

PARKNEWS

ISSUE 05

Season 2020-21

2 December 2020

TOUCH WOOD FOR A JANUARY START!

Welcome to Parknews, Fingers crossed, some competitive Rugby may now not be too far off for the First XV, with a good chance of some competitive fare in January for all of our teams. Read on for further details. In the meantime there's a chance of getting together before the festive season for the **Santa 6s** on Saturday 12 December. Every one of these tournaments has seen some really entertaining social Rugby in a really good, fun social atmosphere. To conform with COVID regulations we need to restrict spectator admission to socially distanced tables of six. Why not get together with your Park mates and book a table? It might be the only way to legally get together this side of the New Year!

We have had to be careful to ensure that arrangements completely conform to Government guidelines, so we've had to tweak the arrangements in respect of non-playing attendees so that a 'substantial meal' is included. Jodie has come up with a package that looks a real bargain. A table for 6 costs £50, which INCLUDES six meals of Chilli wedges / vegetarian option, plus six drinks (lager / cider / bitter). That's only just over £8 a head for a decent meal with a pint, plus admission to an event starting at 10:00AM and which lasts through to 10:00PM (if you have the stamina). Hot mince pies and mulled wine will be available throughout the event, but you'll need to pay for those.

The number of tables available is limited by the amount of space we have, so please do get in early. Tickets are available at https://rosslynparkfc.ticketco.events/uk/en/e/santas_social_6s If you are unable to make on-line bookings then please contact Jodie at the club office and she'll sort out something for you.

Stop Press

Christmas Jingle and Socially Distanced Mingle

Regrettably we are not able to stage our normal Christmas Dinner for all the teams this year because of the Covid restrictions. However, Jodie has come up with a replacement Christmas Lunch on Sunday 13 December, open to all Park people, which we hope you'll take advantage of, see flier on the back page of this Newsletter for details. This really will be the last chance to get together this side of New Year. Tickets from:

https://rosslynparkfc.ticketco.events/uk/en/e/christmas_jingle_socially_distanced_mingle

Up for the Cup

Hopeful of a January start, the NCA has given some details of its projected Cup competition, organised with the RFU, which it is hoped to get under way in January, or as soon as the Government allows. The competition will not affect a club's League status, and participation is voluntary, but the juicy prospect of a Twickenham final will surely tempt most, if not all.

Covid will almost certainly remain a factor early in the New Year, but even if we have to start with a modified game in order to gain approval – for instance without scrums or mauls – the view is that it is better to play some form of the game than not at all. With the prospect of a viable vaccine and cheaper regular testing on the horizon, the NCA has been clear that even if we have to start the competition with amended rules, as soon as full-contact is possible it will be adopted immediately.

The competition would embrace the clubs in National 1 and National 2 North and South. The exact format can only be determined when entries are finalised, but the general proposal is to form local clusters of six clubs, each to play each other home and away in the first stage. This is to minimise travel costs. In determining who is in which group, the RFU has always considered ease of travel as important as physical

Photo by Isabelle Lovell



Future events
Saturday 12 December

ROSSLYN PARK PRESENTS

SANTA
SOCIAL
6'S

TEAM
ENTRY
£50

SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER
READY 4 RUGBY RULES
MENS & WOMENS COMPETITIONS
MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES
SANTA HATS ENCOURAGED

TEAM ENTRY: [JODIE.ROCKETT@ROSSLYNPARK.CO.UK](mailto:jodie.rockett@rosslynpark.co.uk)
OR ROSSLYN PARK WEBSITE

Details of pre-season matches and League fixtures will appear here once we have a start date for the 2020-21 season.

proximity, and considered the overall picture. So, for instance, while we might expect to be put in with Barnes and Esher, it may well be that Blackheath and / or Old Elthamians might have to be included with Canterbury and Tonbridge Juddians. Indeed it would seem likely on the basis of ease of travel overall that Guernsey could be included in a London group.

The general idea is that the top two in each local "league" would go into a Cup competition, the middle two into the Plate and the bottom two into the Bowl. Then further stages would be on a national rather than a regional basis and be a knockout competition to produce three sets of finalists. We understand that, in principle, Twickenham would be available for the finals.

Clearly this is no substitute for a proper League season, but it is probably the best solution available and one must hope that everyone gets behind it to make it a success. It looks as if we shall be allowed to accommodate crowds at up to 50% of ground capacity, but the precise logistics of that can only be addressed when we know fuller details.

You can keep abreast of developments on the NCA website and, of course our own social media outlets.

We would like to be able to get a couple of 'friendlies' under our belts before engaging in a Cup competition. More details in due course. Please understand, though, COVID rules at the time may make it impossible to invite spectators or to fully open the clubhouse.



Get ready to play

There's also positive news for the **Clubsides**, **Slingbacks** and **minis / youth**. Steve Grainger of the RFU said there was light at the end of the tunnel for the community game. The RFU has been in constant contact with the Government and is confident that these will bear fruit in the next few days, albeit with amended rules. He warned that authority for full-contact was still some way off for the community game, but it should be possible to go ahead without scrums and mauls.

Depending upon the Tiers that clubs' locations place them in it might not be possible to have a consistent approach to whether clubhouses can open, and some clubs could face travel restrictions. The RFU is particularly keen that young players should reclaim Sunday mornings, and urged those involved to follow the hashtag [#getyourshirton](#).

Surrey RFU have been quick to get their ducks in a row, thus we now have provisional fixtures for the **Hatters** and the **Nomads** (see further on). For the Hatters, in the Surrey Premiership, there is a reduced season with the League effectively split in half, followed by semi-final play-offs and a final. The Nomads, in the Surrey Championships, find themselves in a league with a three-way split, followed by play-offs in a cup format. For both teams the "league" fixtures run from 16 January to 10 April, followed by knockout rounds in May. The Hatters also have the options to play a pre-season 10s on 09 January, while the Nomads have the Surrey 10s on 22 May and the Surrey 7s on 05 June.

Will Thorogood is expecting the Middlesex RFU to come up with

something similar for the **Bs** and **Fours**, but as we go to press there are no details to hand

The **Slingbacks** are placed in a cluster with Barnes, Chesham, London Welsh and Reading, with the aim of playing each other home and away. At the time of writing we do not have dates for these fixtures. The girls have been keeping themselves amused with a fitness challenge whilst unable to play.

Clubside fixtures

Hatters provisional Fixtures

Jan 09		Pre-season 10s
16	A	Richmond Jutes
23	H	Ironsides 2
30	A	L Irish 2
Feb 13	A	Camberley 2
20	H	Esher 3
27	A	Ironsides 2
Mar 06	A	L Irish 2
20	H	Camberley 2
27	A	Esher 3
Apr 03		Easter holidays
10	H	Richmond Jutes
May 01		Semi-final (leg 1)
08		Semi-final (leg 2)
15		Final

Nomads provisional Fixtures

Jan 16	H	Cobham 2
23	A	Reeds 2
Feb 13	H	Law Society 2
20	A	Guildford 2
27	H	Cobham 2
Mar 06	H	Reeds 2
27	A	Law Society 2
Apr 03		Easter holidays
10	H	Guildford 2
24		Conference Finals
May 01		Knockout Group C
08		Knockout semi-finals
15		Knockout final
22		Surrey 10s
Jun 05		Surrey 7s

Rosslyn Park lockdown 2.0 challenge

The senior squad set themselves the challenge of walking, running and cycling 4300 kilometres to raise £4300 for the charities CAMP and Cancer Research UK. CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably) works to help prevent male suicides – of which there are 4300 annually. That target proved too easy – they got there in a fortnight and so immediately doubled it. As we go to press they are entering the final push to reach that target.

Kieran Power explained, "Mental health is something that has affected our group as well as others through these recent times. Every week 125 people in the UK take their own lives. And 75% of all UK suicides are male. If you would like to support the lads and help this worthy cause please go to <http://bit.ly/3l2Yc7R>

250 Club

If you get in quickly you might be able to bag one of the remaining tickets to join the 250 Club. Your ticket will be entered in three prize draws at the ends of December, January and February. There is a first prize each month of up to £1000 (depending upon number of tickets sold) and numerous other great prizes each month – too many to list here. The 250 club is a major initiative to help the club recover some of the lost income due to the present crisis. [Join the 250 Club here](#)

Oliver Reed and Rosslyn Park

It's good to see something named after someone who was extremely generous to the club, and given Ollie's reputation the Oliver Reed Bar does seem quite appropriate. How he came to take up the game (a sheer accident) and how he came to play for Rosslyn Park are probably forgotten by most.

Unusually for Park at the time, he went to the 'wrong' school where they only played soccer, was a self-confessed duffer and drifted into National Service where he ended up, predictably, in the Guardhouse. After a while on jankers he saw a notice seeking volunteers to represent the Regiment at boxing and Rugby Union. It had to be better than peeling spuds all day so he volunteered for boxing and got picked to play rugby (never having played before).



Photo by By Nijs, Jac. de / Anefo - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Oliver_Reed_1968.jpg

He forgot about the game on being demobbed, until a session in the Dog & Fox in Wimbledon Village one night. The man who was matching him pint-for-pint was a Park social player and Ollie boasted of his own prowess at the game. He eventually talked - nay, boasted - himself into turning out for Park the following Saturday, where he was selected for the Beer XV. He never actually progressed beyond that exalted level playing-wise, but became a stalwart of the club for many years.

There are so many stories of his proclivities. The team made the national papers when Ollie invited them back to his Surrey pile for a party one Saturday night, and then led them on a run through the Surrey countryside the following morning – all stark naked. The Committee in those days were not the most liberal collection, and had at best an ambivalent attitude to an international film megastar who some might say lacked a certain Public School finesse after a couple of heart-starters had percolated through his system.

On First XV matchdays committees of the two clubs had reserved seats at the front of the stand, where they sat next to each other looking similar to the Kremlin old guard watching the Red Army march past. We were entertaining a Welsh club one afternoon when Ollie rolled up and with some trepidation was invited to sit with the Committee. They took the precaution of emphasizing that he needed to conduct himself with the appropriate decorum. All went well until an incident right in front of the stand. A single stentorian voice echoed around the ground that could only be that of an actor: "You dirty Welsh bastard!"

When the club felt it needed floodlights, Ollie paid for them without hesitation. Those lights lasted for years and allowed Park, among other things, to start the London Floodlit Sevens, our prime fund-raising event for many decades. Next time you're at the Rock why not visit "his" bar and raise a glass to a real character and a most generous benefactor. There are probably players nowadays who can match Ollie's party piece of walking the length of what is now the Ripley Bar on his hands – but unless they can do it with a gallon of ale inside them Ollie still stands supreme!



Photo by Isabelle Lovell

Photos

Parknews very much appreciates Isabelle Lovell of the eponymous Isabelle Lovell Sorts Photography for allowing us to use her photos

in this edition. If you'd like to buy a superb Rosslyn Park photo (or any other sports photo, come to that please take a look at Izzy's website: <https://www.isabellelovellsports.co.uk/>



Photo by Isabelle Lovell

400 Club

We have two sets of winners to announce:

October winners - Anthony Ashton £100, Bernard Wiggins £50 and Don Shelley £25.

November winners - P Hamilton-Smith £100, Peter Warrener £50 and Steve Baldwin £25

If you would like to help the club while having the chance to win cash prizes, then Boothy in club office is the man to contact.

Sponsorship Opportunities

A very wide range of sponsorship advertising, marketing and promotional opportunities are available throughout the season with prices suitable for all budgets. These provide a very powerful and cost effective opportunity to promote your business. Sponsorship proposal for 2020/21 Season

During the lock-down, Jodie Rocket, our Commercial and Sponsorship Manager, has been working on some exciting sponsorship opportunities for the new season. We will be promoting these over the coming weeks as more is known about how the season will be structured and run. The first of these packages is featured below. We understand that we are currently living through uncertain times, but if individuals or their businesses feel able to commit to the package at this time – your support would be significant to the Club and very much appreciated.

- **Email marketing & campaigns to club database throughout the year.** Database of over 3,000 members and players
- **Feature on RPFC website & full company description**
- **Social media support across all channels throughout the season.** Twitter, Instagram, Facebook & YouTube
- **Branded pitch board located around the venue** 6m x 2m board designed and produced by club for the full year
- **Table of 8 guests including 3-course meal for one home game of the season.** Home game of choice, including 3-course meal & car parking spaces
- **Hire of the club/venue free of charge.** This can include both

pitch and clubhouse for one full day
Cost: £2,000 + VAT per season

For an additional £1,000 + VAT

• **Company branding on Men's 1st XV playing kit**

National exposure throughout the year

Player Sponsorship

A great opportunity to be linked with a Rosslyn Park player and to follow his progress throughout the season.
PA announcement when your player scores a try

Company logo/name against player profile in match-day programme

10 tickets for a 1st XV home game of your choice

Cost: £400 + VAT per player

Digital Marketing

The Rosslyn Park website, database, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram all represent a large and fast growing audience with targeted engagements.

These platforms allow opportunities for companies to build bespoke and extremely cost effective packages and are a great ways to interact with our supporters and social media followers instantly. Our social media not only provides the latest Rosslyn Park tries and score lines but also highlight your companies involvement at the club.

Please contact Jodie Rockett, our Sponsorship Manager, via

email: jodie.rockett@rosslynpark.co.uk or

phone: [0208 876 1879](tel:02088761879) to discuss how

sponsorship at Rosslyn Park may fit with your own promotional plans.

MATCH DAY SPONSORSHIP

Get in on the Action

As the official Match Sponsor of a Rosslyn Park First XV game, you will host your guests in our newly refurbished Clubhouse.

Before the game you will sample our excellent hospitality with a VIP lunch courtesy of our in-house caterers. Afterwards you and your guests will have the chance to meet Rosslyn Park players and present the Man of the Match award, the photo of this presentation will feature in the following Match Day Programme.

Meet the Players

Your company will be featured on the cover of the programme, and you will have a full page advert inside. You will also receive PA announcements throughout the game.

Finally, you have the opportunity to distribute promotional flyers in the Clubhouse and around the ground to advertise your business to all of our spectators and members on the day.

Full Package Includes:

• Front Cover Programme Branding as the Official Match Day Sponsor

• PA Announcements throughout the afternoon

• VIP Lunch for 10 for guests prior to the game

• Man of the Match Presentation after the game.

• Photo of the Man of Match Presentation to appear in following Match Day Programme

• Opportunity to distribute Promotional Flyers on the day

• 2 Car Parking Spaces

• Post Match Visit for you and your guests from two

Rosslyn Park players or coaches of your choice.

Cost: £1500.00 + VAT

To find out more please contact Jodie Rockett, our Sponsorship Manager, via

email: jodie.rockett@rosslynpark.co.uk or

phone: [0208 876 1879](tel:02088761879)

CHRISTMAS JINGLE & SOCIALLY DISTANCED MINGLE

RPFC Club Christmas Lunch

Sunday 13th December

11am - 10pm

£15 per person

Ticket includes:

HOG ROAST BAP

MULLED WINE OR FESTIVE PINT

MINCE PIE

10msq Screen Showing Heineken

Rugby & Christmas Films

Stay in Touch

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

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>

