

# PARKNEWS

ISSUE 26

Season 2019-20

26 February 2019

## CRUNCH AWAY MATCH THIS SATURDAY



The Nomads in action against Esher in the Surrey Championship at the Rock on Saturday

**Welcome to Parknews.** This week there are no matches to report involving the senior squad, and the Slingbacks match was cancelled, but we have brief reports on the Clubsides, and the photos dotted through this edition are from the two matches at the Rock: Nomads v Esher 3 and B XV v Chiswick 2. Both matches were entertaining affairs – a pity more people did not turn up to support. However, the Park netball team turned out in force to support the Nomads in their 1:00PM match – well done them! More about the club sides later.

### This Saturday

We can't get away from First XV matters for long because National 1 picks up again this week and we have a crucial away match at Chinnor, who are a place and five points behind us in the League table. Chinnor grabbed a 27-27 draw at the Rock earlier in the season, and their home form is sound – only Richmond, Rams and (surprisingly) Rotherham have won away at Chinnor this season. They have been able to assemble a strong squad with close season signings from predominantly Championship and Premiership clubs. They perhaps took a while to gel, hence the Rotherham defeat early on, but have lately been steaming up the table. They remain serious contenders for the title.

Only a performance out of the very top drawer is likely to see Park prevail on Saturday. Please do get along if you can to give the team some strong vocal encouragement. The Club has been planning to run a **supporters' bus** to this important match, leaving at noon for £18 return, but it does need to have sufficient numbers not to incur a significant loss. **So please, if you want to travel on it don't wait - call Cori in the Club Office (0208 8876 1879) no later than this Monday, 24 February, when a decision will be taken as to whether it is viable.**



### 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



For those travelling independently, Chinnor play at Kingsey Road, Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 3PB, by the roundabout where the Thame by-Pass intersects with the A4129 Thame to Princes Risborough Road. By public transport, the nearest station is Haddenham & Thame Parkway from London Marylebone – though that is still nearly 3 miles from the ground. You can get a 280 bus (or taxi) from the station into Thame, from where it's about a mile walk. If getting the bus check with the driver as it looks as if it passes very close to the ground, and there may be a

Saturday 29 February

**Chinnor**

v

**1st XV**

National 1

Away KO 3:00PM

**Hatters v Horsham 2**

Surrey Premier

Home KO 2:00PM

**Warlingham 2 v Nomads**

Surrey Championship

Away KO TBA

Sunday 23 February

**Battersea Ironsides**

v

**Slingbacks**

League

Away KO: 2:00PM

Next First XV Home Match

Friday 14 March

**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)

If your Company would be interested in sponsoring this important Local Derby please contact Jodie in the Club Office on 020 8876 1879

stop there. 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 by going into the town from the station, so unless you are an avid pub-goer you're probably better off going straight to the ground, where there's a decent clubhouse. According to the timetable buses leave Haddenham station at 01, 26, 41 and 56 past the hour.

If you can't make it to Chinnor, then we have live Rugby at the Rock with the Hatters at home in the Surrey Premier against Horsham 2s, kicking off at 2:00PM. As usual the Clubhouse will be open and it's free admission.

### This Sunday

On Sunday the **Slingbacks** have a local Derby away to top-of-the-League **Battersea Ironsides**, who play at Openview, just off Burntwood Lane, London, SW17 0AW. Catch any of the buses that go along Garrett Lane from either the Wandsworth one-way system or Tooting Broadway and Burntwood Lane is very close to the Leather Bottle pub, on the opposite side of the road. Walk along Burntwood Lane and you will encounter Openview and the ground on the left. It will be a tough match for the Park girls so your vocal support would be much appreciated. Kick off is at 2:00PM.

### Next week

The following weekend we have a Friday night home match that could easily end up being 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 frites meal before the match.

There is still a lot of Rugby to be played before the cups and consolations are handed out. After Richmond we need to step over a potential banana skin away to **Hull Ionians** where, in all honesty, we have never played really well (travel details for that one appear further on). Then it's home to **Rams**, currently 6 points behind us with a game in hand and a very strong pack. A potentially tricky visit to Bishops Stortford is followed by a home match with Cinderford. The final match is a trip up to Yorkshire to play Rotherham on 25 April.

### Clubsides

by Will Thorogood

There were eventually three Clubsides matches on Saturday

### Nomads 49

### Esher Abbots 12

### Surrey Championship



The Nomads' "try-fest" continued against Esher Abbots (3's) in their Surrey Championship game. 11 tries for, two against! It was 22-0 to the Nomads at half time, in very gusty conditions. Both sides, generally, preferred to handle the ball rather than utilise aerial forms of attack. At the turnaround, pundits thought that Esher would take advantage of the wind, but the Nomads continued their ploy of keeping the ball to hand as much as possible. Another 7 tries were scored by the Nomads, but Abbots did reply with a couple towards



## 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.



the end, by the time everything had been done and dusted. In summary, a gutsy, gusty game by both sets of players. Nomads 49 Esher Abbots 12. Only three conversions in the whole game, so maybe we should get Owen Farrell down for some kicking coaching...maybe we'll be able to do that next season!?

### B XV 22

### Chiswick 2s 47

### Middlesex Merit Premier



The B's hosted local rivals, Chiswick 2's, in their MMT Premier game. Never take Chiswick for granted, and on Saturday they were blowing hot, unfortunately for the B's. It was a close run thing in the first half with the B's only trailing 12-14 at the break. However, the second half saw the floodgates open, with Chiswick running the ball wide, as much as possible. Too much for the B's, who had had to reorganise their line-up, because of a string of injuries, and as the casualties left the field.

The Killer B's showed great tenacity, under the circumstances and scored a couple of good tries in the second half, but, sadly, it wasn't enough. B's 22 Chiswick 2's 47. The B's now have a "winter break", giving them time for recovery and re-grouping before their next league game against London Cornish. (Luke, can you you chase them, please, about whether it will be a Friday night game 20th March or Saturday game 21st March?)

## Grasshoppers 2s 12

### Fours 92

#### Middlesex Merit Premier

The 4's returned from their game against Grasshoppers 2's with big smiles on their faces. It sounded like "one way traffic".

4's 92 Grasshoppers 2's 12.

The **Hatters** did not play in the end.

### Slingbacks

Unfortunately with injuries and half-term commitments the Slingbacks had insufficient available players to fulfil the home fixture with Chesham last Sunday, so Chesham claimed a walkover. That is really very disappointing, especially for the girls who were available. Hopefully things will improve considerably for this coming Sunday's short trip to Battersea Ironsides.

### 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.

### 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 **Cloglron**, plus Park's own Rock Star **Owen Hughes** with a buffet thrown in. Cloglron nearly always play only private functions so this is a unique opportunity to see them at a public ticketed event. Please do come along and bring your friends for a great night out.

### 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

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



**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: CORI.PINKUS@ROSSLYNPARK.CO.UK**

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 on /continued page 5...

# ROSSLYN PARK'S HISTORY IN A PAINTING



The refurbishment of the Obolensky Bar led to several people taking interest in the large painting that has adorned the clubhouse since the end of the 1950s. The work by artist Terry Thomas depicts the history of our club. The artist's is most famous for his depictions of life around the Gloucestershire villages to where he had moved. A gregarious man, he threw himself into village life (he designed and painted the scenery for the local dramatic society for free). He exhibited in France, but also in the local pub. But how come he produced this large work for a London Rugby Club that he presumably didn't know? Perhaps the fact that he lived for a time in the village of Minchinhampton, where a prominent fellow resident was Rosslyn Park and England International JV Smith may have something to do with it....

The section to the left of the pagoda probably refers generically to the origins of the game itself as the building at the top left is clearly Rugby School. The lad in the foreground of that section who has picked up the ball and is running with it has to be William Webb Ellis himself.

At the top centre of the picture is a group of lads playing cricket. These are the founders of Rosslyn Park FC. After the death of the First Earl of Rosslyn in 1805, who has no connection to the club whatsoever, the name of his former Hampstead country residence, Shelford Lodge, was changed to Rosslyn House. He left the house in 1802, unable through infirmity to manage its 20 acres of grounds. The area around the estate became known as Rosslyn Park. The house itself was later (1859) purchased by a wealthy Hampstead wine merchant, Charles Woodd. His young son, as he grew older he brought his friends back there to play scratch games of cricket in the garden. After Woodd's death – in 1896 – his widow sold the whole estate for development. So for the summer of 1879 the young lads formed a cricket club they called 'Rosslyn Park' and played organised games in a paddock close to Jack Straws Castle on Hampstead Heath.

But 1879 proved to be one of the worst summers on record, and hardly a ball was bowled anywhere. The oldest of the boys, Charles Hoyer Miller, was keen to stay together with his new-found friends, and so proposed they form a football club. A formal meeting was held in the Roebuck pub in Pond Road, Hampstead, and it was agreed to form the club and to play under the Rugby code. The name 'Hampstead' was suggested, but as there was already a Hampstead club in existence it was decided to adopt the name of the cricket club: Rosslyn Park. Which brings us to the next element of the picture.

The team could not play Rugby anywhere on Hampstead Heath, because an emergency clause in the Highways Act had banned the sport from common land. This had been a panic measure by the government after the year of revolutions in Europe and was designed to stop the working classes from combining together. If you wanted to play, you had to have private land to play on. Just down the hill from the Roebuck was the privately-owned South End Green (now a housing estate) just off Fleet Road. They hired some ground there and marked out a pitch by making v-shaped grooves in the ground. Just

across the road was a pub – the White Horse – where they hired a room upstairs for changing and space to store their temporary goal posts. It cost £5 for the whole season. The picture depicts the players bringing their posts out of the pub, wearing the 'navy blue shirts with Maltese Cross sewn on the front' stipulated in their rules that were their original colours 'until more desirable colours shall be decided upon'. The red and white hoops were adopted instead when the club moved to Gospel Oak in 1881.

Moving across the picture, the Arc de Triomphe refers to the club's historic match against Stade Francais in Paris in Easter 1892, the first time any team had played overseas. The match caused some controversy with the press suggesting that there could be serious diplomatic implications. The French club had many English members from the ex-pat community, but legend has it that they all refused to play in case they got blamed for a defeat! Park won, and the section of pinkish hue below shows the Park skipper Ernest Figgis receiving a cup (in fact a brass oriental incense burner, along with a filigree table ornament) from the British Ambassador and his wife, Lord and Lady Dufferin. The picture is slightly inaccurate – it was Lady Dufferin who handed over the items, which are today displayed in the trophy cabinet in the Obolensky bar.

To the left and below that is a depiction of a team photo in front of the old pavilion at Old Deer Park which was Park's home from 1894, almost next to the Kew Gardens pagoda. The club remained there, sharing with Old Merchant Taylors, until the move to our present ground in 1957. The ground was – and still is – owned by Richmond cricket club and our tenure there was not without its disputes with the landlord! But the main reason for moving – ironic nowadays – was the lack of pitches as the club expanded its number of teams. The move to Roehampton brought with it the use of additional pitches in Richmond Park.

The ribbon of services personnel and crosses clearly refers to the Club's members who made the ultimate sacrifice in two world wars. If you have not read Stephen Cooper's excellent book, "The Final Whistle", then there is no better source of information on this area.

It is not clear why the shields of nations were included, but it may be a reference as to how the sport had grown since Webb-Ellis originally committed his offence.

The final segment of the picture depicts the present ground which, when the painting was finished in 1959 was less than two years old, the first match being played against the French club Auvergne Limousin on 17 September 1957. The painting has been gracing the walls of the clubhouse for almost exactly 60 years, the first few decades of which smoking was permitted, so some of its original vibrancy has been lost. If there is a Park member out there who has skills in painting restoration – we can find an interesting job for you!

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](mailto: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:



## 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)



Twitter: <http://bit.ly/2PqDIQy>  
Facebook: <http://bit.ly/2NG7bxV>  
Instagram: <http://bit.ly/34d652t>  
YouTube: <http://bit.ly/2PQSpqC>



**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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