mind everything that he has represented to the team from his attitude on or off the pitch, whether it was his calmness under pressure, his willingness to do anything for the team, including giving tighthead "a go", his "win or lose, on the booze" view that brought a togetherness that has personified the B's and of course, his famous singing and Irish Dancing on Tour. Our Father Abraham will sorely be missed."

## Slingbacks

### Slingbacks 67

### Harlequins Ladies 12

#### League match



Alice Lovett on her way to scoring a great individual try

The Slingbacks reserved their best rugby of the season for this local Derby. The Park girls stole the ball at an early Quins line-out and Chrissie Ovendon got on the end of a good move to arc round the defence on the left. Shanice Williams converted for 7-0 after less than five minutes.

Fired-up Park were soon back with a great move, prompted by fly half Alice Lovett, that saw right-winger Fran pop up on the left and outstrip the defence and score for 12-0. This was her home debut, having only recently taken up the sport and she already looks an outstanding prospect.

Alice again prompted the move that saw Chrissie score her second try, this time arcing round the right flank. Shanice converted for 19-0.

Almost from kick off centre Shanice fielded the ball and made a powerful run through the heart of the Quins' defence for a great individual try that she converted herself for 26-0.



It looked like being a cricket score when, again almost from kick off, Park put together a great move for left-winger Sam Emery to sprint over for 38-0.

Having provided for others Alice grabbed a super try for herself, selling a couple of dummies and going over for an individual score that brought the score to 43-0.



Katie Parkinson attacks the Quins defence

Park were not done with scoring yet. A good kick from Alice saw Quins lose their lineout and Fran streaked away for her second try and 48-0 at the interval.

Park took off most of their more experienced players to give their 'youngsters' a chance. Although completely out-played Quins, to their great credit, never stopped playing constructive rugby and tried to take advantage. They deserved a score for their efforts, a sentiment with which the referee seemed to concur as a series of 'marginal' decisions took them within striking range of the Park posts. They scored and converted for 48-7.

That only served to inspire Chrissie to make a powerful run to score her fourth try, converted by Shanice for 55-7.

Quins were now seeing a bit more of the ball and scored a good team try for 55-12.

Park were determined to have the last word and two really good tries by replacement winger Zara, the second converted by Shanice, took the final score to 67-12.

*Slingbacks: Sophie M; Fran, Chris O, Shanice W, Sam E; Alice L; Maria C; Hannah B, Becca B, Jo A; Hannah M, Cat; Esther K, Dani W, Amanda B  
Bench: Georgia, Billie, Gemma, Katie P, Sarah V, Ellie H-I, Elice R, Zara.  
Slingbacks scorers: Chrissie (4T), Fran (2T), Zara (2T), Shanice (T, 6C), Sam (T), Alice (T)*



This Sunday the Slingbacks play their final match of the season at home to Berkshire club **Crowthorne**, **kicking off at 2:30PM**. Admission is free and the Clubhouse will be open. Sadly, it also means we have to say goodbye to three Slingback stalwarts who have given great service to the club. Player-coach **Alice Lovatt** is moving to Cardiff, pursuing her career as a maths teacher. Alice stepped into the breach when the Slingbacks had a coaching crisis and has done a magnificent job, leading by example in every way. She took over a team short on confidence, who had struggled often just to put out fifteen players, struggling to avoid relegation, to one that will finish a respectable fifth in the league if we beat Crowthorne on Sunday. She has also been a massive influence as a player both in her own contribution and in bringing on the raw talent that is the future.

Also leaving, and for more distant climes, are **Katie Parkinson** and **Christina Ovendon**, both of whom are moving to New Zealand. Katie is a player for whom the term 'pocket battleship' was probably



Chrissie Ovendon

invented, putting in tackles from the backrow that bigger players would wince at, and relishing every moment of it. She has had some bad luck with injuries, but even when in plaster has turned up to support her mates. Chrissie has been the outstanding attacking force for the last few seasons, but her aggressive play on the field belies one of the nicest people you could meet off it. She has also played a part in developing the younger players who now need to step up and fill three big gaps.

## National 1 review

**Coventry** received their Championship trophy on Saturday, beating **Hull Ionians** 38-21 in front of a National 1 record crowd of 3,758. The match also condemned Ionians to join **Fylde** (beaten 29-7 at **Cambridge**) and **Old Albanian**, who lost 55-14 at the Rock as the three relegated clubs.

At the top of the table, **Darlington Mowden Park**, away winners by 24-17 at **Loughborough**, assured themselves of second place. **Amphill**, 36-5 winners over **Birmingham Moseley** are currently third, but could be pipped by **Plymouth Albion** (29-5 winners over **Blackheath**) if Albion win their two matches in hand (against ourselves and Loughborough).

Dropping from the Championship to replace Coventry are **Rotherham**, who have already announced their intention to retrench back into semi-professional rugby. Replacing Fylde from the North are **Sale** (the Heywood Road club – not their offspring the Sale Sharks!). Replacing Old Albanians, **Cinderford** return to National One – a great performance from a real community club, who were undermined by Hartpury College's rise, giving a fixture that will be warmly welcomed by our away supporters. **Chinnor** will be at home in a play-off against **Sedgley Park** to see who replaces Hull Ionians.

## 400 Club

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.

## Rosslyn Park U13A vs Wimbledon Warriors U13A Surrey Cup Final, Sunday 22 April 2018

By **Tim Cross**

"Kill them with success and bury them with a smile." – Usain Bolt



This was it. The last competitive fixture for an extremely talented and close team of boys, many of whom had played together for the last eight years. Emotional times indeed, not least for coaches Paul Bellamy and Nick Cook, for whom this was the last outing in charge after 15 yrs of active service at Rosslyn Park.

From the heady heights of 15 glorious minutes against Guildford, they had to raise the team again. And frankly, Cook's early insouciant comments about not caring about the result and just willing the boys to have fun scarcely rang true, even to the casual newbie. A win, and an undefeated "invincibles" season were the only conceivable objectives.

Last year's final against the same opposition was by some margin the closest and the toughest match the boys had played, recovering from a 25-20 deficit with 3 minutes to play. With excellent preparation, a rousing team talk and perfection conditions, Park set to work. In early exchanges, Bellamy made a thumping tackle and Cross stepped in front of the Wimbledon inside centre, picking off the pass from the fly half and gambolling in from 15 yds out. Nerves were calmed and the tone was set.

Impressive work from Eley and Fitzgerald forced a penalty deep in Wimbledon territory. Holmes-Milner carried strongly before Hunt was eventually bundled into touch. Gellatley and Cook then worked well before Bellamy swung the ball wide for the perennially tireless, dependable Wallace to take Dent's measured offload and score Park's second.

Under a penalty advantage, Ellis was unlucky not to collect a left to right grubber, but when it was called back, Park executed the same move and this time it sat up invitingly for their outstanding inside centre, and he gathered and dotted down for a 15-0 lead. Despite Nick Cook's pre-match rhetoric about Wimbledon coming out all guns blazing, the encounter was being played deep in the Warriors' half and mostly inside their 22. Taking up a traditional position among the opposition coaches, shell-shocked didn't do it justice.

Bellamy was unlucky to field a high but wayward clearance kick, but Taylor started to make his considerable presence felt and the opposition realised they would have slim pickings in the tight, with Cook, Eley, Dent and H-M all putting in relentless tackles.

Warriors made it into the Park half after around 10 minutes only to knock on and for Bellamy to counter from full back. The Warriors loose forwards were big and mobile however, stemming the counter attack. A jab ahead and two tackles in quick succession by Cross pinned Wimbledon back in their 22 before great scavenging by Cook and awareness by Bellamy freed a rampaging Eley, who broke through the midfield and rather selflessly found Hunt on a lovely straight line to make it 20-0.

From the next phase, Wimbledon's outstanding player, who alternated between fly half, centre and occasionally full back, returned the ball with interest, crashing through the outside channel and getting Warriors on the scoresheet. 20-5.

In truth, it didn't feel like alarm bells were ringing for Park despite the impressive solo effort. Ellis carried the ball up and Wimbledon conceded a penalty for hands in the ruck (the referee showed remarkable leniency towards them for this most of the game). Cross hit the line, Dent cleared out superbly, Bellamy kicked diagonally to the right, Ellis gathered and stepped deftly inside before slipping the ball to Wallace who had run the perfect tracking line and crossed to make it 25-5.

In the next phase, Cook somehow scragged the Wimbledon half back from behind, and Fitzgerald, H-M and the trojan Eley put in incredible shifts in the close quarters.

Nick Cook's bellow of "Harry, run!" seemed to spur on the Park forwards, with both H-M and Taylor hugely prominent, before Hunt decided to put the result to bed with a trademark rampage up the middle, monsterring the Warriors defence and touching down for 30-5.

Complacency was a significant enemy however, and this was a team which had been 3 minutes away from beating Park in this fixture 12 months earlier. From the deep restart, Allen was adjudged to have gone too high, Sweeney missed a tackle and before you knew it, the Warriors flair back had run the ball in from 80 yards. 30-10.

Cross then went agonisingly close down the left touchline but was bundled into touch inches short. Taylor was superb once again, supported ably by H-M and Fitzgerald. Penniciard was by now providing first rate service at half back and from first phase ball found Ellis whose shuffle step outfoxed the Warriors midfield and allowed him to cruise in under the sticks. 35-10.

From the restart, Bellamy cleared the lines and Cross snagged the full back but Wimbledon mounted their most sustained period of pressure,



probing Park's defence time and again. An outstanding tackle by Sweeney in the right corner prevented a certain try and as the ball came back to the middle, with a pick and drive from a secure ruck, Eley utterly nailed their ball carrier, forcing a knock on, denying a try and lifting the siege. Park pride themselves on their free-flowing, high-tempo attack, and it does put points on the board, but they can also crush the spirit of teams through stout defence and this goal line stand was the defining moment of the match.

Cook senior, from his traditional spot behind the Park touchline, wore a beaming white smile and rightly so. At the interval, he and Bellamy encouraged more of the same and impressed upon the team that another early score would put the outcome to bed. From the restart however, Cross knocked on, forcing Taylor and Allen to pressure the Warriors half backs in the next phase. An outstanding passage of play followed, with Ellis, Fitzgerald and the bull that is Hunt all making excellent ground, taking the ball deep into Wimbledon territory before Cross appeared to be tripped with the left corner beckoning.

Dent secured an excellent scrum against the head before Anstey and Ellis found Hunt who careered over to make it 40-10, registering the try his coaches had demanded.

From this point, Park defended aggressively - first Bellamy, then the redoubtable Price, then Anstey, all putting bodies on the line. Allen drove the ball carrier backwards and Cook lined up and smashed his opposite number. Anstey again, Eley ever present. But unlike the rearguard action at the end of the first half, the pressure told and Wimbledon scored a deserved third try.

Park pinned their opponents back following the restart, with Price and Allen tackling hard, before Cross carried the ball through traffic and found Dent who burst through the cover defence and offloaded brilliantly to Anstey, who had coasted up the left wing

and dotted down to make it 45-15.

At this point, Bellamy and Ellis were to try out the Carlsberg of restarts. Into the wind, Josh hung one high, glancing the ten metre line and Cam was unfortunate to knock on. Shortly afterwards, Fitzgerald thought he was clean through only to be brought back harshly by the ref. After an injury break, aggressive gang-tackling by Park - Cook, Adams, Taylor - drove Wimbledon back inside their 22 and from the next scrum, Penniciard fed Anstey who spun it out to Hunt for a straightforward canter around the cover defence.

Bellamy provided a carbon copy restart, Ellis gathered brilliantly and Taylor carried the ball superbly. The ball went through the hands and the outstanding Eley straightened to make it an unassailable 55-15. Again, a pinpoint restart found Ellis, who unfortunately just knocked on, otherwise a twelfth try was a certainty.

Wimbledon rallied to score a good try with their playmakers showing excellent handling - helped by some generous refereeing - to make it 55-20.

Eley was charging, Adams took a great interception off the deck, Cross took the ball on the burst and Park were back in the opposition 22. After a flagrant Warriors foot up in the scrum, tremendous pressure from H-M, Adams

then Allen forced the ball back to Park. Ellis' opportunistic kick was blocked, Bellamy gathered the punt downfield and Cross tidied up. Tiring bodies and the disruption of substitutes allowed Wimbledon the consolation of a fifth try but the contest was well out of sight by this point.

Rossllyn Park U13 As had registered another resounding victory, against a strong Wimbledon side, and played a superb all-round game - formidable in defence, frighteningly deft and clinical in attack. The whole squad fronted up and every boy played his part, clearing out rucks and supporting the ball carrier.

No team in Surrey, Hertfordshire, Middlesex (or Toulon) has been able to live with the intensity that Park has delivered this season. Proud teams have been stunned and their support silenced by an overwhelming onslaught of attacking rugby. This team can hold their heads up with any that have gone before them as true invincibles. It has been a pleasure to watch and to be a part of. Friendships have been forged which will last for years to come, and which will no doubt morph into great rivalries at the highest level.

We have seen these young boys, shorts down almost to their socks, starting out all those years ago, develop as players and grow in stature. I hope I speak for all of us in saying that Rossllyn Park has created some of the happiest memories and experiences for us as parents, and more importantly, for these hugely talented and successful young men. Thank you all so much.

*Park (1-15): TD Taylor, O Dent, HX Holmes-Milner, NJ Fitzgerald, SHA Eley, JFE Cook (c) JB Anstey, JS Bellamy, CJ Wallace, CJ Ellis, HF Hunt, ZTJ Gellatley, CJE Cross*

*Bench: NPC Allen, OEC Sweeney, CRD Adams, T Penniciard, DJ Price*

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.

### Next Parknews

Normally 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.