

## 15-a-SIDE RUGBY IS BACK AT THE ROCK

**Welcome to Parknews** There was live action last weekend when, in addition to our netballers visiting Oxshott, we had 15-a-side rugby at the Rock with the Fours playing a friendly at home to Millfield Badgers. There was some really good attacking rugby on display and – considering the layoff both teams have suffered – the skills on show looked pretty well-honed. The match was played to the adapted laws which some (your correspondent included) though might neuter the game and produce something like a hybrid of Rugby League and touch rugby. Such fears were misplaced: the match was as physical as anyone would have wanted after the lay-off.



Gabriel Ventaggiato is with Paul Haig, awaiting offload as the Park Fours attack Millfield Old Boys at the Rock on Saturday

The one area noticeably affecting things – especially at the level where players train less assiduously – is the replacement of the scrum with a free-kick. Without the odd scrum being set and re-set there were far fewer ‘breathers’. Sensibly both teams agreed to take a short break about 20 minutes into each half. Although the match was competitive at all stages the Fours started to dominate soon after the opening stages and ran out comfortable winners. No one was completely conversant with the revised Laws, and it was the referee’s first match enforcing them. Much credit for such an enjoyable afternoon should go to the referee, who was firm, but made sensible allowance for everyone’s unfamiliarity with the Laws and kept the game moving.

There are some match photos dotted throughout this Parknews and a match report from Will Thorogood.

### Return to normal in Rugby delayed

Although Saturday’s match showed that the amended laws can still provide an entertaining and physical game of Rugby, it would be nice to be able to return to the ‘full-on’ game that we all recognize. That took a step backward when the Government decided not to allow scrums and mauls to return this week as had been hoped. The NCA (which represents clubs at National level, released the following statement:

“Despite the Rugby Football Union’s (RFU) best efforts to secure approval, the government has not given permission for scrums and mauls to be re-instated at our level next week. It means all National League Rugby clubs – as well as those teams below our divisions – will remain at Stage D2 on the RFU’s Rugby Roadmap which states contact training (excluding scrums and mauls) and 15-a-side adapted laws matches may continue. After a number of our teams returned to action last weekend, this is a frustrating setback but the RFU and the NCA understands the issue that government and Public Health England (PHE) face with growing concerns around the Indian variant of Covid-19 in England.

“For now, the RFU remains in close contact with government and continues to press for progression to Stage E1, and therefore a move to full contact training, as soon as health guidance suggests this is possible. In the meantime it is important that all; CBs, clubs, coaches, players, match officials and volunteers, adhere to all government guidance and do not return to scrums or mauls until we have been given permission to do so”.

### Future events

**This Saturday 22 May**

Rosslyn Park Netball Club

**RPNC Surrey v Walton & Hersham A**

Friendly, Home 13:00

**RPNC Kingston v Walton & Hersham B**

Friendly, Home 14:30

*Matches played at Roehampton Uni, but due to Covid restrictions supporters should not attend. Hopefully this situation will have changed when netball re-commences in July*

### Rugby action

**Barnes Development 7s**

Barnes RFC, Barn Elms

(10:00 - 17:30)

Women’s 7-a-side tournament featuring the Slingbacks

### 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

Make a note in your diary now to watch some of the best 7s teams play spectacular rugby on a summer evening, building up to the final just after 10:00PM. Bars and food outlets open all evening

**Saturday 11 September**

**1st XV v Leeds Tykes**

National 1

Home KO 3:00PM

*When attending the club you MUST comply with all Covid rules in place at the time to keep the Rock safe for everyone*



Joe Seymour sprints away to score for Park Fours last Saturday

### This weekend's live action

**The Slingbacks** will be taking part in the annual Barnes Development Sevens which will take place on Saturday 22 May on two pitches, the First XV pitch and the one next to it at Barnes Rugby Club (opposite the Wetlands Centre at Barn Elms). Play is continuous from 10:00 - 17:30. The tournament comprises Four pools of teams playing round-robin matches to determine which competition they enter for the final stages (Cup, Shield, Plate, Bowl or Wooden Spoon. Admission is free and there will be food and soft drinks available on site, plus the Barnes Clubhouse will be open for something stronger (and there's a pub with a beer garden 100 metres further on). Lovely way to spend a sunny Saturday!

**Rosslyn Park Netball Club** play their final two matches before re-assembling in July for pre-season friendlies. Both teams are at home to the A and B teams of Walton and Hershaw. Matches start at 13:00 and 14:30 at Roehampton University, but unfortunately we cannot encourage supporters to attend due to covid restrictions. However, this should not be a problem when netball re-starts in July.

### Last weekend's Rugby

#### Park Fours 64

#### Millfield Badgers 26

By Will Thorogood

Some rugby at the Rock, after a long time, albeit in the "adapted form" to which both sides adapted quite well and quickly. Everyone was as keen as mustard to get ball in hand, make those tackles and have a canter round the paddock. One could see the limitations of lockdown had taken its toll on a few portlier waistlines, but the old rugby skills, which had been latently resting for such a long time were obvious to see.



Freddie Ballsdon gets his pass away before being tackled

Still, not a gentle reintroduction to our beautiful game, and both teams went at it fast and furious. Played in 20 minute quarters, requested by the players for obvious reasons, the scoring sequence went:

1st quarter - 4's 21 Millfield 0-Millfield a bit shellshocked

2nd quarter - 4's 10 Millfield 7-Milfield got a second wind

3rd quarter - 4's 26 Millfield 0-obviously a stirring half time talk by Will Orson!

4th quarter - 4's 7 Millfield 19-4's knackered despite rolling subs.

A match enjoyed by all, I think, with not too many injuries, luckily. Thanks to Richard Hughes, London Ref's Soc., who controlled the "new game" well, and clearly to which both sides responded well.

There's talk of a re-match between these two former rivals from the MMT over the summer whether under adapted laws, or under normal laws. Scrums and mauls were definitely missed on Saturday. It would be great to keep things ticking over during the summer, if possible.



Alex Tagg dives in to score for Park

### Last weekend's Netball

RPNC squads travelled to leafy Surrey for our slightly damp 15 May fixture.

#### Rosslyn Park Kingston 42

#### Oxshott B 51

This week Kingston put in their best performance to date showing some outstanding passages of play on court. Our defence was especially strong this week with great performances from Emily Sarsfield and Simone making many interceptions and turnovers. It was a tight game with both sides keeping the score very close and every turnover counting.

The movement in the circle was especially strong and our shooters Charli and Tash both put in phenomenal efforts with very accurate shooting. Kingston were unlucky to go behind in the first quarter but were constantly hot on Oxshott's heels to try and narrow the lead. Our attack continued to work the ball down the court and show great attacking moments of play, clearing space and cutting to the circle edge. Maddie made some excellent feeds into the circle and these were vital in keeping us in the game.

Unfortunately Oxshott provided some very good attacking play and their shooters didn't miss making it hard for Kingston to take the lead. The Kingston team all played extremely well and this was our best game we have played in this series of friendlies.

### Rosslyn Park Surrey 43 Oxshott A 54

The Surrey team followed Kingston's sterling performance, taking to the court against the tight-knit Oxshott NC As.

Oxshott came out strong, drawing an eight-goal lead in the first quarter with tall and formidable defending and attacking circles. After a quarter-time team chat, reboot and consumption of Haribo, we regrouped and refocused.

Park's defensive squad (consisting of Charlotte Walker, Abby Mahal, Charlotte 'Killer' Miller and Kila O'Boyle) drew together and worked as a unit to break down Oxshott's attack; flying interceptions from Miller and persistence in the circle against a tall Oxshott GS resulted in turnovers and disrupted their play, which we were able to capitalize on.

In the mid-court, Vicky Nash put in a hard stint at C for three of the four 15-minute quarters, with Hannah McNally (WA) taking the central position for the final 15. They, along with Fran Bennett (WA), O'Boyle and Miller brought the ball down court seamlessly, sticking tight to their players to defend and putting in beautiful balls to Park's shooting circle.



Milly Marsh (GS) and Beth Hunt (GA) faced a tall defensive duo whose ball-hunting and impressive reach made feeding and shooting tricky. But working as a unit, movement and rotation in the circle helped ensure that in the remaining 45 minutes of the game, we conceded only one more goal.

Full-time score of Surrey 43 to Oxshott's 54. A brilliant performance from all with a scoreline that just didn't reflect the majority of that game. Much-deserved POMs went to 'Killer' Miller and Marsh for their brilliant performances. So much potential for the 21/22 season

### First XV

The First XV fixtures for 2121-22 have now been published - and Park have not been done any favours by the NCA computer. We have three of our first four matches away from home, and they are three of our longest (ie most expensive) away journeys against difficult opponents. We kick off with a trip to Plymouth Albion who ended last season on a good run and are always very difficult to beat at Brickfields - it has always been their away form that has let them down in the past. We then play at home to Leeds Tykes who - as Leeds Carnegie - were relegated from the Championship last season. Following that there is a long trip back to the West Country to play promotees Taunton, who will be looking to make an impact in their first season at this level, before we end the month with the long trip up to Darlington Mowden Park. Let's hope they have repaired the high-speed trains in time!

That is not just a challenging opening month playing-wise, but



leaves us having to fund three long-distance away trips from the income generated by just one home gate. While that will even itself out over the season, no club is exactly flush with funds after the crippling blows of the pandemic. On the positive side, some good results from those early matches would see us in a really strong position to mount a serious challenge towards the top of the table.

With rumours of possible expansions of the two divisions above us, every club in National 1 will recognise that this could be the season offering the best chances of promotion in a long while. It is going to be an ultra-competitive season. Start saving now for those first three away trips!

### First XV fixtures 2021-22

#### National One

Sep 04	A	Plymouth Albion
11	H	Leeds Tykes
18	A	Taunton
25	A	Darlington Mowden Park
Oct 02	H	Bishops Stortford
09	A	Rams
16	H	Sale
23	A	Old Elthamians
30	H	Cinderford
Nov 13	A	Birmingham Moseley
20	H	Blackheath
27	A	Caldy
Dec 04	H	Chinnor
11	A	Cambridge
18	H	Tonbridge Juddians
Jan 08	A	Leeds Tykes
15	H	Taunton
22	H	Darlington Mowden Park
29	A	Bishops Stortford
Feb 12	H	Rams
19	A	Sale
26	H	Old Elthamians
Mar 05	A	Cinderford
12	H	Birmingham Moseley
26	A	Blackheath
Apr 02	H	Caldy
09	A	Chinnor
16	H	Cambridge
23	A	Tonbridge Juddians
30	H	Plymouth Albion

The final page of this newsletter can be printed out as a fixture poster.

### Youth and Mini Rugby

#### Where they are now

Tom Blake used to regularly report on the Park 95/96 Minis. He recently got in touch again to point out that they will now have one representative in each of the French Top 14, the Pro 14 and the Premiership next season. **Harry Glover** (son of former senior squad player Jim Glover and playing in Jim's position in the centre) will be

turning out for Stade Francais. **Kieran Treadwell** is appearing in the second row for Ulster and **Tom Whiteley**, is scrum half at Bristol Bears in the Premiership. That particular vintage is indeed sparkling – do any other mini coaches / managers want to claim a better one?

*ED Unfortunately we don't get many reports from this really important part of the club. There are difficulties with names and photos due to child protection sensitivities, and we obviously don't want to do anything that might facilitate any unsavoury characters hanging around the club. However Parknews is intended to be about the whole club, so if anyone from the minis would like to take up their pen, tablet or whatever you would be very welcome.*

There will be more of the very popular Training camps for young players during the upcoming half-term holidays. See below for details and how to book.

### New Era for Park women

As we bring the curtain down on the 20/21 season at the Barnes 7's this weekend, it is a very exciting time for us all as we usher in a new era for women's rugby at the Rock. We will be re-assembling on 21 July to get stuck into some serious training for the new season. It will be the start of a new campaign and a re-build of the women's program at Rosslyn Park with the intention of returning our women's rugby to its rightful place and commensurate with the excellent facilities and coaching that we have on offer.

We are delighted to announce that forwards coach Anna Butler will be joining our head coach Rhys Wynn for the 1921 / 22 season. The group will be led by our newly appointed Captain of women's rugby Shanice Williams alongside our Pack leader Sophie Behan. Players of all levels are welcome to come and get a taste of what rugby at Park has to offer. All we ask for is a positive attitude, we will provide everything else.



We will be playing in league NC1 South East (North) which comprises predominantly London based teams which makes travel to and from away matches much less onerous. The change in the geographical composition of the women's leagues for next season, brings teams across London together, rather than competing against teams from roughly adjacent counties. So instead of matches in Berkshire and Hampshire, the Park girls will be regularly visiting clubs around the Capital. The teams in our League for 1921-22

season are: Barnes, Battersea Ironsides, Chesham, East London Vixens (West Ham), Harringey Rhinos, London Welsh, Millwall, Romford & Gidea Park Maidens and ourselves.

Whilst the immediate focus will be on building a competitive squad for our league campaign for the coming season, we will always embrace the social aspect of the game. A key aspect of enjoyment in any sport is the opportunity to improve both individually and collectively and to have every opportunity to win matches together.

There will be a concentrated recruitment drive, so if you know of any ladies (novice or experienced) who would like to come on a fun packed journey then please let us know.

Contact: [womens.rugby@rosslynpark.co.uk](mailto:womens.rugby@rosslynpark.co.uk)

### Goodbye, Jodie

Sponsorship Manager Jodie Rockett has left the club for pastures new. Jodie brought professionalism and enthusiasm to the role and was a popular figure around the club, and we are sorry to lose her services. We wish her every success for the future and she will be welcome at the rock whenever she chooses to drop in. In the interim, all sponsorship and commercial enquiries should be directed to Dom Shabbo in the Club Office.

### RUGBY AGAINST CANCER - THE FINAL TREK

Rugby Against Cancer is a charity which harnesses the power of the rugby community to enhance the lives of those with cancer. On Saturday 29th to Sunday 30th May 2021, 60 walkers will take on an 80-mile walk in a target of 32 hours. The walkers will begin outside of Guy's Hospital Cancer Care Centre on Saturday morning, joined by members of Guy's Hospital RFC – the oldest rugby club in the world, they will then cross the Capital before heading through Hampshire returning to Portsmouth Rugby Club to a hero's welcome.

We have been helping to support Rugby Against Cancer - The Final Trek 2021. As part of our support The Rock is going to be the Lunch Check Point of the Trek on Saturday 29 May 2021. The walkers will be due to start arriving at the Rock from 11.45AM and have left by 1:20PM. Sponsorship of the Trek has already smashed the organiser's target of £30,000 and the online pot continues to grow ...to donate or for further information click here: <https://www.rugbyagaincancer.com/get-involved/take-part/the-final-trek-2021/>

### 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.

### 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.

### Digital sponsorship

- 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

### Kit sponsorship

- 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

### 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 Dom Shabbo, via email**

**[dom.shabbo@rosslynpark.co.uk](mailto:dom.shabbo@rosslynpark.co.uk) or phone: [0208 876 1879](tel:02088761879) to discuss how sponsorship at Rosslyn Park may fit with your own promotional plans.**

### 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](http://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>

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. You can also receive a tweet immediately Parklife appears on the website by following [@RPNoseyParker](https://twitter.com/RPNoseyParker) on Twitter.

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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# RUGBY AT ROSSLYN PARK FC

## 1ST XV FIXTURES 2021-2022

### NATIONAL ONE

SEPT	04	A	PLYMOUTH ALBION	JAN	08	A	LEEDS TYKES	
	11	H	LEEDS TYKES		15	H	TAUNTON	
	18	A	TAUNTON		22	H	DARLINGTON MOWDEN PARK	
	25	A	DARLINGTON MOWDEN PARK		29	A	BISHOP'S STORTFORD	
OCT	02	H	BISHOP'S STORTFORD	FEB	05	-	-	
	09	A	RAMS		12	H	RAMS	
	16	H	SALE		13	-	-	
	23	A	OLD ELTHAMIANS		19	A	SALE	
	30	H	CINDERFORD		26	H	OLD ELTHAMIANS	
NOV	13	A	BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY	MAR	05	A	CINDERFORD	
	20	H	BLACKHEATH		12	H	BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY	
	27	A	CALDY		19	-	-	
DEC	04	H	CHINNOR	APR	02	H	CALDY	
	11	A	CAMBRIDGE		09	A	CHINNOR	
	18	H	TUNBRIDGE JUDDIANS		16	H	CAMBRIDGE	
					23	A	TUNBRIDGE JUDDIANS	
					30	H	PLYMOUTH ALBION	

### ENGLAND 6 NATIONS

FEB	05	A	SCOTLAND	MAR	12	H	IRELAND
	13	A	ITALY		19	A	FRANCE
	26	H	WALES				

Home games kick off at 15:00 except where stated otherwise.

Nearest stations:

Barnes (Waterloo-Richmond Line) 400m from ground.  
Buses 33, 265, 292 and 337 stop outside Ground.

Nearest tube stations:

East Putney (District Line) then 337 bus;  
Hammersmith (Piccadilly, District & Met) then bus 33.

The Club's facilities are available for private hire and many sponsorship opportunities for companies and individuals are available - call for details.

0208 8766044 [www.rosslynpark.co.uk](http://www.rosslynpark.co.uk)

Rosslyn Park FC, Priory Lane, Upper Richmond Road, London SW15 5JH



**ROSSLYN  
PARK**