

## PARK GAIN A POINT ON THE LEADERS

**Welcome to Parknews.** We really do sometimes ask the impossible of our athletes. While the 4G pitch will almost always be playable, the surrounding elements on Saturday were nigh on *unplayable* with a swirling gale and constant rain. For two teams of semi-professional players to show the skills they did in such conditions is deserving of praise for all involved. A tight first half saw Park perhaps a tad fortunate to go into the interval with a 14-5 lead, thanks to a last-gasp try by Arthur Ellis. Mowden had incurred two yellow cards in two minutes but after the resulting penalty try they defended brilliantly and looked really dangerous on several occasions. However, Park took a firm grip on things after the interval and deserved their win. A try out of the top drawer finished off at electrifying pace by Craig Holland set the tone. There was a slight hiatus when Paul Doran-Jones saw yellow and Mowden exploited the extra man to drive over from a quick penalty to narrow the gap. But Park kept their composure and a late try, taking Mowden's 5-metre scrum against the head, brought the bonus point.

Saturday's win takes Park a point closer to the leaders, **Richmond**, who scraped a 9-7 win over Old Elthamians thanks to 3 penalties against a converted try. That match attracted only 188 hardy spectators, such were the conditions. **Chinnor**, our next opponents, moved up to third – five points behind ourselves - after their eighth minute converted try at Canterbury proved to be the only score of the match. **Rams** match at Cinderford was postponed. **Blackheath** are now probably out of the title race after a 10-10 draw at Bishops Stortford leaves them 19 points behind the leaders, though they do have a game in hand.

### Next matches vital

So the next matches are vital to Park. With **Chinnor** only 5 points behind us they will be all out for a maximum win on their own ground on Saturday week. Chinnor signed no fewer than 16 players from Championship or Premiership clubs during the close season and were expected to mount a title challenge. It perhaps took them a time to gel, losing four of their first eight matches, but subsequently in 14 matches only Richmond and Rams have lowered their colours. That run included grabbing a draw (27-27) at the Rock earlier in the season. They have played eleven home matches,

winning eight and recording a 5-try bonus in each of those wins. In addition to Richmond and Rams, they surprisingly lost at home to Rotherham by 24-26, despite scoring four tries to their opponents' three. However they avenged that defeat by thrashing the Titans by 42-24 in the return match.

The Club is planning to run a **supporters' bus** leaving at noon to this important match for £18 return, but **you need to book by Monday 24 February to ensure we have a viable number going.** Call Cori in the Club Office. But if you are determined to travel independently, the nearest station is Haddenham & Thame Parkway from London Marylebone – though that is still nearly 3 miles from the ground. An off-peak return

Park close in on the Mowden line [all 1st XV photos by David Whittam]



**Saturday 22 February**

### Nomads v Esher 3

Surrey Championship  
Home KO 1:00PM

### B XV v Chiswick 2

Surrey Championship  
Home KO 1:00PM

### Farnham 2 v Hatters

Surrey Championship  
Home KO 1:00PM

### Grasshoppers 2 v Fours

Surrey Championship  
Home KO 1:00PM

**6 Nations live in the Clubhouse**

Italy v Scotland KO 2:15PM  
Wales v France KO 4:45PM

**Sunday 23 February**

**Live women's Rugby plus 6-Nations**

### Slingbacks v Chesham

League  
Home KO: 2:00PM (*tbc, trying to switch to 1:00PM*)  
England v Ireland KO 3:00PM

*Free admission all weekend - everyone welcome to see the big games in a real Rugby Club atmosphere. Drinks cheaper than most local pubs*

**Next First XV Home Match  
Friday 14 February**

### 1st XV v Richmond

National 1  
Home KO 7:45PM

*To book for a Steak & Frites pre-match meal  
contact Cori Pinkus in the Club Office (020 8876 1879)*





appears to be £27.50, or £18.15 if you have a railcard. You can get a bus (or taxi) from the station into Thame, from where it's just over a mile walk. There are several pubs in Thame that sell decent beer, but they are all at the swish end of the market with prices to match. You are also effectively travelling two sides of a triangle, so unless you are an avid pub-goer you're probably better off getting a cab straight to the ground, where there's a decent clubhouse, or – better still – get on the Supporters' bus.

### Big match

The following weekend we have a Friday night home match that could be the match-of-the-season in every sense when **Richmond** visit the Rock. For the away match earlier in the season the Park players were really boosted by the tremendous vocal support we took to the Athletic ground. Don't let the Richmond fans reverse the roles! Let's get a solid wall of vocal encouragement behind our team for what could turn out to be our most important match for many a year. See the flier elsewhere in this Parknews if you fancy a steak and fries meal before the match. After that we need to step over a potential banana skin away to **Hull Ionians** where, in all honesty, we have never played really well. Then it's home to **Rams**, currently 6 points behind us with a game in hand and a very strong pack.

### This weekend

Although the First XV have no match this weekend, we can offer some good Rugby entertainment anyway. On Saturday there are two Clubside matches at home: the **Nomads** are home to **Esher** in the Surrey Championship at 1:00PM and the **B XV** play **Chiswick** at 3:00PM. The Clubhouse will open at noon and we'll be showing live on the televisions and big screen the 6-Nations Internationals: **Italy v Scotland** at 2:15PM and **Wales v France** at 4:45PM. Please do come along and bring as many friends as you can to watch the matches in a real Rugby Club atmosphere. There's no charge for admission and our bar prices are lower than most local pubs. What's to lose? And the bar profits really do help YOUR club.

On Sunday we've all-day Rugby with the minis and youth in the morning, then a chance to support the **Slingbacks** who have an important League encounter with **Chesham** at lunchtime, and you can rely on those two teams to create a terrific atmosphere in the Clubhouse afterwards for **England v Ireland**, live on all the screens at 3:00PM. Again there's no admission charge and the bar will be stocked.

### Park 26

### Darlington Mowden Park 12

### National 1

by Warren Muggleton



Kieran Power praised his Rosslyn Park side's grit as they battled to a win over Darlington Mowden Park at The Rock.



## PRE-MATCH SUPPER

**STEAK & FRITES**

**£18**  
PER PERSON

### MENU FRI 6TH MARCH | 6PM

#### Steak and frites

Served with a cream and mushroom sauce with sharing bowls of green salad on the table

A simple cheese and biscuit buffet table

### TO BOOK

Please contact Cori:  
[cori.pinkus@rosslynpark.co.uk](mailto:cori.pinkus@rosslynpark.co.uk)



Gregor Gillanders grabbed a bonus point in a turnover scrum as Arthur Ellis scored a fifth try in three games. Craig Holland also got on the scoreboard after a penalty try, putting Park a point nearer to league leaders Richmond.



Director of Rugby Power said: "Around the park, the boys grafted really hard. It's hard to play into a wind like that as a pack but they really stuck to task and it paid dividends. We controlled the territory that bit better in the second half and were able to come away with two tries that kicked us on for the bonus. I was really pleased with the grit to stay in there. They got stuck in together, stayed tight, their energy and control was that little bit better. There's still a lot of rugby to be played, so we just have to take it one at a time as anyone can beat anyone."

Park were given an advantage after just 10 minutes as Paul Jarvis and Ben Frankland were given sin bins within two minutes of each other.

The home side used the advantage to win a penalty try from a driving scrum after 14 minutes.

National League 1 top-scorer Warren Seals had the chance to kick points on the board from a penalty seven minutes later but the wind pushed his attempt wide.

DMP, though, did get on the board after 27 minutes, Brandon Asher-Wood breaking through the defence – but the fly-half missed the extras.

It allowed Park to build momentum, finishing the half with a massive drive for Ellis as Greg Lound reach 100 points for the season.

The home side continued this after the restart, Holland sprinting into the left corner from a breakaway on 47 minutes.

Power's side, though, were given an obstacle as Paul Doran-Jones was sin-binned on the hour.

And DMP responded immediately, the quick penalty leading to driving play to be finished by Max Davies.

Park did not stop battling, preventing the visitors from capitalising further on their one-man advantage.

They were rewarded with a bonus point in the final minutes, the pack turning over a scrum on the opposition's five-metre line and Gillanders jumping onto it.

DMP Director of Rugby Danny Brown said: "It's really frustrating. "I never make excuses and I think, when the better team win, you put your hands up. Rosslyn Park could have been the better team



today but I think there were a lot of decisions that I've got to look at. I think we were in the game. It's always a battle and it was one hell of a battle. You take those yellows into account and when you're down to 13 men for 15 minutes it makes a difference. But I thought the boys played well and did some really good stuff. We made some errors but in those conditions you expect it."

**Park:** Henry Robinson; Ben Howard (Neville Edwards 54), Nick Scott, Joe Munro @, Craig Holland; Greg Lound, Jack Gash (Dave Lewis 53); Kyle Traynor (Ali Wade 76), Ryan Roach, Stewart Maguire (Paul Doran-Jones 54); Sam Twomey, Gregor Gillanders; James Freeman (Maguire 65; Henry Spencer 71), Arthur Ellis, Mike Kovacic

**Park scorers:** Penalty 14, Ellis 39, Holland 47, Gillanders 78  
Conversions: Lound 40, 48



## PRE-MATCH LUNCH

before  
**ROSSLYN PARK v RAMS**

LUNCH 13.30PM | KICK OFF 3PM

**£25**  
PER PERSON

Glass of Prosecco on arrival  
3-course meal  
Complimentary matchday ticket

## TO BOOK

Please contact Cori:  
[cori.pinkus@rosslynpark.co.uk](mailto:cori.pinkus@rosslynpark.co.uk)



## Clubsides

by Will Thorogood

A successful weekend, results wise for the Clubsides, but there were casualties, I'm afraid to say.

Firstly, wishing Luke, B's skipper and scrum half, a speedy recovery from a nasty fractured arm suffered in the line of duty (almost scoring a much needed try at the bottom of a mountain of bodies) against Grasshoppers in their MMT Premier game on Saturday lunchtime. Thanks to Pete, duty match physio, and Club medical support, for their quick attention, care and treatment. Luke had to go off to hospital for treatment.

In a wind blown game, a little scrappy, if not a bit tetchy the B's managed to earn their a win in the last 5 minutes of the game with an interception try, as Grasshoppers try to run out from defence, when the game was tied at 12 all. A close game which both sides really wanted and needed to win. B's 19 Grasshoppers 12.

On Friday evening the Nomads entertained Law Society 2's in yet another "try-fest", 12 in all, in their Surrey Championship game. Nomads 48 Law Society 28. Well done.

The other casualties of the weekend, victims of Storm Dennis the Menace, were the Hatters and the 4's whose games had to be postponed because of the inclement weather, against Brighton and



Hampstead, respectively. Games to be rearranged.

Games for this weekend : Hatters v Farnham 2's Away; B's v Chiswick 2's Home 3pm; 4's v Grasshoppers 2's Away; Nomads v Esher 3's Home 1pm

### Slingbacks

The Slingbacks play a challenging home match against **Chesham** on Sunday. The Buckinghamshire side heavily defeated our girls in the away match earlier this season, which had to be moved to Amersham RFC after heavy rains rendered Chesham's pitch unplayable. However, Park struggled to put out a team at all that afternoon and were no match for a well-organised Chesham side who played the conditions far better. With a couple of morale boosting wins under their belts since then, and the 4G surface underfoot, the Slingbacks will be approaching the match in a positive spirit. Please do come along and support. Kick off is at 2:00PM and the England v Ireland match will be shown live in the Clubhouse at 3:00PM.

### Away travel

After Chinnor (see earlier) there is a gap until we play away to **Hull Ionians** on 21 March. Hull play at Brantingham Park, Brantingham Road, Brough, East Yorkshire, HU15 1HX and Brough is the station to book to. In terms of price it is very advantageous to book an advance ticket. Although there is a greater choice of trains on the East Coast service (changing at Doncaster) our regulars tend to book on the Hull Trains service out of Kings Cross, which has usually been cheaper and avoids changing trains. The outward service departs 09:48 and arrives 12:04, and the return leaves around 18:48 and gets back to Kings Cross at 21:14. At the time of these notes you could get there and back for £30.50, reducing to £20.10 if you hold a valid railcard, though those fares may have risen slightly since. The Buccaneer pub near the station is a good bolt hole and does good food at a reasonable price. Cabs in Brough are always at a premium, so get one booked early unless you want to walk (our regulars are hardly the epitome of youth and vigour and we've walked it the last couple of times, admittedly taking a break at another pub *en route*). The club has a perfectly good Clubhouse if you want to go straight there, and one of their stalwart supporters brews some pretty good draught beers of his own and usually sells them at the ground.

### Obos refurbished



## CHARITY GIG - CLOG IRON

at  
**ROSSLYN PARK FC**

### OPEN TO ALL

On Friday 13th March folk band Clog Iron will be playing a fundraiser for Rosslyn Park FC. More details nearer the time.



People were impressed by the refurbished Obolensky bar, which was unveiled on Saturday, complete with log fire. It's now a really smart venue for small gatherings, whether social or business. If you know of anyone looking for somewhere, please steer them towards Cori in the Club Office. *Photo by Pippa Rollitt.*

### Myeloma Charity gig

On Saturday 29th February we shall be staging a **Myeloma Charity Music Night**, further details to follow.

### Fundraiser

On Friday evening 13th March there is a musical fundraiser - Rock @ The Rock – which will include the folk band **Clog Iron**, plus Park's own Rock Star **Owen Hughes** with a buffet thrown in. Clog Iron nearly always play only private functions so this is a unique opportunity to see them at a public ticketed event.

### Ladies Day

On 28th March the match against Rams has been declared **Ladies Day**, with a sumptuous pre-match lunch. See the flier for full details

### End of Season Awards bash

Saturday 2nd May will see **Masquerade Summer Ball** take place at the club, along with the End of Season Awards & Sponsors Dinner. There's a 3-course dinner and a DJ late into the night. "Dress to impress" says the flier elsewhere in this Parknews.

### Floodlit 7s

Do make a date in your diary for 7th May when the annual Floodlit 7's takes centre stage, so please spread the word and let's draw a bumper crowd for our key fundraising event. There are plenty of sponsorship and hospitality opportunities surrounding the event that can be tailored to meet your or your company's needs. Contact the Club Office for details.

### 400 Club

The February winners are Mike Engelbach £100, Hugh Springall £50 and Tony Durrant £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. 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](mailto:Jodie.rockett@rosslynpark.co.uk). Sponsorship at the club, through our events or 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**

**TICKETS**  
**£35**

**ROSSLYN PARK**  
**MASQUERADE**  
**SUMMER BALL**  
**SPORTS CLUB**

**SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY**  
**3-COURSE DINNER**  
**BOTTLE OF HOUSE WINE PER PERSON**  
**COCKTAIL BAR**

**BAND & DJ LATE INTO THE NIGHT**  
**DRESS TO IMPRESS**

**CONTACT: CORLPINKUS@ROSSLYNPARK.CO.UK**

<https://rosslynpark.co.uk/>

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

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

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

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

