



ISSUE 02    Season 2021-22    09 August 2021

# IT ALL KICKS OFF ON SATURDAY

The Rock was rocking for the British Lions matches on a giant screen - this week it's live action on the pitch



**Welcome to Parknews** We welcome proper 15-a-side Rugby back to the Rock this Saturday with a visit from our old friends **Old Albanian**. They are currently in National 2 South after suffering relegation from National One following an uncharacteristically poor run a couple of seasons back. However, they look to have re-assembled a strong squad and are likely to be challenging at the top end of the table this season. We have had some tight and entertaining matches with OAs in recent seasons, so please do come along and take a look at the Park Senior Squad for the new season (details of our new players are below).

We have three further matches before the serious stuff really begins. On Saturday week we are at home to **Loughborough Students**, who always always get a strong intake of quality players each season. They were unlucky to be relegated from National 1 and will be looking to make an immediate return. The same can be said of **Esher**, whom we meet on Friday 27 August (kicking off at 8:00pm). They have recruited strongly and will be a really tough nut to crack. For player safety reasons National 1 clubs are not allowed to play Championship clubs this season (because they have been in full -contact playing and training during the pandemic) but we have the next best thing when we round off our preparations on 28 August with a home match against **Ealing Academy**.

Admission is free for our home pre-season matches with the bar open from noon. Because these are practice matches they are likely to be played with unlimited substitutions to enable the coaches to try out different combinations, and for the same reason it might be agreed beforehand to, for instance, play four 20 minute periods rather than two of 40.

Our league season commences on 04 September when we make the long journey to **Plymouth Albion**. Travel details for our first few away fixtures appear further on in this newsletter. Our first home match is on 11 September when we face **Leeds Tykes**, who dropped from the Championship last term.

## Old Elthamians pull out of National 1

Feel grateful that we still have a National 1 team to support. After more than a year of rumours Old Elthamians have had to throw in the towel and withdraw from the League. As they pulled out after the deadline of 07 July they will not be replaced and our league will proceed one club short. In OEs' case there was more than just Covid and the lockdown involved. They climbed to National 1 largely funded by a rich investor

**Future events**  
**Pre-season matches**  
**Saturday 14 August**

### 1st XV v Old Albanian

Pre-season match  
Home KO 3:00PM

**Saturday 14 August**

### 1st XV v Loughborough

Pre-season match  
Home KO 3:00PM

**Friday 27 August**

### Esher v Park Rangers

Pre-season match  
Away KO 8:00PM

**Saturday 14 August**

### 1st XV v Ealing Academy

Pre-season match  
Home KO 3:00PM

**League matches**  
**Saturday 04 September**

### Plymouth Albion v 1st XV

National 1  
Away KO 3:00PM

**Saturday 11 September**

### 1st XV v Leeds Tykes

National 1  
Home KO 3:00PM

with grandiose plans for two 4G pitches, a ground that would be good enough to support top level Rugby and an Academy to be headed by Mike Friday. But when the source of funding dried up they were in deep trouble. Their Committee worked hard to keep the show on the road, but even towards the end of the 2019-21 season there were rumours of players going unpaid. But one must feel sorry for their loyal members and supporters.

Their one crumb of comfort is that only the professional team is being wound up. Old Elthamians amateur teams will continue and provide a base from which the club can hopefully build a sustainable future. No one should take any pleasure from the demise of another club, but it does underline the dangers of becoming financially dependent upon a single entity. Make no mistake: pretty well every club has suffered badly during lockdown, ourselves included. It's a tradition of Rugby to throw stones at the Committee, whoever is in charge. However, it needs to be recognized that it is only the hard work and acumen of our own Management Board and staff that sees Rosslyn Park face the new season bloodied but unbowed, and looking forward to the new season with a degree of optimism. They deserve our support.

### New Players & Coaches 2021/22

We are delighted to announce that Kieran Power and John Mills will lead the group as Director of Rugby & Head coach respectively for the 2021/22 season.

As previously announced Bryan Redpath will take over the attack coaching duties 2021/22 season. Bryan joins us with a wealth of experience from Sale Sharks & Gloucester Rugby, along with the 60 caps he earned for Scotland.

Steve Walsh, Ryan Keates and Leigh Groombridge will all be returning to continue their very successful Strength & Conditioning programme which has been a cornerstone for the 1<sup>st</sup> team's success over the last 2 years.

Joe Cokely & Sam Nash continue as lead physios for the 1<sup>st</sup> team with Pippa Rollitt continuing as the head of medical for the club.

The legendary Kojo Jecty and Fergus Farrel will return as our team managers, and Joe Napper steps up as head of Analysis.

#### New Players

**Kieran murphy** – Back Row from Ealing Trailfinders where he captained the side, and was previously at Scarlets and Brive. He is known for his explosive power, speed off the base of the scrum and running support play around the field.

**Blake Boyland** – Scrum Half from Bristol Bears, who played for England at U-18 and U-20 levels.

**Austin Hay** – Prop signed from Old Elthamians and previously with Jersey Reds in the Championship. Played three seasons with London Irish

**Seb Stegman** – Wing / Fullback signed from Ealing Trailfinders, who has previously played for London Welsh in the Premiership and most recently with Ealing in the Championship. When with Harlequins he was named in the starting line-up for the opening game of England U-20s' IRB Junior World Championship campaign.

**Lewis Jones** – Centre signed from Ealing Trailfinders – Lewis has made 50 + appearances for Ealing in the Championship. He was previously in the Northampton Saints Academy where he developed as a teenager and also had a spell with England Sevens in Dubai.

**Charlie Piper** – Hooker. This ex-England schoolboy signed from Harlequins probably needs no introduction as some of you will remember this very popular young man from when he was on loan to us from Harlequins. Charlie returns to park after a recent spell in New Zealand.



The poster for the Rosslyn Park RFC Rugby Camp features a red background with a blue header containing the Rosslyn Park logo and name. Below the header, it says 'AA Elite Rugby COACHING' and 'ROSSLYN PARK RFC RUGBY CAMP'. The location is 'Priory Ln, London SW15 5JH' and the time is '10:30 - 4:30 PM'. The dates are listed as '9-11 AUGUST', '16-18TH AUGUST', and '23-25TH AUGUST'. The age group is 'AGES 7-15 (U8-U15)'. Pricing is shown as '1 DAY = £50', '2 DAYS = £95', and '3 DAY = £ 140'. At the bottom, there are logos for the British and Irish Rugby Football Confederation and Rosslyn Park FC, along with a photo of a young player in a blue kit running with the ball.

**Dylan Flashman** – Second Row signed from Old Elthamians. A product of the Sharks Academy in Durban, he initially came to England as a 19-year-old for what was intended to be a short stay but never returned. He played a few games for Plymouth Albion in the British and Irish Cup before moving up to London. He played for Westcombe Park before he moved to Wimbledon, captaining that club under the coaching of Nick Evans and Nick Easter.

**Owen Waters** – Fly Half from Loughborough students who was one of the stand out performers in National 2 last season. Has played for England U-16, and represented Britain at Rugby 7s in the Commonwealth Youth Games. One of the few active players at this level who is a fully qualified referee.

**Ryan Jackson** – Hooker from Tonbridge Juddians who has won County honours for Kent.

**Harry Ledger** – Back row from Old Elthamians. Started his career with Sutton & Epsom, moving to Harlequins and then Exeter Chiefs. Gained international honours with England U-16s, U-17s and England Students.

**Josh Poole** – Back row signed from Blackheath, for whom he scored against Park in the last season that we played.

**Luc Smith** – Fly half / 13 is the younger brother of Harlequins and England player, Marcus. Has been an outstanding player with Brighton College while studying for his degree and looks a great prospect.

We have several players seeking trials, as happens every season, so there may be names to add once the coaches have had a proper opportunity to assess them.

#### Farewells

It is always sad to say goodbye but we would like to thank all of our departing players for their wonderful service to the club and we hope to see you all pitch side. **Paul Doran Jones** has retired, as has **Sam Twomey**. Three players have re-located, **Stuart Maguire** to Ireland, **Michael Kovekic** to Australia while **Nev Edwards** has relocated to Manchester and will play for Sale this coming season. **Jack Barnard** will be unable to play due to work commitments. We

wish them every success in their future endeavours.

We are delighted to announce that **all other current squad members have re-signed** and will be returning for the 2021/22 season.

## Mini & Youth training Camps

We are extremely excited to announce we will be running our AA Elite Sports Coaching rugby camps at Rosslyn Park this summer. AA Elite Sports Coaching is run by two ex-professional rugby players who have played in the Premiership and European Champions Cup.

**Alex Davies** who is currently playing in the Rosslyn Park 1st XV was, prior to this, a full-time professional player with Bath, London Welsh, Barbarians and Otago (NZ). Alex is currently the Head of Wasps U18's Academy.

**Alan Awcock** who is the current head of rugby at Magdalen College, Oxford. Previously he played professional rugby for London Welsh, Newport Dragons as well as representing England Students.

We are proud to offer the best coaching available acquiring the services of some of the Worlds best Premiership and International stars such as: Sam Underhill, George North, Dave Attwood, Joe Cokanasiga, Ruaridh McConnochie to name just a few!!!

To learn more about us, our coaches, our coaching philosophy and to book onto the Summer Camps please head to: [www.aelitesports.com](http://www.aelitesports.com)

I look forward to seeing you all in August. Any questions please just email Alex Davies on: [alex@aeliterugby.com](mailto:alex@aeliterugby.com)

## Away travel

It's always a boost to the team to see and hear our supporters at away matches, and it's always a good day out. We have three long distance trips in September, so why not try it out. At the time of these notes there were some cheap fares available for advance bookings. If you are not already a regular rail traveller, here's some hopefully useful advice. Firstly, if you are intending to travel at all often and qualify for one of the many Railcards available do get one: they generally get you about a third off the published fare. Check the services available on the National Rail Enquiries website (<https://ojp.nationalrail.co.uk>) which will also show which services are cheapest. You can also book direct from there, but it's worthwhile to check with the rail company website and <https://www.thetrainline.com/> as sometimes there are cheaper offers available.

For our upcoming away matches you might find the following useful:

**Plymouth Albion 04 September** The Albion ground is Brickfields, Damarel Close, Plymouth, PL1 4NE. Plymouth station is roughly 1.5 miles walk to the ground, though it's not the most straightforward of routes and easier to get a cab from the station forecourt. You could book to Devonport and switch to a stopping train at Plymouth, and then it's just over half a mile walk if you cut diagonally through the park. However, assuming you want to see a bit of the town, our regulars usually take a cab from the station to the historic Barbican Quarter by Sutton Harbour where there are several historic seafront pubs among the attractions. From there it's a cab to the ground. If you want to be sure of a seat at the ground, Grandstand tickets are on sale now (£19) from <http://www.plymouthalbion.com/shop/plymouth-albion-vs-rosslyn-park-4th-september-2021/>

Trains leave London Paddington at 07:00, 08:04, 09:04 and 10:04 and it's about a 3 hours 15 minutes journey. After the match cabs usually rank up on the corner of the road turning left out of the ground, but you might be safer booking one.

**Taunton Titans 18 September** This is our first visit to Taunton, so there is little local knowledge to offer. The ground is Towergate Stadium, Hyde Lane, Bathpool, Taunton, TA2 8BU. If travelling by train, you will pass the ground on the right (facing forwards) 2.2

miles before pulling into Taunton Station, so that's the distance you'll have to walk unless you get a cab. There is a bus that will get you nearly half way there but it's a convoluted route. Trains leave London Paddington quite frequently for the 90 minute journey, but at time of writing there's quite a disparity between the fares, so do check before you book. There are return trains at 17:44 and 18:26.

The centre of Taunton is a fair walk from the station, and not in the direction of the ground. The good news is that Taunton Rugby Club gets a mention in the Good Beer Guide and does food. Admission is £10 on the gate but Under-16s go free.

**Darlington Mowden Park 25 September.** Mowden boast the biggest ground of any Rugby club in England in the shape of the all-seater Northern Echo Arena, Neasham Road, DL2 1DL. If travelling by train, you will pass the ground on the right (facing forwards) 1.2 miles before pulling into Darlington Station. If walking to the ground (or taking the 13A or 13B bus from the station) you need to leave the station by the opposite exit to the one taking you into town. Our regulars usually go into town instead, repairing to the excellent Bar Twenty2 in Conliffe Street and getting a cab to the ground from there. Be warned, though, that cabs are not always easily available so don't leave booking one to the last minute.

There's a regular service to Darlington (00 and 30 past the hour) from London Kings Cross, some cheaper than others so do check before you book. For the return journey there are trains at 17:58 and 18:28, but again be warned about taxis – last time we had one booked for the end of the match it failed to arrive and we had to walk. So don't cut it too fine!

## First XV fixtures 2021-22

### National One

Aug 14	H	Old Albanian (pre-season match)
14	H	Loughborough (pre-season match)
27	A	Esher (pre-season match)
28	H	Ealing Academy (pre-season match)
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 (cancelled)
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 (cancelled)
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

## Park Netball

The Rosslyn Park netball squad are hosting open trails on Wednesday 11th & 18th August at Roehampton Uni between 7:30pm-9:30pm. If anyone is interested in trialling, or if you know a keen netballer, please can they email [netball.admin@rosslynpark.co.uk](mailto:netball.admin@rosslynpark.co.uk). For trials, they need to contact that email address ahead of the trials so that we can ensure they are trialled in the correct position (rather than just turning up on the

## RPNC: HEAD COACH WANTED



- Head Coach to lead the development of our 2 teams:
  - SNL Prem A - KDNL Div 5
- Part of the Rosslyn Park FC
- Location: Roehampton University
- Training / Games: Wednesday eve / Saturday mornings
- A fantastic opportunity to help shape and develop a young club

For more details, please email: [netball.admin@rosslynpark.co.uk](mailto:netball.admin@rosslynpark.co.uk)



evening). The first matches of the season will be, for the Surrey Squad (the more senior team) Saturday 4th September and for the Kingston Kingston squad Saturday 11 September. We should have the netball club fixtures for the season very soon. Home matches are played at Roehampton University, usually starting at 10:00AM, so plenty of time to get back to the club afterwards. Do come along and give the girls your support when the new season gets underway.

In other news, Coach Tez Seidu has left for personal reasons, so we are currently on the lookout for a new coach. If there is a netball coach reading this who might be interested, or if you know of one looking for a new challenge please do get in touch.

### John Thurston

John's funeral is being held at 14.30 on Monday 9th August at Exeter & Devon Crematorium, with a celebration of his life afterwards at the Bluebell Inn. "Memories and story-telling encouraged. No flowers, black clothes, misery or gloom. Donations to Rosslyn Park Injury Trust Fund". An obituary appears in the previous Parknews, which is still online.

### Membership

If you haven't yet renewed your membership, or would like to join the Club, now is the time. Single Full Membership costs £200 or £16.70 per month and includes free entry to all home games with free Programme, exclusive invites to events, free bar loyalty card and access to International tickets. Family Membership is available to all couples and includes the same benefits but for two persons and costs £300 or £25 per month. If you live a distance from the club Country Membership is available at £80 or £6.70 a month with the same benefits except you pay a reduced admission price of £10 and a programme is not included. Please go to <https://rosslynpark.co.uk/membership/non-playing-membership/> or call the club office on 020 8876 1879.

**The Ripley Membership:** As you may recall, we launched the Ripley Membership in 2019. Its purpose was to raise funds for our playing and coaching budget and, with over 20 members for each of the last 2 seasons, it has made a genuine contribution to the renewed success of our First XV. In addition to the benefits of full membership you will get two extra membership cards, free parking, two free lunches during the season for yourself and two guests, Q&A sessions twice a year with the Director of Rugby the Chairman and the Managing Director, plus an exclusive Ripley hat and scarf. Please consider upgrading your membership.

**Mini & Youth Memberships** Please note that Mini and Youth Memberships are managed through a separate registration process, details of which can be found [here](#).

### Summer Unlocked

The club is working with Wandsworth Council on its "Summer Unlocked" events. It is a free programme of activities, plus a free lunch. It's eligible for children aged four to 19 on free school meals and is run by the council. Children with SEND can access it up to the age of 25. Activities are held in youth clubs and other local venues – including the Rock - and include sport, drama, cooking, dance and art. It's another example of our club reaching out to the local community.

### National League Rugby Review Show

National League Rugby have launched a new show dedicated to all rugby at National League level. It started on 01 July and is available to watch on <https://www.ncarugby.com/national-league-rugby-review-show/> on Sundays from 6pm after every round of matches and throughout the season from that point until Tuesday 31 May 2022. You can buy season-access tickets at the same address. Forty per cent of your purchase will go back to your club. (This will be calculated after PayPal admin fees and VAT are subtracted from the payment). It costs £15 for season access, £12 at Early Adopters rate [VAT Inc] until August 15.

Once purchased, you will receive a confirmation email. A link will be included where you will be able to assign the subscription to a club from a drop-down list on a Google Form. Host and commentator Warren Muggleton will travel the country for key games each week for comprehensive coverage and analysis. It will be THE place to watch all the tries and big moments from the weekend's action whilst supporting and investing in your club!

### 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 do support our sponsors as they have supported us.**

*Please contact Kenneth Moore, via email [Kenneth.Moore@Rosslynpark.co.uk](mailto:Kenneth.Moore@Rosslynpark.co.uk) or phone: 0208 876 1879 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.

#### Stop Press - Old Elthamians

It appears that the final nail in their coffin was an ultimatum from the RFU, who had been working with the club to try to salvage the situation. The club had consistently assured the RFU over a long period that they had another major sponsor in the offing. However, the RFU became increasingly concerned that the club would be unable to meet its financial commitments and imposed a deadline last week by which the club was required to provide a written assurance that they would be able to meet those commitments. It failed to do so. Our sympathies to the players and supporters who have lost their club, and indeed to the decent people who have lost money trying to bail it out.



**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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