



ISSUE 21

Season 2019-20

18 December 2019

PARK HAVE TO DIG DEEP FOR VICTORY

Welcome to Parknews. The Cinderford pitch passed an early morning inspection, immediately before receiving a heavy and prolonged burst of rain. Only some hard work by Cinderford people with pitchforks allowed the match to go ahead at all. The conditions were certainly heavy and, combined with a strong wind, not at all conducive to the running rugby Park prefer to play. It looked very much a match to be won by the stronger pack – not necessarily the ideal terms of engagement you would wish for when tackling Cinderford at Dockham Road. Park gave their all to dog it out for a hard-fought victory.

Park started favoured by the wind, in a match of box kicks and forward drives. Each side got a penalty, but two excellent defences denied either side a sniff of a try in the first half. As the sun began to set in the second half the wind dropped and Park began to get a distinct upper hand. Cinderford could not run through Park's brilliant and committed midfield tackling, and when they kicked to touch their lineout let them down badly. Against a less excellent defence Park might have won with a good bit to spare, but a committed maul, behind which Hugo Ellis needed every ounce of his strength to deposit the ball on the line, was the only score of the half.

If that sounds boring, then it never was. Two good teams fought for every second in atrocious conditions, with the result in the balance right up to the final whistle. Park deserve every credit for finding a way to win. The bonus point was never a realistic possibility, which means that Richmond's bonus point from a 39-10 win over Birmingham Moseley sees them a point ahead at the top of the table, while Rams pulled up level with Park after beating Plymouth Albion by 44-14.

This weekend

The pressure does not relent this Saturday when we are at home to Old Elthamians, who finished second in National 1 last season, and were among the hot favourites for the title this year. They have so far fallen short of that level but have achieved some results that underline that they should not be written off yet. They started the season with an away win at Canterbury, but then lost an entertaining and tight match at home to ourselves by 30-24, following up with a defeat at Sale. Successive wins over Plymouth Albion, Cambridge and Birmingham Moseley seemed to have set them back on course, but their form has pretty much yo-yoed ever since. They lost 17-37 at Darlington, but the next week beat Chinnor. A loss at Richmond and win at home to Hull Ionians might have been predictable but then they became the only team to inflict home defeat on Rams (23-10) for two years, only to draw at home to Bishops Stortford a week later. Defeat at Cinderford and a home win over Rotherham were followed by a local Derby away win by 31-25 at Blackheath last week, to leapfrog their local rivals into fifth place, nine points behind the leaders.



OEs have a strong pack, organised by their forwards' Coach, former Park prop Aaron Liffchak, and some dangerous backs. They will certainly fancy their chances of reversing the result from earlier in the season. Whilst they are not the best supported side at home, they will bring a loyal and noisy band of supporters to the Rock, so please do come along and use



Hugo Ellis bags the only try at Cinderford [all 1st XV photos by David Whittam]

Saturday 21 December
Curtain Raiser

Park Rangers

v

Old Elthamians Blues

Raging Bull Shield Div 1
Home KO: Noon

1st XV

v

Old Elthamians

National 1
Home KO 3:00PM

To book for the pre-match Christmas lunch call 020
8876 1879

Future Parknews

This will be the last Parknews for a while, as only the Senior Squad are playing this weekend and no matches at all next weekend, so no Christmas edition! You can read the First Team match report, plus results from other National 1 matches in the Rosslyn Park Bulletin which is sent out by e-mail on Sundays by Warren Muggleton. If you are not already on the list to receive it please let the Club Office know your contact details. The Editor will be away for the whole of January watching a smaller ball somewhere considerably warmer. In my defence, this will be the first time I have missed four consecutive matches home and away in more than 30 years. Please shout on the team a bit louder to cover the absence. ***Wishing a great festive period to readers of all faiths and of none. - ED***

A list of all fixtures for January appears on Page 3

your full lung power to help the team finish 2019 on a happy note. Get tickets [here](#).

The Rangers' match at Cinderford last Saturday was called off, but why not come down early this week when the Rangers face OEs' second XV in the Raging Bull Shield at noon. Our boys will be out to avenge taking something of a thrashing in the away match earlier in the season.

Cinderford 3 Park 8

National 1

By Warren Muggleton



Hugo Ellis' driving maul secured a battling 8-3 win for Rosslyn Park against Cinderford at a muddy Beavis Memorial Ground.

Craig Holland's penalty drew the London side level after James Butler's kick before changing gear, ending their 2019 travels with a narrow win.

It was a first 20 minutes defined by errors, with four lineout losses between the teams.

But the home side got the first break, a hand in the scrum allowing Butler to kick a penalty from the 22-metre line.



Park, though, had a responded within three minutes as Holland grabbed three points back with his own kick from the same position.

The Foresters nearly threatened the try line with eight minutes to go with a scrum but were judged to be moving sideways.

Kieran Power's boys came out firing for the second half, attacking Cinderford's back line early with deep runs.

And they were rewarded on 50 minutes, captain Ellis being driven over the line for the first – and only – try of the game.

The visitors kicked on from there, cutting down the error count as the Foresters continued in the same way. Tom Vaughan-Edwards



worked brilliantly with Gregor Gillanders to communicate the set piece while Dan Laventure snapped at the Foresters' line constantly.

Despite some late possession, the home side never threatened as winger Ed Bogue was pushed out on the whistle.

Cinderford

Penalties: Butler 25

Team (15-9/1-8): Ed Sheldon; Sam Smith, Terence Babarinsa (Will Mansfield 63), Jack Hayes ©, Ed Bogue; James Butler (Danny Pointon 54), James Dean; Tim Brockett (Chris Bundy 78), Nathan Taylor (Matt Bennett 73), James Elliot; Tyler Jerrum (Joe Mullis 54), Dale Lemon; Matt Lane, Mat Gilbert, Harry Hone

Park

Tries: Ellis H 51

Penalties: Holland 28

Team (15-9/1-8): Henry Robinson; Nick Scott, Henry Cheeseman (Edwards 73), Joe Munro, Neville Edwards (Harry Leonard 59); Craig Holland, Jack Gash (Dave Lewis 53); Kyle Traynor, Tom Vaughan-Edwards, Paul Doran-Jones (Stewart Maguire 63); Jonathan Mills (Jack Barnard 59), Gregor Gillanders; Dan Laventure, Arthur Ellis, Hugo Ellis ©
Replacements: Owen Hughes





Attendance: 400
 Referee: Adam Wookey
 HT: 3-3
 Star Man: Tom Vaughan-Edwards – Rosslyn Park

Clubsides

By Will Thorogood

The Clubsides congregated at the clubhouse on Saturday evening, along with the Slingbacks and RPFC Netball. A good spread created by Susy and her cohorts which was enjoyed by all. I would like to thank you all, alike, for your kind hospitality. Good craic.

As for Saturday, there were four Clubside games:

The **Hatters** are still finding it difficult to get another win, but their game against **Battersea Ironsides 2's** was certainly well contested. We came out of the starting blocks and, initially, bowled Ironsides over with a couple of early tries. However, we allowed them to reorganise and gave them too much space, along with some missed tackles, to come back and at half time the Hatters 14 Ironsides 12. The second half saw Ironsides effectively use their possession through their forwards and backs, and they scored four well constructed tries. One thought they were going to run away with it, but in the last quarter we found a "second wind" along with the gale that was blowing, and were able to close the gap, at the final whistle, to 26-36. A good game to watch, and good to see stalwart and veteran Canadian prop Big Pat Jawich puffing about the field for the full watch. Good man.

At 2pm, the **4's** took on **Old Haberdashers 2's** on the 4G. Result built on some strong running in the forwards and dominance in the collision giving us constant go forwards. A very strong wind behind us in the first half meant we could kick into position constantly. One soft try, and one well worked by them were probably deserved based on a much tighter second half that actually finished 12-12. Result: 4's 41 Habs 12. Another entertaining game though. Looks like the Bs will finish 2019 in our preferred position of fourth in the table, so all in all quite successful. Next game in 4 weeks against the Bs which will be a big one.

The **B's** went north to **Hampstead** and the heavy London Clays to play Hampstead 2's. In short, a game of "trench warfare", with some touches of creative rugby, but the "Somme-like" pitch limited this type of football, but the B's had done enough. Result; B's 26 Hampstead 2's 7. This result takes the B's to 3rd in the table, one point ahead of the 4's. A thriller is expected on the 10th Jan in their league game against the 4's. See below.

The **Nomads'** scheduled league game was cancelled as Wimbledon 3's could not raise of full side, unfortunately. However, Harry Best was able to find a game on the Exchange against **London Media 2's** down in Battersea Park. From what I understand, the word "tackle" did not enter either team's vocabulary, as the scoreline reflects. Nomads 51 London Media 2's 41. Good that everyone got a game.

Christmas is coming, so no Clubside games next week, so come down and watch the 1's against Elthamians. Next league action resumes on the 10/11th January, but the Nomads do have an away Surrey Tankard game on the 4th January against Wimbledon 3's. Let's hope that game goes ahead.

Games for the 10th/11th January are now:

Friday 10th: B's v 4's MMT Premier Home and Away, whichever way you want to look at it on 4G. 8pm kick off.

Saturday 10th: Hatters v Guildford 2's Away. This is now an AWAY game, not home. Nomads v S&E 3's Away.

That's it for now, and thanks. Have an excellent Xmas and Happy New Year.

Slingbacks

The Slingbacks finished their matches for 2019 the week before and will next be seen in action on Sunday 12 January, when they play Millwall at the Rock kicking off at 2:00PM. In the away match earlier in the season the Park girls lost narrowly in a match that featured some barely credible refereeing decisions, which will leave the Slingbacks thirsting for revenge! Please come down and add your support.

January matches

As Parknews will be off the air until February, here are the fixtures for the various Park teams in January. This period of the year is notorious for denying even the best intentions of Fixture Secretaries at the more social end of the spectrum, so please do check before setting off.

1st XV

Jan 04	A	Canterbury
11	A	Blackheath
18	H	Sale
25	A	Plymouth Albion

Slingbacks

Jan 12	H	Millwall
19	H	Windsor

Rangers

Jan 04	A	Canterbury
10	A	Barnes (Fri 8:00PM)
17	H	Esher (Fri 8:00PM)
25	A	Wimbledon

Hatters

Jan 04	TBA	Cup
11	H	Guildford 2
18	A	Richmond Jutes
25	H	Cobham 2

B XV

Jan 10	H	Rosslyn Park 4 (Fri)
18	A	Belsize Park 2
25	H	HAC 2

Fours

Jan 10	A	Rosslyn Park B (Fri)
18	H	Chiswick 2
25	A	Hammersmith & Fulham 2

Nomads

Jan 04	A	Wimbledon 3 (Cup)
11	A	Sutton & Epsom 3
18	H	Haileyburians 2
25	A	KCS 2

Away travel

We start the New Year with two away matches, and for the first two there is no need to book rail tickets in advance. If there was an award for the most awkward ground to get to in National 1 then it would surely have to go to **Canterbury**, which we attempt to find on

04 January. Their address is Canterbury RFC, The Marine Travel Ground, Merton Lane North, Nackington Road, Canterbury CT4 7AZ. Locals will tell you it's dead easy – just off the A2. Fine if you can spot the turn-off. This is an obscure turn-off, which even the team bus using satnav has missed (once having to navigate a multiple-point-turn by a farm gate) so you may be advised to check a map before setting off. Unhelpfully Merton Road runs both sides of the A2 – you want the road on the north side. It's close by the B2068 (Nackington Lane) if that helps to pinpoint it. Google tells us to take exit 7 from M20 to get on the M2 and follow M2 to Boughton Bypass / A2 in Boughton-under-Blean. Take exit 7 from M2 follow A2 to Merton Lane North in Canterbury. Good luck!

That is easy, though, compared with getting there by public transport. Either Canterbury station will do, depending upon whether you want the more expensive fast service from St Pancras or the more leisurely (cheaper) one. Thereafter it's less easy. A bus number 18 from Canterbury bus station takes 24 stops to get to the closest bus stop, shortly after the County Cricket ground, and it's still a half-mile walk to the ground. The best advice is probably to shell out for a cab. There is no pub within walking distance of the ground, but the Clubhouse usually has a decent pint of Shepherd Neame.

After that there's a second consecutive away match on 11 January in the form of **Blackheath**, who most will know no longer play at the Rectory field, but at Well Hall, which is located at Kidbrooke Lane, Eltham, London, SE9 6TE, a short walk from Eltham Station (travelcard zone 4). Turn right out of the station entrance and cross Well Hall Road. 100 yards along the left is the pedestrian access into Kidbrooke Lane. The entrance to the ground is half way along on the left. If you are driving, for Sat Nav purposes, please use the post code SE9 6TE. The entrance is on Kidbrooke lane, off Westhorne Avenue.

One tip: last time we discovered that Blackheath no longer sell match programmes at the game, but you can download one free from their website – so if you want a programme remember to visit the website before you leave. We usually recommend a local pub, but having drawn a blank our regulars usually settle for Blackheath village and get a train on to Eltham from there. There's a reasonable beer tent at the ground.

For the other January away match – **Plymouth Albion** on 25 January – it really is worth booking an advance rail ticket as the savings are usually considerable on that route. Obviously Plymouth, from London Paddington, is the station to go for. The address is Plymouth Albion RFC, Brickfields Recreation Ground, 25 Damerel Close, Plymouth, PL1 4NE. It's an almost 2 mile walk to the ground and the bus that stops nearest is still 15 minutes walk away, so the best advice is to get a cab (there's a busy rank just by the station exit). Our regulars tend to get the earliest train possible and visit a couple of pubs in the Barbican area of the town and rustle up cabs from there. Immediately after the match cabs tend to rank up just outside the ground at the corner of the road at the end where the hospitality tents are, but safest to book one.

David Foulds Memorial Service

There will be a Memorial Service for David Foulds at St Margarets Church Putney at 2:00PM on Friday 20 December, and afterwards at Rosslyn Park. Everyone is welcome, but Stephen Foulds has requested no flowers – donations to MIND and the RFU Injured Players Foundation.

National 1

Richmond go top of National League 1 with a bonus in their 39-10 home win over Birmingham Moseley, who are now only one place above the relegation zone. Park's fine victory at Cinderford sees us drop to second, while Cinderford drop to eighth, but with a match in hand. Park are joined on 54 points by Rams, who got a bonus point win at home to Plymouth Albion by 44-14.

Chinnor's 37-27 win over Darlington Mowden Park keeps them fourth, a place above our next opponents, Old Elthamians, whose away win by 31-25 at Blackheath sees them leapfrog their rivals

into fifth. Bishops Stortford's 26-19 win over Sale sees them go ninth.

At the bottom of the table, Cambridge's 10-59 bonus-point win over Hull Ionians takes them two places above the relegation zone. The unluckiest team on Saturday were the bottom club, Canterbury, who were the better side and winning at Rotherham until the home side were awarded a penalty 6 minutes into added time to snatch a 20-19 victory.

This week's fixtures

Birmingham Moseley v Rams
Blackheath v Canterbury
Cambridge v Bishops Stortford
Chinnor v Richmond
Darlington Mowden Park v Hull Ionians
Plymouth Albion v Cinderford
Rosslyn Park v Old Elthamians
Sale v Rotherham

Chairman's charity ride

Adam Tyrer writes...



Some of you will know that every 2 years your Chairman slips out of the normal work attire and into lycra to take part in a cycling challenge in some far-flung place. There, in extreme heat and humidity, and on locally procured mountain bikes, my fellow Truants and I cycle about 220km in just over 2 days. It is all in aid of raising money for some

amazing charities that work with children - Teenage Cancer Trust, Childline and Nordoff Robbins. Each of us pay our own way so every penny raised goes to the charities in an equal split. Our next ride is to Vietnam over the Vietnamese New Year in January when we'll cycle from Hanoi to Ha Long Bay (hopefully avoiding any hills). The 40 of us going are looking to raise £666,000 between us.



Post Christmas and with little to no training I've no doubt this will be an enormous challenge for me to complete so would ask any of our members, players, supporters and anyone else reading this to please consider donating even the smallest sum. It is easy to donate by going to <https://race-nation.com/sponsor/e/208512> and from there you can find more detail of the ride.

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. It only costs £4 a month. Contact Boothy in the Club Office on 020 8876 1879 for full details.

Sponsors' Offers

The following offers are available to Park Members and supporters, courtesy of our Sponsorship Manager, Jodie Rockett. Please do support these where you can – they have supported us. Please mention Rosslyn Park when you do.

My Health Care Clinic - £50 off dental implants or Orthodontics

<https://myhealthcareclinic.com/>

Fresh Fitness Foods - 10% discount on all pre made meals
<https://www.freshfitnessfood.com/>

Edit Suits - £50 Off Custom Suit
<https://www.editsuits.com/>

Infinity Drainage - 10% off all services
0203 902 1713

Hand in Hand Pub - Free Pint with Matchday programme Flyer
<https://www.thehandinhandwimbledon.co.uk/>

Vidrate Sachets - 15% Discount code RFPC15
<https://www.vidrate.co.uk/>

Richmond Physiotherapy - 10% discount for all RPFC members
<https://www.richmondphysio.co.uk/>

Savills - £1,000 referral fees to club and members for introductions to sales and lets SW offices
<https://www.savills.co.uk/>

Sponsorship at National One level is always a challenge, however we feel with our unique location and the great events we run, we can offer a widerange of Sponsorship rights at a number of levels. If you know any companies or brands that would like to advertise and promote and market themselves to any of the club sections below please contact Jodie.rockett@rosslynpark.co.uk. Sponsorship at the club, through our eventor on our online channels provide a very powerful and effective platform to promote services, products and heighten brand exposure to all those who use the club and venue throughout the year.

If you talk to anyone who might be interested in sponsoring, you might find the following points useful: Rosslyn Park Rugby Club – 500 active rugby players & over 1,500 non playing members. Rosslyn Park Minis & Youth – 900 children currently play in our mini and youth sections each week at the ground and in Richmond

Park.HSBC Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s – Estimated 10,500 school children, 6,000 spectators and 850 school teams at the tournament. London Floodlit 7s – 12 premiership, championship and elite teams to compete. 16 blue chip corporate companies take hospitality each year. Just give any potential sponsor's details to Jodie and she'll sort it out. If everyone who reads this could identify just one potential sponsor it would make a massive difference..

Stay in touch

The best way to stay in touch is via the new Rosslyn Park website - check it out at <https://rosslynpark.co.uk/>

Do you want to receive an email notification when ParkNews is published? If you wish to receive the weekly email notifications that ParkNews has been published (and are not already receiving them) please just email: parklife@rosslynpark.co.uk with "Send Me ParkNews" in the subject line. Every year the Club carries out a major update of the mailing lists. As part of this process it is possible that some people on the ParkNews notification list may have been removed. If you have please just email to re-subscribe. Park also has a strong social media presence, just follow these links:

Twitter: <http://bit.ly/2PqDIQy>

Facebook: <http://bit.ly/2NG7bxV>

Instagram: <http://bit.ly/34d652t>

YouTube: <http://bit.ly/2PQSpqC>

Please find highlights link in latest bulletin: <http://bit.ly/36Ap3An>

PARK VS OLD ELTHAMIANS, SAT 21 DEC, 3PM @ THE ROCK



OUR ETHOS IS DEFINED BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE CLOTHING WE WEAR HAS A DIRECT IMPACT ON OUR LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE IN SPORT



OUR REMIT IS TO DELIVER THE BEST POSSIBLE PRODUCT



OUR INTENT IS FUNDAMENTALLY ENGRAINED IN OUR PROCESS

LET'S PLAY!



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