

PARKNEWS

ISSUE 11

Season 2020-21

05 April 2021

SUMMER OF SPORT IN OUR BEER GARDEN

Welcome to Parknews There will be a GIANT (30 square metres) screen this summer as the Rock will transform into one of London's Biggest Beer Gardens. So join us this summer for a festival of sport including Open Air Live Screenings of the European Championships Football and the British & Irish Lions Series. Think outdoor eating, drinking, dancing and celebrating the best of British Summertime. Early Bird Tickets from just £10 per person. Minimum 6 per table booking. Limited Capacity so please book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets are on sale now!!

www.summerofsportlondon.com

England Soccer matches live on Giant Screen at the Rock

June

Sun 13 v Croatia
Fri 18 v Scotland
Tue 22 v Czech Republic
26-29 Last 16 matches

July

2-3 Quarter-finals
6-7 Semi Finals
Sun 11 Final

British Lions matches live on Giant Screen at the Rock

July

Sat 24 First Test
Sat 31 Second Test
Aug
Sat 7 Third Test

There's also some fun social interaction with London Broncos coming up (see story later) in which supporters will be able to mingle with the coaches and players of both clubs. Other days are being actively planned for, keep an eye on the website and Park's social media platforms for further details.

Rosslyn Park Netball Club

In the meantime the club is playing competitive sport in the form of our netballers. Unfortunately we cannot currently encourage spectators due to the very understandable Covid restrictions at Roehampton Uni, where our home courts are based. Hopefully that will change soon. However, the Editor went along to last weekend's home matches as photographer, having never watched netball before, and it was a very entertaining morning. The ball skills, running off the ball and teamwork were really impressive, as well as the obvious enthusiasm of the all players. Although both Park teams went down, neither did so without a fight and both were up against teams from a higher level. Had your correspondent possessed any knowledge at all of the laws I'm sure it would have been even more enjoyable, but I'll certainly be going again, with or without camera! Highly recommended as soon as Covid rules permit.

News of the netball provides a timely reminder that Parknews is about the whole club – or at least, tries to be - but it does depend upon all sections sending in reports on their matches and sundry other activities. If your particular section of the club appears to be unreported – you know what to do! We'll hopefully be reporting the Netball matches through the summer (and next season) also keeping you up to date with everything else Rosslyn Park along with wider Rugby Union news. Of



Ellie Kehoe looking to inspire a Park score against Capital Nuns last Saturday

Future events

This Saturday 01 May
in the morning

Rosslyn Park Netball Club

RPNC Surrey v Karisma A

Friendly, Roehampton Uni 09:30

RPNC Kingston v Karisma B

Friendly, Roehampton Uni 11:00

Due to Covid restrictions supporters should not attend. Hopefully this situation will soon change, but in the meantime please support the girls in spirit only.

This Summer of Sport

Throughout the Summer the ground will open up regularly as a beer garden for the big sporting events such as the Lions' Tour and the soccer Euros. Look out on the club's website and social media platforms

Thursday 24 June

LONDON FLOODLIT 7s

Home 17:00

Please reserve this date in your diaries because, if Covid recovery goes to plan, this could well be the best tournament yet. A great evening's entertainment on a mid-summer evening. More details nearer the date.

All events are subject to Covid recovery going to plan. All Government Covid rules in force at the time will be strictly applied at all events - we want everyone to enjoy themselves, to feel safe and not to risk another lockdown!

ROSSLYN PARK FC 2021

SUMMER OF SPORT

This summer Rosslyn Park FC will transform into one of London's Biggest Beer Gardens.

Join us for a festival of sport including Open Air Live Screenings of every Lions Test & England Euro Match.

Think outdoor eating, drinking, dancing and celebrating the best of British Summertime!

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW AT SUMMEROFSPORTLONDON.COM

EARLY BIRD PRICES

£10 per person // Minimum 6 per table booking

*Limited Capacity so please book early to avoid disappointment.

THE
BRITISH & IRISH LIONS
LIVE SCREENINGS

ROSSLYN PARK, 2021



THE
UEFA EUROS
LIVE SCREENINGS

ROSSLYN PARK FC.



course, readers' letters and articles are also always welcome. But for now the netballers have pride of place.

This weekend

There is live sport involving Rosslyn Park this Saturday morning, with both Rosslyn Park Netball Club teams playing against Karisma A and B teams at Roehampton University. Karisma are a well-established South-East London club who play in the Croydon Premier League, so another really tough assignment for the Park girls as they prepare for the new season. Unfortunately, we are not encouraging spectators due to the covid situation. But as soon as possible we shall encourage supporters to go along to cheer the girls on.

Match Reports from the netballers

Our second friendly of 2021 was against Capital Nuns Netball Club. Having played these teams in December, we knew they were going to be a tough opposition to beat. Both their teams are strong and have played & trained together for many years, but our girls took the court by storm and gave it everything they had.

Rosslyn Park Surrey vs Capital Nuns A 16-41

Home POM: Lu

Away POM: Lu



RPNC Surrey Team: (back row) Vicky Nash, Beth Hunt, Hannah McNally, Charlotte Miller, (front row) Milly Marsh, Kila O'Boyle, Ellie Kehoe & Charlotte Walker

This was a very competitive game against a powerful and experienced Capital Nuns team. Nuns are notoriously a club with tall and physical teams, which played in their favour from the start. Playing 6 x 10 minutes, we knew this was also going to be a test on

our fitness levels as well as our strength. However, the team rose to the challenge and played a fast-paced game, with lots of quick movement to try and outpace the opposition's physical advantage. Some incredible defence from Miller, Ellie and Charlotte perplexed the Nuns attack and kept the ball away from a very tall Goal Shooter. Vicky Nash had an impressive performance at Centre, and kept the ball moving throughout the game to get to goal.



Kila O'Boyle sizes up a pass for Park

Hannah Mac made her debut at Wing Defence after Ellie went off with a slight knee injury, which showed the versatility of the Surrey Squad -

something that will no doubt prove useful as we enter the next season. After having an absolutely flying game, sadly Lu suffered a very nasty injury to her knee which means she is ruled out for the rest of the friendlies - but not before being awarded double POM after the game! Get well soon Lu and our fingers are crossed for the results of your scan. You will be massively missed on court in the meantime.

Kila had a strong game in defence, sticking close to her attacker and making some great interceptions which the team were able to capitalise on. Milly's strategic thinking down the court, opened up some great space and she placed some outstanding balls into the circle. At Goal Attack, Beth kept the Goal Defence on her toes, moving well around the circle and creating the space which allowed Lu to get to goal.



Hannah McNally attacking for Park

Capital Nuns' experience however shone through on this occasion and they took the game 16-41, but lots of encouraging play for the Surry team to build on and come back

stronger. Despite the loss, the girls still finished the game with smiles on their faces, having given absolutely everything they had until the final whistle.

Rosslyn Park Kingston vs Capital Nuns B 19-34 Home POM: Charlotte



RPNC Kingston: (Back row) Milly Marsh, Charli Hicks, Vicky Ziemniak, Charlotte Walker, Saskia Leppard (front row) Hannah Gilbert, Emily Heappey, Maddie Dean.

Another strong Capital Nuns side, who again showed their years of experience on court. An exceptional performance from Bert at Centre – playing the full 60 mins and running rings around their Centre. Bert was able to utilize some beautiful interceptions from Charlotte to drive the ball down the court with Maddie always there to support. Both Saskia and Charlotte in defence were relentless in their efforts to keep the ball away from an agile Nuns shooting side. Despite having already played a game, Charlotte's arms were everywhere – much to Nuns' dismay.

Kingston's attack were tested to the max with again some very tall and powerful defence. Whilst Bert and Heaps worked the ball to the top of the circle, both Milly and Vicky were able to keep the defence moving and open up space in the circle. As the shooters got in their groove, there were some beautiful passages of play that led to goal, with Charli's shooting at Goal Shooter on point.

After a very strong start from Kingston, Nuns were able to pull away in the second half of the game to take their second win of the day. Nonetheless some very encouraging play to build on, as we look for our first win this weekend.

Rugby at the Rock

It looks as if the Fours may be playing Millfield Old Boys at the Rock on Saturday 15 May, with a 13:00 Kick off (our ace Clubside reporter, Will Thorogood, was checking as we went to press). Assuming that goes ahead it will need to be played to the adapted laws without scrums and mauls, but it would be great just to get a game of 15-a-side rugby back on the pitch, with one of the sides playing in red and white hoops. We'll give further details in plenty of time, but we need to check what rules will be in place with regard to facilities and spectator admission before inviting everyone to come along.

Partnership with London Broncos announced

Rosslyn Park FC and London Broncos are delighted to announce the new membership offering for home match day tickets. Both Rosslyn Park FC and London Broncos supporters will be able to access a % OFF CODE for games for the respective teams. Members will need to quote their membership number to receive the discount code.

As an official launch of the partnership both clubs will take part in a members day hosted at The Rock where both 1st Teams and coaches will be able to mingle with supports and will take part in a few challenges head to head. The date for the event will be announced in due course.

Park's Managing Director Dom Shabbo commented: "We're very excited to be able to offer our members an opportunity to watch rugby this summer. With the league and union seasons running during different parts of the year this partnership gives both clubs members year round live rugby to watch."

James Milner Head of Commercial of London Broncos commented: "Strong partnerships for the Broncos are hugely important as we look to grow our fanbase and increase our community engagement. Rosslyn Park have been wonderful to work with as a First Team training venue and we are looking forward to strengthening that relationship with the ticket offers for fans and the exciting member's day with some entertaining challenges between the two squads of players."

Rugby politics

Probably few people who do not follow the elite levels of the game stay with *the Rugby Paper* through the summer, but in last weekend's issue there is the first installment of a three-part interview with former RFU Chief Executive, Francis Baron, on the current state of the RFU. It is far too long to reproduce here (and would almost certainly be a breach of copyright) but if you can get hold of a copy it's a really interesting, if slightly worrying, read. His take on promotion / relegation and the involvement of financiers CVC in the Premiership and Six nations is particularly worth reading.

He says, "Rugby is a sport first and a business second. If we don't get the rugby decisions right there is no basis for sound businesses". And further on, "It is not the role of the RFU to provide for investor protection".

In a separate article it is reported that Premiership Rugby CEO Darren Childs has left and joined CVC as an advisor. His particular expertise is in broadcasting rights negotiations. CVC is a vast corporation with no interest in sport beyond the profits it can generate for its shareholders. They now have a large stake in the Premiership, Six Nations and PRO14 competitions. The broadcasting rights are the only significant source of profit, so they will be looking to sell those to the highest bidder, regardless of the longer-term interest of the game, its clubs and its supporters. Their business model is to buy a business, sweat the assets and sell on four or five years later, pocketing the profits. By then, of course, any damage to the game will have been done.

Our former grounds

6: Old Deer Park After World War II

With games having been played throughout the war years, Rosslyn Park were in better shape than most for the start of the 1945-46 season. Swansea became the first Welsh club to appear on the Club's fixture list (a 6-3 win away from home recorded). Rosslyn Park became the first team to play in Paris after its liberation, beating Stade Francais by 6-3 at Parc des Princes.

The 1946-47 season saw Burlinson finally lay down his pen, to be replaced as Secretary by former skipper Frank Lyell. Among the intake of new members were future Internationals Boobbyer, Burgess and Wilson. Cardiff were the second Welsh club to appear on the fixture list, but Park were forced to send a weak team to the Principality and lost 6-8. Stade Francais paid a return visit, Park winning a closely fought match by 8-6. The curtain came down on a very promising season with Park sending a very young team to the Twickenham 7s and winning the competition.

The next three seasons were successful. For 1947-48 Burlinson took over as President in recognition of his great service to the club over many years, but he was now an ageing man. On 3 April 1948 he was sitting in his favourite seat watching a match against St Mary's Hospital and just as Park recorded their fourth try the great man suffered a heart attack and died. A tragedy, but surely if he could have picked a way to go that would have been it. Another great man of Rosslyn Park joined the club that season, and is still a member today – JV Smith. The following season saw the first of what became annual tours to Cornwall and a promising young

player, Chris Winn, appeared on the wing.

1949-50 brought further success with 24 of 31 matches won. 1950-51 season saw three Park players gain International caps: Winn and Boobbyer for England and Phipps for Ireland. In some ways Park now had too many good players, because their frequent absences for representative matches led to a pretty average season. Park's 'Welsh connection' grew with the addition of Aberavon to the fixtures and Neath and Cardiff visited old Deer Park for the first time. The season reached a fitting climax at the world-famous Melrose 7s. The Cup had never been won by a team from South of the border and Park were locked at 5-5 in a tense final against Herriots, when awarded a last minute penalty. The crowd were respectfully silent when N E Williams lined up his kick, and maintained their silence while, and after, Park received their trophy.

Off the field, though, Richmond Cricket Club did not agree to a request from Rosslyn Park to renew its existing lease. They wanted instead a tripartite agreement that included Richmond Hockey Club. Park reluctantly agreed, but the new arrangement did not work out and brought to the forefront of Park's minds other dissatisfactions: they could not access the pitch to train or play until the third week of September each year, there was only one pitch and too little car parking space. Park were looking for a new home.

The club soldiered on but 1952-53 brought only 10 wins. There was an Easter tour which cost the players £3 a head, and another significant figure in Park's story joined the club, future skipper and President Dick Malthouse.

The club's Seventy-fifth Anniversary season 1953-54 saw a celebration match played at Twickenham, playing against a select XV that included full Internationals from six different countries, but Park had the superior teamwork and stamina, winning by 30-19. Things improved after an otherwise poor start to the season and ended up triumphantly with a win at the Middlesex 7s, captained by Chris Winn. The following season was moderately successful, the highlight being a 31-0 thrashing of Cardiff. There were club debut's for John Wackett and Peter Berryman. Behind the scenes, one of the social team captains had a father who was on the Committee of the Roehampton Club and heard they had some land to spare, would Park be interested? Two Committee members went along incognito to take a look in the company of the father. It started off as a bit of a 'cloak and dagger' operation before a detailed proposal was put before the Committee, but eventually it was decided to take the plunge.

After a below average 1955-56 season with more losses than wins, the 1956-57 season was Park's last at Old Deer Park. They ended on a high note, beating local rivals London Scottish, London Welsh and Richmond, though the final match on 22 April was a bit of a rough-house that ended with a 16-0 win over Metropolitan Police. After the match a bugler played the Last Post and the club flag was lowered from the pavilion. A new life beckoned at the corner of the Upper Richmond Road and Priory Lane. More on that next newsletter.

Sponsorship Opportunities

With clubs financially reeling from the Covid crisis, sponsorship has never been more important to clubs - and Rosslyn Park is certainly no exception to that rule. 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.

During the lock-down, Jodie Rockett, our Commercial and Sponsorship Manager, has been working on some exciting sponsorship opportunities. One 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.

Supporters can play a part in this important area. Jodie has a variety of sponsorship opportunities to suit all budgets so if, your business or someone you know might be prepared to sponsor the club or

any of its activities please do contact Jodie. She will be delighted to follow up on leads. Her contact details appear in the next column.

- **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

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 way 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.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS AS THEY HAVE SUPPORTED US

Keep up to date

Keep in touch with everything happening at Rosslyn Park by regularly visiting the Club's website at www.rosslynpark.co.uk

The club is also active in several social media channels:

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

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

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

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

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