



ISSUE 14 Season 2021-22

27 October 2021

# UNBEATEN LEADERS VISIT THIS WEEK

**Welcome to Parknews** This weekend sees an absolutely vital home match when the league-leaders **Cinderford** visit the Rock. The Forest of Dean club are the only unbeaten club in National 1, a record they maintained last Saturday with some superb defending shutting out a late revival from **Taunton** to win by 26-21, claiming the 4-try bonus. That win took place while the defection of Old Elthamians left Park twiddling our thumbs without a match. Thus we are 10 points behind the leaders, who are on 38 points, but we have a match in hand. A good win for Park will put our destiny firmly back in our own hands, defeat would leave us with some catching up to do. The uncompromising Rugby traditions of the Forest of Dean mean there is no such thing as a physically easy match against any team from that hotbed of Rugby Union, and Saturday will be no exception. Cinderford do have an immensely strong pack, but let no one dismiss the skills and pace they possess outside of it. It should be a terrific game of Rugby. Please cancel whatever else you might have planned for Saturday and get along to the Rock to give Park your full-throated support. It could make all the difference.

Elsewhere, **Rams** lost 29-23 at **Darlington Mowden Park**, but emerged with two bonus points and so are 3 points ahead of us, but again we have a match in hand. **Sale** are in fourth place, 4 points behind us, after beating Bishops Stortford 32-14: they play away to Rams this Saturday. **Chinnor** lost a bit of ground after a surprise home defeat by **Cambridge**.

Whatever the final result on Saturday, Cinderford are a real community Rugby club, with whom we've enjoyed a good friendship over the years since we first met – off the pitch at least!! When we faced problems with a small group of local residents over our advertising boards – which threatened our future at the time – Cinderford were the one National One club who urged their own supporters to back us and sign our petition. That won't stop us from making every effort to inflict upon them their first defeat of the season, but let's make their travelling supporters and officials welcome.

If you are not a club member, you can book match tickets [here](#) in advance at the reduced price of £12.50. Admission on the day will be £15. Please bear in mind that even with the gates fully staffed our capacity to admit people really quickly is limited. Getting your ticket in advance helps speed up admission, but please do arrive early to ensure you don't spend too long in a queue with as a larger-than-usual attendance a distinct possibility. The Clubhouse will be open from noon. Indeed why not arrive early and support the other Park teams who will be strutting their stuff on the 4G this Saturday. At noon the **Nomads** play **Battersea Ironsides** in the Surrey Championship and, after the Cinderford match at 5:00PM our **B XV** have a Middlesex Merit Premier match against **London Welsh Druids**. Three matches for the price of one! To make a complete day of it, at Roehampton Uni our two table-topping **netball** teams in the Kingston League have morning matches. At 10:00 **Rosslyn Park Reds** play **Teddington Club B** in Division 5, while at 11:30 **Rosslyn Park Blues** play **Seymours D** in Division 12. Your support would be very welcome, admission is free.

## Last weekend

Last weekend started on Friday evening with a **Rangers** (second XV) fixture against a useful **Esher Cardinals** side, Park winning by 21-12. There's a match report later in this Parknews, but the match certainly underlined the strength in depth of our senior squad, even though we had to juggle players a bit to put out a full matchday squad. There were a few familiar faces who haven't been seen in the First XV for a while



Curtis Barnes out-sprints the Esher defence on Friday evening  
[[Photo: © Isabelle Lovell]]

Future events  
Saturday 30 October  
Curtain Raiser

## Nomads v Ironsides 3

Surrey Championship  
Home: KO 12:00

Top of the table clash

## 1st XV v Cinderford

National 1  
Home 3:00PM

book advance tickets from the [Match Centre](#)

## B XV v L Welsh Druids

Middlesex Merit Premier  
Home KO 5:00PM

## Barnes v Park Rangers

Raging Bull League  
Away KO 7:45

## London Cornish 2 v 4s

Middlesex Merit Premier  
Away KO TBC

Netball

## Park Reds v Teddington

Kingston League Div 5  
Home (Roehampton Uni) start: 10:00

## Park Blues v Seymours

Kingston League Div 12  
Home (Roehampton Uni) start: 11:30

having a run out in a very entertaining match, full of enterprising Rugby.

Saturday didn't start very well at all. With 10 minutes to the start of the match, the person with the keys to the Roehampton Uni netball courts still hadn't turned up! Fortunately one of the girls managed to find a security man with bolt cutters to shear off the padlock and the game went ahead just a few minutes late. That was the only hold up for **NC Rosslyn Park** in their match with **Fairlands A** as they recorded another victory in the top division of the Surrey League (report further on). Soon after, back at the Rock, the **Fours** had a nightmare start against **Hammersmith & Fulham** but clawed their way back into a match that was thoroughly entertaining. Eventually they lost by 31-50 (Will Thorogood reports inside). The **B XV** travelled to the City to play **HAC**, losing by 14-48.

## Esher Cardinals 12 Park Rangers 21 Raging Bull League



[Photo: © Isabelle Lovell]

The Rangers were sufficiently short on numbers that DoR Kieran Power had to declare himself for the bench, and two hookers – Tom Vaughan-Edwards and Karl Gibson - played as flankers, but Park were still fairly comfortable winners over a very useful Esher second string.

If Esher had more of the ball in the early stages they were rendered unable to make much use of it against some tenacious and well-organised defending. It took a while for Park to settle into attacking mode, but pretty much as soon as they did, on 13 minutes, lock Ben Kirby forced himself over the Esher line, Owen Waters adding the extra two points for 7-0.

Park increased that lead with a good move that started on the right, swept across to the left and a kick ahead saw winger Curtis Barnes outpace the defence to a ball kicked past them. Waters was again on target for 14-0.

A big drive from the Park pack brought a penalty, but eventually the ball was lost. Playing his first match in a long time, at number 8,

THE KILLIK CUP DOUBLE HEADER  
**BARBARIANS**  
**v SAMOA**  
TWICKENHAM | 27 NOV | KO 2:30PM  
ADULTS from £35 KIDS £15 **TICKETMASTER**  
TICKET INCLUDES  
BARBARIAN WOMEN v SPRINGBOK WOMEN'S XV  
KO 5:15PM

THE KILLIK CUP DOUBLE HEADER  
**BARBARIAN WOMEN**  
**v SPRINGBOK WOMEN'S XV**  
TWICKENHAM | 27 NOV | KO 5:15PM  
ADULTS from £35 KIDS £15 **TICKETMASTER**  
TICKET INCLUDES  
BARBARIANS v SAMOA  
KO 2:30PM

### BARBARIANS DOUBLE HEADER AT TWICKENHAM

Get 10% online discount on adult tickets

The world-famous Barbarians are back and will take on Samoa this autumn at Twickenham for the Killik Cup on Saturday 27th November – 2.30pm Kick Off. Rosslyn Park RFC are able to offer members a special sponsor 10% discount on all adult match tickets.

The Barbarians will be jam packed with stars from across the globe and look forward to welcoming fans back to live matches, for what always promises to be an electric game of International Rugby. So, anticipate some big hits, lots of skills on show, a thrilling game of rugby and a fun filled day out with friends and family guaranteed.

Australia Head Coach, Dave Rennie and Wales Assistant Coach, Jonathan Humphreys will take charge of the Barbarians and three experienced world class players have also been confirmed recently, the Argentine former Captain, Pablo Matera and Springboks Duane Vermeulen and Malcolm Marx.

A day of high-octane international rugby is expected at Twickenham in this historic double header event, with Barbarian Women taking on a Springboks Women's XV following the men's match at 5.15pm.

The ticket price includes both matches and are selling fast, with a big crowd expected. Secure your seats early and be part of the action from \*£35 for adults and kids \*£15.

Visit: [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)

Visit: [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk) and click on the links below or above to get your 10% discount. (\*booking fees apply)

Mike Macfarlane has clearly kept himself fit and has reportedly said that he will make himself available as often as work allows.

Park were now well in command and producing some promising attacks, none more so than a run of blistering pace on the left wing



Timi Opleade shows his pace  
[Photo: © Isabelle Lovell]

by Barnes.

Esher had their first real sortie into the Park 22 and Park drove them back to mount their own attack up the left before half-time intervened.

Park were good value for a 14-0 lead at the interval and started the second period in adventurous fashion taking a quick tap from a penalty on half way. The one achilles heel that stopped several promising moves was a propensity to concede penalties at the breakdown. It was not clear from the stand what was wrong, but there was clearly something irking the referee and you have to play to the laws as he interprets them.



[Photo: © Isabelle Lovell]

Barnes beat two defenders by sheer pace before being halted by a full-length dive ankle tap from a third. His defensive qualities were not really tested in this match, but in attack he looks to have the searing pace to trouble defences at any level.

Esher began to get into the game as Park emptied the bench and got a try after 20 minutes when Park knocked on. Esher won the ball at the scrum and some good handling saw them score by the posts, converted for 14-7.

Full-back Will Foster took a neat catch behind his head and kicked on, but a defender got there first for an Esher drop-out.

Park kicked a penalty to the corner and drove over for hooker Charlie Piper to score, converted by Waters for 21-7.

Twice Park launched good attacks up the right only to get penalised

just as the score looked probable.

Esher nearly went in at the corner but the attack was stopped at the cost of a yellow card for Harry Leonard, taking one for the team, and Park were able to deal with the consequent penalty and throw. But Esher did eventually add to their tally with a good try, working the ball across the pitch from left to right, scoring wide of the posts for 21-12.

It was Park who finished on the attack with the pack pressing almost to the line. The ball was released and thrown wide but found touch, bringing an end to proceedings.

**Park:** Will Foster; Timi Opleade, Matty Edwards, Harry Leonard, Curtis Barnes; Owen Waters; James Brookes; Sam Garvey, Charlie Piper, Nick Lovell; Will Burton, Ben Kirby; Karl Gibson, Tom Vaughan-Edwards, Mike Macfarlane.

**Bench:** Josh Rasor, Kieran Power, Max Lowdett, Sam King, Olli Rosillio, Zak Chukwumaka, C Stegman

## Photos

The Rangers 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

An "early" start on Saturday, with the 4's entertaining H&F 2's in their Middlesex Merit Premier League match. A 12.30 kick off, which I suppose is a reasonably civilised hour, but maybe not for a slumbering IV's. Players were still arriving 10 minutes before kick off, rubbing the sleep from their eyes and swapping their pyjama tops for their red and white hoops! zzzz 😴

Not an ideal start or pre-match prep, which H&F 2's quickly took advantage of. Within the first 20 mins we had conceded three H&F tries, but at about the 25 minute mark the 4's finally decided to stir and started to exert some pressure on the Hammersmith line, with better constructed moves. 2 goals to us from close quarters, but Hammersmith responded with a couple more tries, after we had kept on kicking to one of those counter-attacking, elusive and leggy fullbacks (you know the type). Missed tackles and grasping at fresh air lead to the inevitable concessions! Well, at half time, IV's 14 H&F 29, I believe. Trying to keep the score, whilst running (plodding) touch isn't the easiest, well for me at least.

Reveille must have been sounded at the half time team talk, and maybe a "hair dryer" lecture from skipper Will Orson. A game of two halves, for an alert, more creative 4's appeared on the second half stage. We had much more possession and created many more diverse attacking



Park Fours on the attack against Hammersmith & Fulham last Saturday

situations, and clawed our way back to a 31-36, margin. Quite exciting, in fact, and H&F were worried. However, in the last 5 to 10 minutes, we seemed to run out of that "second wind", and gave away a couple of late tries. No disgrace, but I think lessons will be learned from this game, and an improved pre-match preparation, avoid the oppo strengths, make your tackles, and work more as a unit. No doubt the potential is there. Final score, again I think, was IV's 31 H&F 50?



The B's made the trip to EC1, City Road to play the Honourable Artillery Company at their HQ. An oasis in the middle of a concrete jungle. All I have is a result, but no match details, I'm afraid. B's 14 HAC 2's 48. Luke did say HAC deserved their win, but the scoreline should have been closer.

Games this Saturday: Nomads v Battersea Ironsides 3's Home ko 12pm Surrey Championship; B's v L.Welsh Druids Home ko 5pm MMT Premier; 4's v L.Cornish 2's Away MMT Premier.

### Park Netball

Another successful morning for NC Rosslyn Park last weekend with a handsome win over Fairlands in the Surrey League Division A. It was a very entertaining match from beginning to end.

### NC Rosslyn Park 47 Fairlands A 24

Surrey League Div A

**Park starting line-up:** GK- Anna Whadcock, GD- Faye Brown, WD- Charlotte Miller (C), C- Hazel Cochrane, WA- Francesca Bennett, GA- Milly Marsh, GS- Tara Ellis

**Subs-** Hannah McNally; Vicky Nash; Beth Hunt

Riding high off the back of a win last time on court vs



Tara Ellis (GS) shooting

Whitton, Match 5 for the Surrey squad saw a must win contest against Fairlands, who are currently sitting at the bottom of the Prem A division.

Park started fast, making numerous turnovers in defence giving plenty of opportunities for the attack to convert. At the Q1 break, Park led by 10 (14-4).



NC Rosslyn Park on the attack against Fairlands last Saturday Beth Hunt (GA) looking to Faye Brown (GD)



Milly Marsh (GA) passing the ball to Fran Bennett (WA)

Q2 and Q3 saw Park make changes, bringing on fresh legs and taking the opportunity to try different combinations that we haven't yet been able to this season, extending the lead little by little- scores 23-11 (Q2) and 34-21 (Q4).

The final quarter, Park really started to pull away, the midcourt players finding Goal Shooter, Tara Ellis, with ease and the circle defensive duo of Anna Whadcock and Charlotte Miller took plenty of clean intercepts, frustrating the Fairlands attack. Holding a team to 24 goals in a match is no mean feat with every member of the squad contributing throughout. An important win for Park before a month off- Final score: Park 47 - 24 Fairlands.



Beth Hunt (GA) shooting

### Injury Trust lunch

Before this Saturday's match with Cinderford we stage the Annual Lunch in which the monies raised go to the Rosslyn Park Injury Trust, which supports sports people whose injuries need specialist care or equipment. We believe it is unique in the Rugby world, started to support a player who sustained life-changing injuries in the National Schools 7s, it has subsequently provided valuable help for people from a wide variety of sports. You can book a place at

the lunch [here](#) in the knowledge that you are helping a very worthwhile cause.

### Menu

Mackerel Pate with Cucumber Relish

or

Red Pepper, Feta and Caper Salad (Vegetarian)

Guinness & Beef Casserole Mashed Potatoes and a panache of vegetables

or

Butternut Squash, Sage and pepper Wellington served with sweet potato mash and steamed greens (Vegetarian)

Chocolate Eclairs

### Away travel

We have two away matches in November: **Birmingham Moseley** on 13th and **Caldy** on 27th. Moseley 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, though it's not cheap if there are not a few to share. Alternatively, buses 2 and 3 from the nearby Park Street bus stand go to Billesley common very close to the ground. Either way the traffic is usually a nightmare so leave plenty of time. If you're happy to miss the joys of central Birmingham and just want to see the match, you could book to Yardley Wood station which is just about walkable to the ground (just very slightly more than a mile). For that you need to make the short walk interchange from Birmingham New Street to Moor Street station which is clearly signposted. The journey is a maximum of 15 minutes with trains leaving at 10 and 30 past the hour (returning at 05 and 45). From Yardley Wood it is a straightforward walk to the ground. There are no decent hostelries in the area for your refreshment near the ground (unless – as a Moseley supporter memorably advised – you want lager, Sky sports and a fight on the way out) but the clubhouse at the ground serves food and a decent pint and is invariably very friendly.

For **Caldy** we have found that the best route is to get to Liverpool Lime Street and then go down to the metro interchange and take the metro to West Kirby, which is roughly 2 miles from the ground (the rail planner may suggest a route via Chester). There is an 82 bus from West Kirby station that runs to Telegraph Road, which is about 400 yards from the ground at 12:02 and 14:02, but it is so infrequent that a cab will be your best bet. There is also a frequent bus service (430 or 437 from the centre of Liverpool (Union Court, just off Cook Street) to and from West Kirby station. For refreshments, turn right out of the station and a few yards along is the West Kirby Tap which serves decent food and a good pint.

It's not until 08 January, but don't waste time planning a visit to **Leeds Tykes** new ground. They are paying Park the compliment of hiring the Headingley Stadium for that particular match, kicking off at 2:30PM.

### 400 club

The latest winners are - Tom Blake £100, Joan Barclay £50 and Simon Henderson £25. If you would like to help your club while having a chance to win some spare cash each month then please contact Boothy in the club office.

### 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](#).

## 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](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.

