

PARK START WITH 5-TRY WIN

Welcome to Parknews One swallow does not make a summer, and winning your first practice match against Blackheath certainly does not guarantee a successful season. However this performance certainly gave grounds for some cautious optimism. There were a few key players missing (mainly due to isolating after the dreaded 'ping') but Park still fielded 31 individuals, none of whom looked out of his depth against strong opposition. Of course an exceptional run of injuries can derail any campaign, but there looks to be a strength in depth here that should bode well. The late change of fixture, by the way, came about when Old Albanian contacted the club to say they were pulling out due to COVID among their squad. Blackheath had already been cancelled by Carmarthen Quins, so it made eminent sense to play each other. We're sure no one turning up expecting the original fixture was disappointed!

Quite how Kieran and the coaches will sort out selection after this one will be interesting to see. Your correspondent does not envy them in their task. To give but one example, we started with two experienced, quality and dependable half backs in Jack Gash and Craig Holland, who showed they retained all their ability fitness and enthusiasm. But then we brought on two young new recruits in scrum half Blake Boyland (from Bristol Bears) and fly half Owen Waters (from Loughborough) who were also deeply impressive. Then again, James Brooks came off the bench who made his First XV debut at scrum half last season and was by general consent man-of-the-match. And that is to ignore a couple of other significant names at half-back who weren't available on Saturday. Not the worst problem to have, though.



Jack Gash on the attack [Photo: © Isabelle Lovell]

This weekend

Further clues will be available this coming Saturday, when we field 'First' and 'Second' teams against their Loughborough equivalents. As we pointed out last week, Loughborough are very much old friends, whom we played regularly in midweek friendlies before League rugby took priority over everything else. We have gained many players from the college over the years, the latest of which is promising fly half Owen Waters. Since Loughborough entered league rugby, making quick progress to National One, we have enjoyed a good few close matches. They were unlucky to be relegated recently but look likely candidates to bounce back after a season in National 2 North. They always get a healthy influx of rugby talent in each year's student intake and are certain to provide a tough challenge.



Try for Park in Saturday's home win over Blackheath [Photo: © Isabelle Lovell]

Future events

Pre-season matches Saturday 14 August

2nd XV v Loughborough

Pre-season match
Home KO 1:00PM

1st XV v Loughborough

Pre-season match
Home KO 3:00PM

Wednesday 25 August

Esher v Park Rangers

Pre-season match
Away KO 7:30PM

Saturday 14 August

1st XV v Ealing Academy

Pre-season match
Home KO 3:00PM

Friday 03 September

Park Nomads v Park Fours

Home KO 8:30PM

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

Although the teams contesting Saturday's matches will be labelled as First and Second teams, these are not much more than convenient labels at the moment – every First XV jersey is very much up for grabs. Indeed it is very much the case nowadays that there is an element of rotation among squads to keep everyone match sharp to National 1 levels. Admission to both matches is free, so you would be well advised to arrive in time to watch both games (don't worry – the Clubhouse will be open for refreshments).

Before then we were due to visit Blackheath for a return match on Wednesday evening, kicking off at 8:00PM. As this Parknews was being put to bed we heard **that match has been called off**. Also note that the **Rangers match at Esher has switched to Wednesday 25 August at 7:30**.

Park 31 Blackheath 19

Pre-season match

Whilst one should never take the scores too seriously in these practice matches - and there were several of things that need working on – but there were plenty of things to encourage Park supporters in this performance. Some key players were absent but despite many unfamiliar faces there was a great degree of cohesion and some fine tries.

Blackheath were first on the attack, forcing a 5-metre scrum which Park initially defended well to win a penalty, but the visitors ran back with the ball eventually dotting down to the left of the posts for an early score. The try was converted for 7-0.

While Blackheath possibly shaded things in terms of possession in the early stages, Park looked more dangerous when they had the ball. A good attack up the left saw the ball pass through several hands before Josh Adams showed his pace to burst through for a try out wide on the left. A difficult conversion was missed leaving the score at 7-5.

Park now had the upper hand but Blackheath presented a determined and well-organised defence every time the line was threatened by the home forwards. Park will probably be a tad disappointed at the number of times they drove towards the line but could not quite cross, but eventually they were rewarded when the pack forced their way over for Ollie Dawe to score. Craig Holland added a good conversion for 12-7 at the interval.

Park opened the scoring in the second half with a superb combination move allowing full-back Henry Robinson to make a penetrating run before offloading outside to Adams who again showed his pace to score out wide on the left.

Although Blackheath were now looking slightly out-gunned they refused to go away, and after a rare period of pressure bundled over following a 5-metre scrum. The conversion brought them right back into contention at 17-14.

Another good Park attack saw a panicked defensive clearance parried but the ball crossed the dead ball line before anyone could dive onto it. Park were not to be denied, returned to the attack and again some decisive play by Robinson allowed his winger, this time Curtis Barnes, to power over at pace up the left, converted by Owen Waters for 24-14.

Just to show that was not a fluke, Barnes repeated the feat up the right wing, Waters nailing a difficult conversion for 31-14.

Blackheath managed a consolation try shortly before the end when the defence was caught short of numbers out wide, but Park were well worth the margin of 31-19.

The two teams are due to meet again at Well Hall on Wednesday evening.

Park: Robinson; Marfo, Scott, Jones, Adams; Holland; Gash; Traynor, R Jackson, Wade; Burton, Murphy; Poole, A Ellis, H Ellis.
Bench: Saunders, Lovell, Dawe, Boyland, Waters, B Jackson, Foster, Mills, Buckingham, Rasor, McLean, Kirby, Brooks, Edwards, Barnes, Rosillio



Josh Adams dives in to score for Park [Photo: © Isabelle Lovell]

Photos

The First XV photos in this Parknews are kindly supplied by Isabelle Lovell. In reproducing photos in Parknews it is always necessary to reduce the resolution (sharpness) in order to comply with file size limitations of the website. However you can purchase full-resolution copies and many other Rosslyn Park photos from Izzy's website <https://www.isabellelovellsports.co.uk>

The League season

Serious league Rugby begins the following weekend when we make the long trip to **Plymouth Albion**. Although Albion have struggled in recent seasons, they were beginning to show form before Rugby was cut off by the pandemic. They have recruited wisely and are one of those teams who – particularly in front of a passionate home crowd – tend to play above the sum of their parts. It would be really good to see and hear a Park supporting presence at the match. If you want to get the cheapest rail tickets, don't delay booking! 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. 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.

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/>

Details of other upcoming away fixtures feature further on in this Parknews.

First home League match

Our first home League match is on Saturday 11 September against **Leeds Tykes**, kicking off at 3:00pm. Leeds are paradoxically both old and new opponents. The Leeds club were founded at the dawn of professionalism from an amalgamation of two clubs – Headingley and Roundhay – both of whom we played back in the amateur days. As Leeds, they moved to the plush surroundings of the 'other' Headingley ground, sharing with Leeds Rhinos RL and Yorkshire CCC. We played them there a couple of times before they were promoted to the higher echelons and took on the identity Yorkshire

Carnegie.

Unfortunately existence at the higher level proved financially unsustainable and last season they were relegated back to National One and reverted to the identity of Yorkshire Tykes. They have also moved grounds to The Sycamores in Bramhope and are back under the direction of former Welsh International Phil Davies. Phil took the club from National 4 to the Premiership before resigning his position. Although they have lost several players from the Championship squad, Davies' reputation has brought in some decent players and they are bound to be tough, well-organised opposition.

Clubsides

Will Thorogood reports that there is not much Clubside activity, to date, until Friday 3rd September, 8.30pm when the **Nomads** are planning a "friendly"/practice /cough out the cobwebs match against the **4's**. The following week, 11 September, the **4's** have a friendly run out against a **Bank of England XV** on the 4G at 11.30 a.m.

There has been a video meeting about changing some of the scheduled kick off times, dates and venues, but some details are still to be finalized.

Slingbacks

The Slingbacks have a few more recruitment sessions lined up before their season begins. Unfortunately Coach Rhys has been laid up with an illness on a business trip to the USA, and was thought to be still in hospital when these notes went to press. In the interim forwards coach Anna Butler is in sole charge.

Slingbacks fixtures 2021-22

Women's NC1 SE (north)

Sep 26	A	Barnes
Oct 03	H	Chesham
17	A	East London Vixens
24	A	Battersea Ironsides
Nov 07	H	Haringey
14	A	London Irish II
28	H	Millwall Venus
Dec 05	A	London Welsh
19	H	Romford & Gidea Park Ravens
Jan 09	A	Chesham
16	H	East London Vixens
30	H	Battersea Ironsides
Feb 06	A	Haringey
27	H	London Irish II
Mar 06	A	Millwall Venus
20	H	London Welsh
Apr 03	A	Romford & Gidea Park Ravens
10	H	Barnes

Future away matches

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!



THE
OBOLENSKY
ASSOCIATION
DINNER

22nd September 2021
Drinks reception at 6.45pm
Carriages at midnight
Rosslyn Park FC
Priory Ln, London
SW15 5JH

In aid of the
Rosslyn Park Injury Trust
with
Toby Flood

£70 per person
Drinks reception | 3-course dinner
1/2 bottle of wine per person on table
Tables of 10

CONTACT
tombalgrie@lifesearch.co.uk
hannaheborall@lifesearch.co.uk
0207 065 1054

The Obolensky Association
Rosslyn Park Injury Trust

Obolensky Dinner

If you don't want to miss out on something special then bookings are open for tables of 10 at this year's Obolensky Dinner, so get in early. This event always sell out and so it has to be first come first served. The guest speaker this year is Toby Flood of Leicester, England, and now, heroically in middle age, Newcastle - a cracking evening is assured. Please mark the date in your diary and please let us know by return **ASAP** if you'd like to take a table. We hope to see you there! See the flier on this page or contact Hannah Eborall on 0207 065 1054

What's in a name

There was some confusion among supporters over the Park wingers at last Saturday's match. It had been intended that Benji Marfo would don the 11 shirt and Josh Adams the 14. That was undone when Benji, assuming he was at 14, grabbed that shirt and so Josh took the eleven, which was really of no consequence at all for a practice match. But further confusion arose among supporters – your correspondent included – when Josh took the field and bore a remarkable resemblance to Josh Amadi. A misprint? No. It turns out that Josh has changed his name and is now known as Josh Adams.

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 by 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](#).

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

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



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 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

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 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.

Park dominate the line-out against Blackheath on Saturday [Photo: © Isabelle Lovell]



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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