



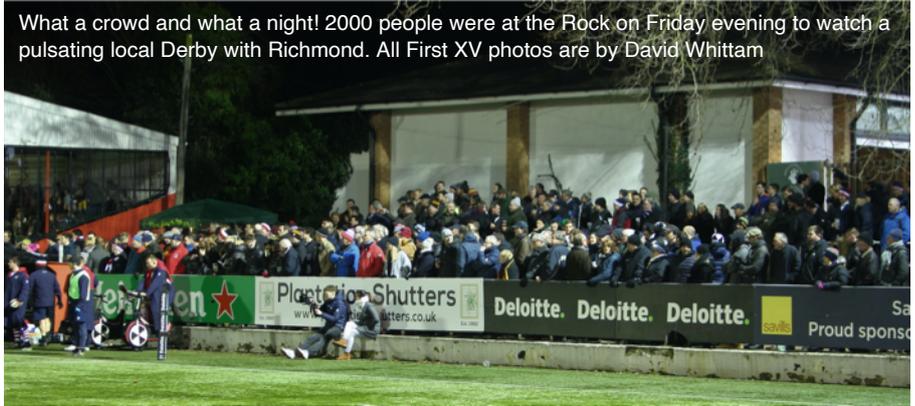
ISSUE 28

Season 2019-20

11 March 2019

# PARK PREVAIL IN TENSE LOCAL DERBY

**Welcome to Parknews.** What a night at the Rock last Friday! A huge crowd, a great match and a famous victory completing a 'double' over the would-be Champions that takes us within 7 points. Those who follow Park around the country always knew that on their day this team can beat anyone. In ending Richmond's long unbeaten run we surely proved that. Park defended brilliantly in not allowing Richmond to cross our line once in the whole 80 minutes. The only real reason the final score was so close, 19-12 despite 3 tries to nil, was the number of penalties Park conceded for technical offences. It's difficult when you are straining every sinew in an ultra-competitive environment, but it gave Richmond a bonus point they possibly did not completely deserve on the overall balance of play and which makes catching them that wee bit more difficult. In the two matches against Richmond we have scored six tries while they have only crossed our line once.



What a crowd and what a night! 2000 people were at the Rock on Friday evening to watch a pulsating local Derby with Richmond. All First XV photos are by David Whittam



Of course, in the wake of a supreme physical effort it is difficult to raise your game to the same heights next time out, as we have found in previous seasons where we have beaten the eventual Champions but come unstuck against lesser opposition next time out. But in that regard we have been dealt a strong hand this season inasmuch as we have a week off before travelling to Hull Ionians and then the next crunch game at home to Rams. Richmond will be well aware that if they falter Park are well capable of pouncing. Although Hull Ionians are bottom of the league, won one match all season and conceded more than a thousand points, we need to remember that we lost there last time out, having dominated the match and then conceded a last-moment drop goal – it

**Saturday 14 March**  
**Park Rangers**  
 v  
**Cinderford**  
 Raging Bull Shield Division 1  
 Home KO 3:00PM  
 Free admission - Clubhouse open

**Old Priorians v Nomads**  
 Friendly  
 Away KO TBA

**Sunday 15 March**  
**Slingbacks**  
 v  
**Barnes**  
 League  
 Home KO 2:30PM  
 Free admission - Clubhouse open

**Next First XV Home match**  
**Saturday 28 March**  
**1st XV**  
 v  
**Rams**  
 National 1  
 Home KO 3:00PM

*To book for the pre-match Ladies' Day lunch please contact Cori in the Club Office on 020 8876 1879*

was a chap called Greg Lound did the damage!

Friday's was a superb team performance and a great night's rugby from both teams. The big winner on the night was probably National 1 Rugby. Far better than watching the robots of the Premiership crashing into each other! Surely anyone watching National 1 rugby for the first time would have been impressed. Hopefully many will return for our next home match, which is another crunch game when Rams come visiting on 28 March.

Remaining matches:

<b>Park</b>	<b>Richmond</b>
A Hull Ionians	H Sale
H Rams	A Plymouth A
A B Stortford	H Cambridge
H Cinderford	A Moseley
A Rotherham	H Darlington MP

Both clubs have to face teams with the potential to cause an upset – it's far from over yet, and Chinnor, Rams and Blackheath may yet have something to say – especially if more than one club gets promoted in the end.

### This weekend

The First XV take a deserved weekend off this week, but we still have plenty of live action for you at the Rock – with the added bonus that it's free admission. On **Saturday** you can run the rule over the wider Senior Squad when our Second XV – the **Park Rangers** – play **Cinderford**, kicking off at 3:00PM, in Division 1 of the Raging Bull Shield. On **Sunday** the **Slingbacks** take centre stage with a league Local Derby against **Barnes**, kicking off at 2:30

The next match for the First XV is away to **Hull Ionians** on Saturday week, 21 March. The Ionians are engaged in what looks like a hopeless struggle against relegation, well adrift from the fourth-from-bottom club. However, we would not be the first club to find such a match to be the proverbial banana skin and it would be good to see and hear a few Park supporters up there to encourage the team. 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. 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 (it's less than 2 miles, and there's a pub less than half a mile before the ground if you falter). 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.

### Park 19 Richmond 12 National 1

*By Warren Muggleton*

Kieran Power hailed Rosslyn Park's defensive performance in an incredible London derby win against Richmond to tighten the title race.

Dan Laventure's break was the winning moment for the home side in front of a 2,000-strong crowd at The Rock. Craig Holland and Paul Doran-Jones got on the scoreboard to keep ahead of Richmond despite Tom Hodgson's kicking.

Director of Rugby Power said: "When you get two local teams on a Friday night, it's always going to be a great game. It was always going to be a tight game - they're a very good side.

"We were a little bit tired after our exploits against Chinnor but the boys raised their game and showed some great courage. Ultimately, they took control of the catch-and-drive maul game. It dictated our play and put them on the back foot. We know we've got a good defence. Sometimes our defence lets us down and we gave away too many penalties that kept them in the game."

THE LONDON **FLOOD Lit 7s** TOURNAMENT

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**THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020**

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Richmond's Director of Rugby Steve Hill was left feeling frustrated. "Rosslyn Park were definitely the better side in the first half but I thought we came back really well in the second," he said. "We had a lot of territory and possession but one or two inaccuracies in that final third let us down. At 14-12, I thought we could drive to the line but these things happen. Park were more accurate than us, so hats off to them. The guys wanted to win this game but that second half performance meant we only gave away three points."



Hodgson put the visitors ahead after nine minutes with a penalty from a collapsed scrum, finding the posts 20 metres out.

But Park's pack got them rolling four minutes later, Dave Lewis feeding Holland from deep as the club's top scorer side-stepped two tackles for the line.

Richmond's No.10 had another penalty on 17 minutes after a failure to bind from a long line-out, scoring from the 22. The rest of the half belonged to Park as their defence forced the league's top side



tre line. And the reward came in the last move of the game after five minutes of driving, Doran-Jones leaping over the line.

It was all Richmond four minutes after the restart – and their aggressive attack won a penalty for not releasing under the posts, Hodgson getting a hat-trick. The visitors closed the gap to two points on 55 minutes with another penalty for the top scorer in the same position.

Park edged their way back in, though, and a break at the maul from Hugo Ellis fed Laventure to smash his way over the line under the Friday night lights

**Park:** Neville Edwards; Benji Marfo, James Gollidge, Nick Scott, Josh Amadi; Craig Holland, Dave Lewis; Kyle Traynor, Ryan Roach, Paul Doran-Jones; Dan Laventure, Gregor Gillanders; Mike Kovacic, James Freeman, Hugo Ellis ©

**Replacements:** Stewart Maguire for Doran-Jones 44; Arthur Ellis for Freeman 49; Jack Gash for Lewis 60; Freeman for Kovacic 70; Ali Wade for Traynor 71; Greg Lound for Amadi 76; Lewis for Holland 78

**Park scorers:** Tries: Holland 13, Doran-Jones 40, Laventure 73  
Conversions: Holland 14, 40

### Fundraiser

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



## 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.



### Floodlit 7s

Do make it 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.



Shanice Williams prompts a Slingbacks attack against Chesham on Sunday

## Slingbacks Slingbacks 12 Chesham 39 League



Gemma Naylor on the attack for Park

There must be something about a Chesham shirt that affects the Slingbacks: they have not incurred so many missed tackles since... well, since they last played Chesham. The Park girls looked uncharacteristically reticent from the start.



Shantelle Drake commits Chesham defenders

Park had a good period of possession from the kick off until a kick failed to find touch and Chesham ran it back to score under the posts for 7-0 on 7 minutes.

The big difference between the two sides was that Chesham had three players of genuine pace and it was difficult to keep tabs on them all at once. Following a successful Slingbacks line-out and maul, another kick led to a Chesham counter attack and it was 14-0 on 15 minutes.

To their credit the Slingbacks took the game back to the visitors. When the ball looked lost two successive hacks-on propelled it into the Chesham in-goal and Park full-back Anja Grant outstripped two defenders to it, Leah Horan adding a conversion for 14-7 on 21 minutes.

However, five minutes later Chesham again used their pace to slice through the Park defence for 19-7.

Before Park could fully recover a missed tackle up the Chesham right saw the lead extend to 24-7.

Park put together a period of consolidated pressure that looked like bringing a score. When they could not find a way through a well-organised defence fly half Leah put a kick over them but this time

Chesham got there first to claim the drop-out.

Early in the second half Chesham again used their pace to breach the Park defences for 29-7, but Park really knuckled down to the job.

It produced dividends with an extended period of Park pressure inside the visiting 22, twice running penalties. Eventually a neat blindside move saw Anja cross the line for her second try to reduce the deficit to 29-12.



Two kids and more than 20 years after her Rosslyn Park debut Clare Bowen is still a handful for opposing defences.

But that was as good as it got for Park. Chesham got two further tries for the final score of 12-39.

**Slingbacks:** Anja Grant; Daisy Goswell, Clare Bowen, Shanice Williams, Sarah Hague; Leah Horan; Maria Castellina; Stevie Jackson, Gemma Naylor, Shantelle Drake; Nicole Dugdale, Julia Daffy; Sam Emery, Danielle Williams, Sophie Behan  
**Bench:** Mohona Battacharjee, Zara Hechemane, KC Gates  
**Park scorers:** Anja Grant (2T), Leah Horan (C)

On Sunday the Slingbacks play a most local of local Derbies in a League match against Barnes, who currently lie fourth in the table, at the Rock. Kick off is at 2:30, with free admission and the bar open. Please do come down and support the Park girls.

## Clubsides

### By Will Thorogood

There has been a period of Clubside inactivity of the last few weeks, various reasons...no fixtures, cancellations, weather...and the trend is continuing for the time being. Hopefully, back to normal next week, 21st March. From there, the 21st and 28th will be important in determining final league positions and play-off places. However, the **Nomads** have a friendly, away to **Old Priorians** this Saturday.

## 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.

## Away travel

After Richmond on Friday evening there is a free weekend before 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.

After that our next away match is **Bishops Stortford** on 04 April. A cheap day return looks to be the most economical way to get to that match, so no need for booking a long time in advance. More details nearer the time.

Our final away match, and last League match of the season is away to **Rotherham** on 25 August. At the moment you can get cheap tickets on the 09:03 service out of Kings Cross (arrives 11:27) changing at Doncaster and returning on the 18:18 via Doncaster, arriving Kings Cross at 20:46. Later outward trains and earlier returns are both more expensive, some considerably so. The onward service from Doncaster is a bit rickety and was run by Northern Trains. Last season they were on strike and we had to change our tickets to go via Sheffield, but they seem to have lost the franchise and all seems peaceful at the moment. You could still go to Sheffield from St Pancras instead, from where there is a frequent express bus service from the adjacent bus station but that is also more expensive. The Rotherham clubhouse opens at noon and is as good if not better than the local pubs (it operates as a pub during the week).



## 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)



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](mailto:CORI.PINKUS@ROSSLYNPARK.CO.UK)**

### Ladies Day

On 28th March, the day of 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

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.

### National 1

**Richmond** still top the table after their 19-12 defeat at the Rock, though their lead over **Rosslyn Park** is cut to 7 points. Our own lead over the third club, **Chinnor**, is extended to 5 points after their surprise defeat by 22-19 at **Sale**. A point behind them – and with a game in hand – are **Rams** who took maximum points from a 31-15 away win at **Old Elthamians**. **Blackheath** probably lost their last faint hope, being 7 points further back, after a controversial 21-16 defeat at **Cinderford** who got the winning score from a penalty try for a deliberate knock on which was the final touch of the match.

At the other end of the table **Canterbury** beat fellow strugglers **Hull Ionians** by 24-15 but are still 24 points behind the third bottom club with only 25 more points available from their last 5 matches. Ionians have a slight stay of execution inasmuch as they have two matches in hand, but they are a further 5 points back. **Rotherham** are still in the drop zone, but 2 points from a home defeat (24-31) to **Bishops Stortford** takes them within 4 points of **Birmingham Moseley** (who have a game in hand but

In the only other match **Plymouth Albion** beat **Darlington Mowden Park** (who were booked on FlyBe to get to the match) by 34-27. **Caldy** maintained their 100% record in National 2 (North) to ensure promotion to National 1 next season.

This week's matches  
Sale v Birmingham Moseley  
Hull Ionians v Blackheath  
Cinderford v Rams

## Swing Low

There was a Rosslyn Park story prominent on the BBC website last week. It quoted the RFU Rugby Museum as saying they had discovered tapes suggesting that the first time 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot' was heard at Twickenham was a tribute to Martin Offiah, playing for Rosslyn Park in the Middlesex Sevens. This seems to the Editor to be somewhat fanciful. That may or may not be the first time the song was heard at HQ, but it almost certainly had nothing to do with Martin. I never heard Martin referred to as "Chariots" at Rosslyn Park, I'm pretty sure he got that nickname when he became a household name playing Rugby League for Wigan and England, long after that Middlesex 7s. Bear in mind that Martin was hardly a household name in those days, few outside of Rosslyn Park at the 7s had probably even heard of him. If it had been about him, it would have to be that significant numbers of Rosslyn Park people in the Twickenham crowd spontaneously decided to learn the words and tune of an obscure negro spiritual – as the genre was then known – so that they could sing it at HQ. And they would also have had to be blissfully unaware that singing a song based on slavery in tribute to a black player would have been inappropriate to the point of racism. I'm pretty sure it was an old Harlequin drinking song – and you had to perform a forfeit if you mistimed the accompanying hand gestures. In those days Harlequins ran social teams like any other club – it seems far more likely that it was a gang of them in the crowd deciding who would buy the next jug. Still, as they say, whatever the case it's all good publicity.

## 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/>

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10% off all  
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programme  
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Vidrate  
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- 10% discount  
for all RPFC  
members  
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www.richmond  
physio.co.uk/](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 eventsor on /continued page 5... our online channels provide a very powerful and effective platform to promote services, products and heighten brand exposure to all those who usethe 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.Park also has a strong social media presence, just follow these links:

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

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