

PARK NEWS

ISSUE 11 Season 2021-22

06 October 2021

PARK RETURN TO THE TOP OF THE TABLE

Welcome to Parknews Last Saturday's hard fought encounter with **Bishop's Stortford** took Park back to the top of the table. It was the last 5 minutes at both matches that proved crucial. At the Rock, Park were hanging on to a one-point lead while watching Stortford miss two penalties that might have won them the match barring a last ditch score by Park. Meanwhile at **Taunton, Rams** had seen a 17-3 lead cut to just two points going into the last play when Rams knocked on in their own 22. From the scrum they were penalised and the resulting penalty saw them lose by a single point at 17-18. These are fine margins indeed at the top of the table, where **Cinderford's** 21-12 away win at **Tonbridge Juddians** saw them draw level with Park at the top of the table.

There were mixed fortunes for the club's teams at the weekend. Our teams could never have brought 100% wins because the Middlesex Merit Premier competition pitched our B XV against our Fours on Friday night, the Bs winning by 50-5. Bad news followed inasmuch as the Hatters were unable to raise a team for their Surrey Premiership match for the second week running and have effectively folded, the first victims, in that sense, of the pandemic. The players still remaining active will find a welcome among the other three clubsides. Things improved on Saturday. Two of the three teams in our thriving netball section played league matches and both won against their Worcester Park Lions equivalents, the Reds by xx-xx and the Blues by xx-xx. Back at the Rock the Rangers enjoyed a 42-6 win over Bishops Stortford 2s, before the Firsts beat Stortford 14-13. Thus it was down to the Nomads to win by against Law Society for a 100% record on the day.

Sunday saw the dark clouds draw over for the Slingbacks, who were unable to assemble enough players to play their league game with Chesham. Fortunately Chesham were happy to postpone the match rather than claim the points for a default that would see the Slingbacks removed from the league. But unless we can recruit some players before the next match on 17 October against East London then the future looks bleak indeed. If you know any women looking for a game of rugby, or might like to try it out, please do send them along to training at the Rock on Wednesday evening (7:30pm) where they will be very welcome indeed.

This weekend

This Saturday sees a match that could possibly make or break the season for either club: our vital top-of-the-table clash away to Rams. Will YOU be there? It would be great if we could get enough Park supporters there to try to match the support Rams will get. Some suggestions as to how to get there appear below. Rams are expecting a very large crowd and ask everyone to buy a ticket in advance to prevent long queues. Tickets are £15 adults, Under 18s free and you can book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rams-rfc-1st-xv-vs-rosslyn-park-fc-tickets-167298647759?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

As well as being a vital league match, there is among some the feeling that there is a score to settle arising from the last season we played. We conceded two yellow cards in the dying moments at their ground which led to the scores that cost us the match. Then the pandemic intervened before we could play the return match at the Rock. The formula the RFU adopted to determine the final league table placed Rams above Park, though if the match at the Rock had been played, and Park had won, the runners-up spot in the league would have been ours. Of course none of this was Rams' fault – indeed they could argue that an excessively harsh 5 point deduction they incurred for a small admin error is also worthy of consideration. It all adds extra spice to a match that probably won't need it.



Henry Robinson breaks out of defence for Park | [Photo: © Isabelle Lovell]

Future events
Saturday 09 October

Rams 2s v Rangers

Raging Bull League
Away KO 1:30PM

Rams v 1st XV

National 1
Away KO 3:00PM

Hampstead 2 v B XV

Middlesex Merit Cup
Away KO TBA

Hackney 2 v 4s

Middlesex Merit Cup
Away KO TBA

Netball

Whitton A v Park (Surrey)

Surrey League
Away start: 11:00
(Magna Carta School, Thorpe Road, Staines)

Next 1st XV Home match
Saturday 16 October

1st XV v Sale

National 1
Home 3:00PM

Rams' season has got off to a terrific start. Consecutive wins over Cambridge (Away 34-28), Tonbridge Juddians (Home 24-13), Plymouth Albion (26-19) and Leeds Tykes (29-11) saw them take over at the top of the table when Park – also on four wins could not force the bonus point at Darlington. Last week, as mentioned above, Rams lost by a solitary point to a last minute penalty at Taunton. That will doubtless inspire them to even greater efforts.

The club was founded in 1924 as Old Redingensians, changing to Rams (which had been their nickname, based on the ram in the Reading City's coat of arms) in 2018. Over the years teams from both clubs have met very occasionally at a social rugby level, but the last season in which rugby was played was the only meeting so far at full First XV level. Even if this coming Saturday was not such a vital match, Rams are well worth a visit, boasting a decent, friendly clubhouse that serves food and a good pint of beer – what more incentive do you need?

Rams play at Old Bath Road, Sonning, Reading, Berkshire, RG4 6TQ. It is not the easiest ground to get to by public transport, but the best bet is to get a train to Reading, and a cab on from there. (As a rough guide, the last time we played there a cab cost around £11 each way).

If cabs are in short supply with the petrol shortage, there are several bus services to Sonning from Reading, most of them slow and circuitous. The most direct appears to be the number 850 from Reading Station, an hourly service running at 11 minutes past the hour. Book to Holmemoor Drive, Sonning which is a stone's throw from the ground, across the road and over a small local lane that runs parallel with the main road. Return buses leave at 14 minutes past the hour. In all honesty, though, if there is more than one of you it's probably better to split a cab. You can download a comprehensive list of bus stops around the station at <https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/posters/rdg.pdf>

If you're driving to Rams then there is some valuable local intelligence from Tony Lawrence. Parking at the ground needs to be pre booked at £10 per car but there is free parking with a shuttle bus to the ground from the Pigott School in Wargrave. The shuttle runs from 1.00pm to 3.00pm with return buses from 5.00pm to 6.00pm. The school is located at Twyford Rd, Wargrave, Reading RG10 8DS, which looks easier than driving to the ground itself if you are based in the vicinity of SW London.

This travel information is given in good faith, but do check it out for yourself. The Rangers are also playing away to Rams 2s on Saturday in the Raging bull League, kicking off at 1:30, so why not arrive early and give them a shout?

Unfortunately there are no games at the Rock this Saturday, but the bar will be open on Friday evening for anyone who would like to pop in for a drink or two. If you can't make it to Rams, then on Saturday morning the netball girls have an away match, with our Surrey League side playing Whitton A. The match starts at 11:00am and is at Magna Carta School, Thorpe Road, Staines, TW18 3HJ. If you are in the area, please do go along and give the girls a shout. The same applies to the B's who are away to Hampstead 2s in the Middlesex Merit Table Cup, and the 4's away to Hackney 2's also in the Middlesex Merit Table Cup.

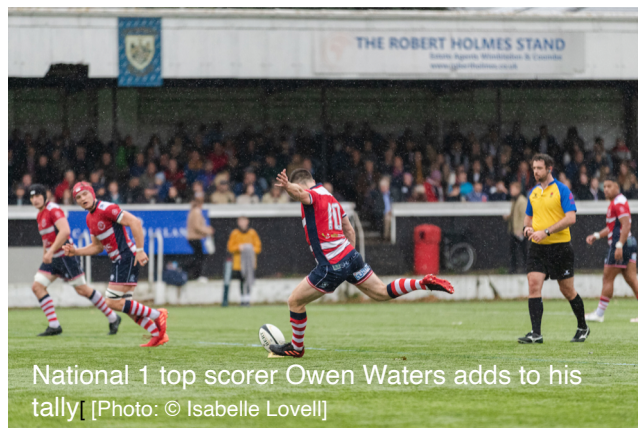
Match report

Rosslyn Park 14

Bishops Stortford 13

National 1

Bishops Stortford pushed Park all the way in a match played in atrocious conditions with heavy rain throughout in stygian gloom that rendered the floodlights necessary from the start. An extremely slippery ball added to the hazards, but both sides played with utter commitment to provide a match that always enthralled even though deft ball skills were at a premium. Those conditions did not suit the quick-running, quick-passing game that had brought Park success in their previous four matches.



Park ended up having to dog it out against a side that looked far more at home in the conditions. If Park looked more dangerous when they had the ball, then Stortford probably enjoyed more possession. In the end it came down to kicking.

The visitors edged the opening minutes but Park were first on the scoreboard after Stortford conceded a penalty, converted by fly half Owen Waters for 3-0 on six minutes.

That was cancelled out five minutes later when Park were caught offside and visiting fly half George Cullen brought the scores level at 3-3.

Park regained the lead on 17 minutes with a long distance penalty from Waters for 6-3.

In days of yore these conditions would have demanded both packs to play "up-ye-jumper" rugby, but this is replaced in the modern era with a game of aerial tennis as both sides try to force an error in enemy territory. This is probably even more so on a 4G pitch where there is no ankle-deep mud to slog through.



Stortford spurned a chance to equalise on 25 minutes when Cullen missed a penalty. Park occasionally livened things up with a run, particularly when winger Brandon Jackson got a sniff of the ball, but really both teams did well to provide any sort of match at all the prevailing conditions.

Park ended the first half on a high note as the pack really got it together and drove over, out wide, on 38 minutes to make it 11-3 at half time.

The second half started well for Park, catching Stortford offside after only two minutes play for Waters to stroke over the penalty for 14-3.

However, hopes that Park would then pull away were dashed as Stortford dug in and secured more of the possession. If this was not an attacking spectacle there was plenty for the connoisseur of defensive rugby to admire.

Stortford found a key to Park's defensive wall on 53 minutes with a catch and drive that saw lock James Thacker touch down,



Hugo Ellis is somewhere under here! [[Photo: © Isabelle Lovell]

converted by Cullen for 14-10.

Things got decidedly dicey for Park when the visitors were awarded a penalty for Cullen to reduce the margin to a single point with 18 minutes remaining.

Park had a chance to extend their lead when the highly promising Luc Smith – on for Waters – missed a penalty that he would have expected to score. Park breathed a sigh of relief when Cullen returned the favour by missing two shots in the last five minutes.

Stortford had one last all-out attempt to win the game, driving at the Park line, but Park defended brilliantly, forcing a scrum at which Stortford were penalised. Park hoofed the ball out to claim victory.

This was far from a vintage Park performance – it never could have been in the conditions – but they found a way to win with their backs to the wall. Good sides tend to do that.

Park: Henry Robinson; Bradon Jackson, Lewis Jones, Phil Cokanasiga, Will Foster; Owen Waters; Jack Gash; Kyle Traynor, Ryan Jackson, Ollie Dawe; Dylan Flashman, Henry Spencer; Dan Laventure, Josh Poole, Hugo Ellis.

Bench: Jared Saunders, Austin Hay, Harry Ledger, Dave Lewis, Luc Smith

Park Rangers 42 Bishops Stortford Blues 6

Raging Bull League

The battle between the two second XV's was played as a curtain raiser to the main match and was more competitive than the final winning margin might suggest. But it did emphasise the strength in depth of the Park squad.

Park got off to a dream start with a second minute penalty in front of the posts being propelled to the corner by James Brookes. Park executed the catch-and-drive to perfection, number 8 Ben Kirby touching down and Brookes adding the extras for 7-0.

Stortford showed they had not come along to make up the numbers, bagging a penalty for 7-3 on 6 minutes.

Park were doing all the attacking but encountered a stern defence and on 23 minutes the visitors grabbed another penalty for 7-6. But that was as good as it got for them.

Park found the way round the defence with a wide run from centre Quinton Koster from 30 metres out, Brookes converting for 14-6.

Stortford hit a penalty to the Park 22 but some skilful defending turned over possession with Park winning a scrum.

Park nearly scored again with a catch-and-drive, but eventually got it right for Ben Kirby to score his second try and Brookes his third conversion for 21-6 at the interval.

After the break Park pulled away, a penalty to the corner led to Koster grabbing his second try.

Impressive scrum half Luke Baldwin twice scythed through the visiting defence. Brookes completed a 100% kicking record to



Action from the Rangers match [photo by John Weatherall]

bring a win by 42-6.

Park: Timi Olopade; Benji Marfo, Quinton Koster, Matty Edwards, Curtis Barnes; James Brookes; Luke Baldwin; Ali Wade, Tom Vaughan-Edwards, Nick Lovell; Will Burton, Jamie Gray; Jordan Martin, Tyler Bush, Ben Kirby.

Bench: Josh Rasor, Karl Gibson, Sam Garvey, Charlie Piper, Alex McLean, Max Lowdell, C Stegman, Olli Rosilio.

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 really good full-resolution copies and many other Rosslyn Park photos from Izzy's website <https://www.isabellelovellsports.co.uk>

Clubsides

Will Thorogood writes: Apres le deluge...well it was Wet, Wet, Wet on Saturday! Anyway, some disappointing news to start off with. I'm afraid, after three weeks of trying to get a Hatters' side on the field, unsuccessfully, the Club has had to withdraw them from their Surrey Premier Reserve League. Not altogether surprising, after the bulk of the "Old Guard" Hatters, over the last 18 months, decided to hang up their boots, relocate from London to the provinces or refocus their Saturday activities.

Unfortunately, we did not have sufficient resources to continue the line...the end of a Dynasty and era! Note, any Hatters still around and interested in playing, I'm sure the B's, 4's and Nomads would welcome you.

A brief potted history of the Hatters. They started out as a RPF Extra A side, back in the early 1980's when Park was running 10 or 11 social sides. Founded by a gentleman called Mike Mazek, they soon became known as the Hatters, having to wear hats to and from games. I don't know if they had tea parties (probably all a bit mad) certainly beer parties, and the Hatter stamp was dyed! Attracting a talented bunch of players, who didn't want to train or couldn't, the dynasty and tradition continued through to 2020, with the likes of John Faulkner, Dave Hitchcock, Nick Ford, Andy Ryder (last century), to Duncan Isley, Will Scott, Joe Wigley and Tom Longley latterly (21st Century boys) all skipping the side and maintaining the tradition. Apologies if I have missed out any key names in the history.

A sad day to see them go, but maybe when the Pandemic dust has settled, the Leviathan will awaken again!? Good luck to all Hatters past. Keep in touch. Certainly a key part of Park mythology. I don't know if they will try to find the occasional friendly game over the season, if they can?



ROSSLYN PARK RFC
OCTOBER RUGBY CAMP

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

AGES 7-15 (U8-U15)	25th-27th October
1 DAY = £50	9AM - 3PM
2 DAYS = £95	
3 DAY = £140	

As a postscript, I keep my fingers crossed for the future of the Slingbacks.

Moving on, but in brief, the Club sides had a couple of games over the weekend. Friday night had the Rosslyn Park Derby, **4's v B's**. Always intense, with in house rivalry, the B's won this one. They quickly came out of the starting blocks, at pace, and piled on the points in the first 20 minutes. In the second quarter, the IV's started to collect themselves and exerted considerable pressure on the B's goal line, but couldn't cross it. However, a B's interception try and B's counter attack, after more IV's pressure, led to the half time score of IV's 0 B's 31. More of the same in the second half, with the B's dominating in the set piece, but the 4's did cross the line for a well worked try out on the left wing. At the final whistle, IV's 5 B's 50. One side, obviously, very disappointed, and the other very happy, but I'm sure a few ales were sipped on Friday night by both teams. Who knows how the return fixture in December will pan out, but rugby is a funny, fickle and fateful game! Watch this space.

Saturday afternoon was literally a washout! The heavens opened, and I'm not sure if it was rugby out on the 4G or water polo! After a door game between the 1's and Stortford, the **Nomads** and **Law Society 2's** put on their water wings and splashed about in a shortened game. Fairweather supporter, I was, from the warmth and dry of the clubhouse, but when I did poke my nose out the front door, the Nomads seemed to be in control. In fact, they were, and came out 43-14 winners. Miles, Law Society skipper, did comment that they were "moral winners", as they scored the best try of the game...drenched but not downhearted! Thanks to Laurence, the ref, and Chris Jones, duty physio, for their attention and attendance.

1's and Rangers both won. Good to see Lord Weatherall busying

himself and at work with the Rangers. Games for 9/10: B's v Hampstead 2s Away Middlesex Merit Table Cup; 4's v Hackney 2's Away Middlesex Merit Table Cup;

Anyway, their games did take place, as their ranks were filled by players, maybe on temporary visas, from the Nomads and

Slingbacks

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, the Slingbacks were unable to find enough players to field a team against Chesham for the scheduled match last Sunday. The match was re-scheduled for later in the season, which at least prevented the Slingbacks from being defaulted from the league. However, unless we can find some new players quickly that reprieve will be only temporary, and the omens are not good. If you happen to know any women who might be interested in playing please do get in touch or send them along to training at 7:30PM on Wednesdays But rest assured, if the worst happens it will not be the end of women's Rugby at the Rock even if we have to re-form and start again. Women's rugby has been an integral part of the club for 25 years and we are determined to come back stronger.

Mini & Youth training Camps

We are extremely excited to announce we will be running our AA Elite Sports Coaching rugby camps at Rosslyn Park. 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 Awock 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.aaelitesports.com

I look forward to seeing you all in August. Any questions please just email Alex Davies on: alex@aaeliterugby.com Places tend to be taken up quickly for these popular events so don't miss out, book now! See flier at the top of the column opposite.

Park Netball.

Two of Park's three netball teams played on Saturday morning and both won - an excellent start to their league campaigns. Your correspondent watches the Park Reds match before having to leave for the Rock. Despite complete ignorance of both rules and tactics it was really entertaining and a pleasure to watch. The ball-handling and movement skills on display were really very good, and the way the Park girls pulled back from conceding a flurry of early scores said a lot about their character. Reports on both matches appear overleaf. Highly recommended if you can make it along to Roehampton Uni, and it's an easy stroll (downhill!!!) back to the Rock afterwards.



Park Reds on the attack in their victory over Worcester Park (L-R) Hannah Gilbert (C), Emily Heappy (WA), Emily Sarsfield (WD), Simone Quick (GD)

**Park Kingston Reds 33
Worcester Park A 30**
Kingston League



Park Line up: GS: Laura Garnier, GA: Bella Murrison, WA: Emily Heappey, C: Hannah Gilbert, WD: Emily Sarsfield-Power, GD: Simone Quick, GK: Saskia Leppard
Bench: Kila O'Boyle, Charli Hicks, Abby Mahal
The first derby day with both Kingston netball teams playing at home this weekend. Kingston Reds (Division 5) faced one of their tough opponents in the league, Worcester Park Lions A team. In the 2019 season, RPNC lost their first match against Worcester Park but on the second leg battled to come away with a narrow win (35-33), so it was always going to be a close game that both teams were hungry to win.

The first quarter got off to a slow start for Park, with Worcester taking a 5 goal lead at one point. Our defence worked tirelessly against a tall holding shooter, putting pressure on the Worcester side and making them work hard around the circle. Park managed to settle the nerves and get back in the game bringing it back to end the first quarter with an even scoreline, 7 - 7.



Q2, Kila came on at WD and the quarter was all to play for. Both teams managed to convert their centre passes into goals, with very few errors from both of the sides. Half time saw Worcester Park just 1 goal up (14-13).

A couple of changes in the 2nd half saw Park really step up a gear and take control of this game. Charli came on as GS, Emily Sarsfield as WA, Abby Mahal as GK and Laura moved to GA. Park managed to score 13 goals in this quarter and forced the Worcester side to make several errors. Laura dominated the court as GA, with an incredible ball from the centre third straight into Charli at GS. Q3 score was 26-20 to Park.

Emily Heappey came back on in Q4 as C, replacing Hannah Gilbert who had a brilliant game. A tense last quarter and this Park side has sometimes struggled under pressure before. Worcester Park weren't going to let us win easily and clawed back scoring an impressive 10 goals in the last quarter, whilst we only scored 6. The lead we had gained in the 3rd quarter was what won us this game. Final score 33-30 to Park.

The support of the Kingston Blues on the sideline really helped the Reds secure the win and we can't wait for more derby games at home, followed by rugby, of course.

Very well deserved POMs were:
Home: Laura
Away: Kila



**Rosslyn Park Blues 62
Worcester Park Lions C 35**
Kingston League

Park Line up: GS: Tara Ellis, GA: Pip Medley, WA: Hayley Birks, C: Tasha Levy, WD: Emma Henshaw, GD: Jude Lewis (C) GK: Charlotte McDonough
Bench: Hannah McNally

On Saturday 2nd October 2021 the Rosslyn Park Kingston Blues arrived for their first ever home game. Spurred on by the success of the Kingston Reds in their earlier match, the Blues hit the court ready to take on Worcester Park Lions.

A brilliant first quarter saw Park take an early lead of 21 to 4.

Despite not having height on their side, Charlotte McDonough (GK) and Jude Lewis (GD) dominated the opposition's shooting circle, intercepts and tips leading to plenty of Blues' possession. This was taken advantage of by the attack, Tara Ellis (GS) and Pip Medley (GA) settling in to a strong shooting partnership and hitting every single one of their shots. Following a brilliant Park debut in the Blues' previous game, Tasha Levy impressed again in C, strong mid court defence and pocket drives allowing the attack to flow.

The Blues extended their lead in the second quarter, Hayley Birks moving in to C and Hannah McNally making an impact in WA. Strong circle edge drives and brilliant goal assists from both took Park to a 39-12 lead over the away team. Emma Henshaw (WD) contributed strong attacking reset options and allowed the ball to be safely taken down court following defensive turnovers.

Worcester Park Lions rallied in the third quarter, their shooters starting to find good form to win the quarter 16-13. McDonough moved in to GD where she made a real impact, a strong mid court presence and partnership with Lewis in GK securing many turnovers. Henshaw continued to impress, along with Birks in C and McDonough locking down the oppositions centre pass with good defensive pressure.

However, the Blues found their form in the final quarter, Pip Medley returning to the court to again dominate in the shooting circle. McNally and Birks continued in great form, defensive efforts from both securing Park valuable possession. The Blues ended with a 62-35 win, disappointed not to deny Worcester Park a point but pleased with fantastic team performance in only their second ever game.

Park debuts this week came from 2021 newcomers Pip Medley and Charlotte McDonough - congratulations to both. McDonough was awarded Home POM for a brilliant first performance and Birks took home her third POM of the season with the Away POM vote.

Very well deserved POMs were:

Home: Charlotte

Away: Hayley

Both Reds & Blues take on Grasshoppers on 16th October in their next League matches at home (Roehampton Uni). Supporters are very welcome. Matches start at 10:00 and 11:30

Whistle while you work

On the subject of referees, there's a massive shortage as we come out of covid after 18 months of no activity. It really does show the importance of all clubs having internal club referees to fill in. Even players can take up the whistle as long as both captains agree and the player is confident. We can work with that referee and support him for that match as he's basically saved a cancellation for 30 off players.

We're pushing for more courses to be put on and CPD sessions and we're looking at getting experienced refs to mentor those wishing to take up the whistle. Surrey will fund 1 referee course for each club this season if they become club refs. Insurance is not an issue with players or coaches taking up the whistle and it's all fine providing both teams agree.

There are courses upcoming at Old Reigatians on 19 and 26 October: Click on <https://tickettailor.com/events/srfur/555429> to enrol, and Esher RFC on 01 and 08 November: Click on to enrol <https://buytickets.at/srfur/589205>. Each of these events runs from 19:00-21:30.

Service for JV Smith

A service of thanksgiving for the life of JV Smith is to be held at The Parish Church of the Holy Trinity, Amberley (GL5 5JG) on Wednesday, 13th October 2021 at 3pm followed by a reception in the Amberley Parish Room. Everyone very welcome to attend and celebrate his long life. Colourful attire. Family flowers only. If you are unable to attend, but wish to follow the service of thanksgiving remotely, here are the details:
Zoom details:

Join a Thanksgiving Service for J V Smith
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89404005929?pwd=bXBDb3I4ZTdqMXU3cmFZOGRKcHJSUT09>

Meeting ID: 894 0400 5929

Passcode: 589929

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+44 330 088 5830 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 894 0400 5929

Passcode: 589929

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcG86Mdlqk>

Away travel

We have two away matches in November: Birmingham Moseley on 13 and Caldly on 27. Moseley now play at Billesley Common, Yardley Wood Road, Billesley, Birmingham, B13 0HN. Our regulars usually decamp at Birmingham New Street and visit a hostelry or two in town, getting a cab from there. Alternatively, buses 2 and 3 from the nearby Park Street go to Billesley common very close to the ground. Either way the traffic is usually a nightmare so leave plenty of time. You could also get a train to Yardley Wood station which is just about walkable to the ground. More details next week.

For Caldly we have found that the best route is to get to Liverpool Lime Street and then the metro to West Kirby, which is roughly 2 miles from the ground. There is a bus from there that runs to the ground, but it is infrequent so it's usually a cab. Again more details next week.

Membership

This is clearly going to be a crucial season with the possibility of three clubs being promoted at the end. We would love to be able to strengthen our squad even further but we have to operate within the constraints we have available. There is a way supporters or existing members can help. **The Ripley Membership** has as its purpose raising funds for our playing and coaching budget and 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 whether your membership, or join as a 'Ripley' if you are not already a member. Please speak to Dom Shabbo if you might be able to help.

If the Ripley is not for you, and 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.

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 1

We won't repeat the three matches mentioned at the start of this Parknews involving the top three clubs, but elsewhere **Caldly's** 27-22 win over **Darlington Mowden Park** leaves Mowden with only **Plymouth Albion** (who didn't play) below them, the only two sides

to have lost all five matches. Just above them are **Leeds Tykes**, who were favourites for relegation but seem to be improving every week as evidenced by a narrow 21-17 defeat at **Sale**. Elsewhere **Cambridge** won by 32-7 at **Birmingham Moseley**, while **Chinnor** beat **Blackheath** 34-28 to leave 'Club' with a solitary win while keeping Chinnor in touch with the leaders with a game in hand.

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 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 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.

