



ISSUE 20

Season 2021-22

08 December 2021

# PARK HOLD OUT TO GO 6 POINTS CLEAR

**Welcome to Parknews** Park stretched their lead at the top of National One to six points after a truly Titanic tussle with the third club – Chinnor – on Saturday. It was a narrow victory by a single point in an immensely physical match that will see both coaches nervously waiting to assess the damage at training this week. Chinnor came to the Rock unbeaten away from home and having claimed the 4-try bonus point in every one of those matches, and they certainly earned the 2 points they got from this one. However, your correspondent would resist the suggestion that Park were “lucky” to prevail. We have played two other tantalizingly close matches at the Rock this season (14-13 v Bishops Stortford and 20-15 v Sale). The common factor in all three matches is that we found a collective resolution to hold out and win. It is a tribute to the team spirit that the coaches, and the players themselves, have established and long may it continue.

It was a solid team performance, but there has to be a man-of-the-match all the while someone is willing to sponsor it and few (outside of the pack anyway!) would argue with it going to Phil Cokanasiga. His brilliant second try was worth the admission money on its own. But the result underlined the importance of having a dependable kicker. Craig Holland converted all four tries and two of them would have challenged any kicker at any level in the game. Chinnor’s kicker is the league’s top scorer and kicked three out of five (one a penalty) and they were no more difficult than Craig’s. It was the difference in points between the two teams.

Cinderford still lie second in the league on 47 points to Park’s 53. They did not play last Saturday, so we no longer have a game in hand over them. Sale leapfrog over Chinnor into third on 42 points to Chinnor’s 41 after a 24-0 win over Birmingham Moseley. Caldys’ 31-20 away win at Bishops Stortford takes them fifth on 38, while Rams surprise home defeat against Blackheath drops them to sixth on 36. It used to be said that you cannot win promotion from National 1 once you lose four games. If that was still true, only ourselves Cinderford, Sale and Caldys would be in with a shout before the season is even half done. But with probably the most evenly balanced National One ever, and the number of promotion places still unknown, it’s still a case of fighting for every point you can get.

Elsewhere, the Fours went down 8-60 to London Welsh Druids in Middlesex Merit Premier. The Nomads won away to Guildford 2 by 48-7 in the Surrey Championship and the B XV won a hastily arranged friendly against a Hammersmith & Fulham XV by 34-27. There are more details of these matches in Will Thorogood’s Clubsides report later.

## This weekend

On Saturday we travel to our old friends at Cambridge, and it would be really good to see and hear some solid Park support at this (relatively) local away match. Cambridge are having a bit of an in-and-out season with some good results and some poor ones. They recently ended a seven match unbeaten run that included beating Chinnor away by losing at home to Leeds. As inconsistent as ever, last Saturday they were winning 26-12 away at Taunton with just three minutes to go, only to ship two converted tries and have to settle for a 26-26 draw. A commendable result in itself, but... However, particularly at their own ground they usually seem to raise their game when Park arrive, so we shall need to arrive with our A-game. Few who were there will forget the absolute stinker we played there a couple of years back: Park were so poor in the first half that Kieran kept them out on the pitch at half time! **Bear in mind that kick off is at 2:00PM.** But at least some of our supporters will be arriving a bit earlier than that because from noon Cambridge are staging their annual seasonal Beer Festival, with hog roast available for those needing to take on ballast. Our former centre, Andrew Henderson is now playing at Cambridge. Doubtless we shall have a plan to contain



Park on the attack in Saturday’s thriller against Chinnor

**Future events**  
**Friday December 10**

## Rangers v Richmond Saxons

Raging Bull League  
Home KO 8:00PM

**Saturday December 11**

## Cambridge v 1st XV

National 1  
Away KO 2:00PM

## B XV v Fours

Middlesex Merit Premier  
Home KO 4:00PM

## Law Society 2 v Nomads

Surrey Championship  
Away KO TBC

**Netball**

## NC Rosslyn Park v Hampton A

Surrey League A  
Home (Roehampton Uni) Start 10:00

**Next 1st XV home match**  
**Saturday December 18**

## 1st XV v Tonbridge Juddians

National 1  
Home KO 3:00PM  
Match tickets and lunch bookings available now on the website

him on the field – but after the match if you intend to stay on for the beer festival don't get involved in any drinking games with him!!

Cambridge play at Volac Park, Grantchester Road, Cambridge, CB3 9ED. By car it's fairly straightforward: from M11, J12, take (A603) to Cambridge. Take 1st right into Grantchester Road (opp. Wolfson College). Ground 300m on right, just past the last house. By train there is no need to book in advance as the Cheap Day Return fare is usually the cheapest. The service from Kings Cross is quicker than that from Liverpool Street, but if you are handily placed for the tube it might be more convenient to take the Victoria Line to Tottenham Hale and change there to the Liverpool Street service. The ground is a walk of about 2.4 miles from the station. Our regulars would normally tend to gravitate to the town centre and get a cab from there, but unless you are making a day of it then, by cab, the station is closer to the ground than the town centre is, and it usually has a plentiful supply of cabs. There is not a convenient bus connection: you either have to walk half the distance anyway or change buses. If you decide to take a cab make sure the driver knows you want the Cambridge RUFC ground in Grantchester Road, otherwise you might well end up being taken to the Cambridge University ground in Grange Road.

If you are fit and it's a decent day there is a very pleasant stroll to the ground going behind the university botanic gardens and across Coe fen (and passes a decent country pub) which is described in detail in Google maps if you input 'walk from Cambridge station to Grantchester Road'.

Before that, on **Friday night** the **Rangers** have an attractive home local Derby against **Richmond Saxons** in the Raging Bull League. Please do come down and support the team, admission is free and the clubhouse will be open. However, it was a very physical match against Chinnor last weekend and it seems inevitable that we'll have to check at training how many fit players we have available, as we need a fully fit bench and a couple of travelling reserves to travel to Cambridge the following day. We'll send out a tweet before noon on Friday if the match has to be postponed.

At home on **Saturday**, the **Park** netballers take on **Hampton A** in the Surrey League A in the morning (10:00 start) at Roehampton Uni on Roehampton Lane. Admission is free, entrance is the Froebel building next to Clarence Lane and follow the road down. **At the Rock** we have our very own local Derby at 4:00PM with the **B XV** locking horns with the **Fours** in Middlesex Merit Premier. Again, it's free admission with bar open.

## Match report

### Park 28

### Chinnor 27

National 1



A really tense match between two excellent teams took a while to settle after a succession of nervous errors, scrums and injury breaks. Park, with the wind at their backs, were first to settle. A penalty on half way was floated to the Chinnor 22 by Craig Holland but the resulting throw failed to stick. Park looked to have scored when a Holland kick ahead crossed the line, followed up by Ben Howard but the ball just went dead, giving Chinnor a drop-out to clear.

However, on 16 minutes Park made the vital breakthrough, through several phases looking for an opening and Phil Cokanasiga spotted it and scythed through the visiting defence to score wide of the posts. An excellent conversion kick from Holland made it 7-0.

Only four minutes later it was Cokanasiga again, this time with an individual effort right out of the top drawer as he showed superb pace, strength and balance to run past and through Chinnor's defences and touch down. Another good conversion from Holland and it was 14-0 on 20 minutes.

Chinnor looked to be on the rack, but proved too good a team to just lie down and forced their way back into the match. After a knock-on at the restart a penalty kicked to the corner saw them put the home defence under immense pressure with a series of pick-and-drives before skipper Caolan Ryan forced his way over to touch down next to the posts. The League's top scorer James Bourton added 2 points to his tally with the conversion for 14-7 on 24 minutes.



Park always looked dangerous whenever the backs strung a move together, never more so than when Nick Scott scythed through the middle but his pass was knocked on, but generally some tough tackling from both sides saw defences on top. It was Chinnor who broke the deadlock six minutes before the interval, again driving at the home defence before releasing out wide for winger Oscar Heath to plunge over in the corner. The wide conversion into the wind was too much for Bourton – 14-12.

Two points looked a desperately narrow margin with which to face the elements in the second half. Park set about their task and won a penalty, hoofed to the corner. Park set up a massive maul and drove over for prop Austin Hay to dot down. Another brilliant conversion from Holland saw Park ready to face the wind in the second half with a 21-12 lead.

Only five minutes in and Park were penalized more or less in front of their own posts for Bourton to reduce the lead to 21-17, less than a converted try.

Park rose to the challenge, gaining a penalty, put to the corner by Holland to set up the catch -and-drive. Park set up a terrific maul which Chinnor defended superbly, but Park did not relent and eventually flanker Arthur Ellis got over on 51 minutes, Holland again converting for 28-15.

A great run by Luke Baldwin nearly sent Cokasiga to his hat-trick but Chinnor defended well. Then a another run by Henry Robinson looked like causing trouble.

Chinnor – unbeaten away from home – threw everything they had at Park. It became a relentless physical battle. Park had the more creative back division, but met with some super defensive tackling. It was the visitors who scored next after pummeling the Park line it was hooker Morgan Venness who breached the line, Bourton converting for 28-22 with 23 minutes remaining.

There were heart-stopping moments for supporters of both sides. For the last few minutes Park desperately defended their lead. With 5 minutes to go Chinnor looked really dangerous in front of Park's posts but were forced to concede a penalty. But just as Park looked to have escaped back came Chinnor to score through full back Will Millett, reducing the lead to a single point at 28-27 On 77 minutes. But to an audible sigh of relief the conversion attempt went wide of the posts and Park were able to play down the clock and claim a famous victory.

**Park: Team (15-9/1-8): Henry Robinson (C), Benji Marfo, Nick Scott, Phil Cokanasiga, Ben Howard, Craig Holland, Luke Baldwin; Kyle Traynor, Jared Saunders, Austin Hay, Dylan Flashman, Jamie Gray, Jordan Martin, Arthur Ellis, Dan Laventure**

**Bench: Charlie Piper, Ollie Dawe, Nick Lovell, Dave Lewis, Brandon Jackson**



## Clubsides

*Will Thorogood reports* After the 1's "Chinnor Thriller", it was going to be a hard act to follow for the 4's against the Druids (London Welsh 2's) in their MMT Premier battle. The floodlit 4's cohorts marched out, not to Anglesey, onto the 4G to face this Celtic sect. The skirmish commenced, and for the first half this was a very even, tactical encounter. In fact, the 4's had most of the possession and territory, and the 4's heavy brigade dominated up front. We were first on the board with a penalty and a well worked try, but unluckily a Druidic counter attacking breakout from deep and an interception, also from deep, resulted in a couple of Welsh tries.

The momentum was still with the lads. However, this was broken by a lengthy injury stoppage to one of the oppo ((thanks to Chris Jones, duty physio, and Mr Nick Goddard FRCS, our illustrious President, dragged from the bar, again (I'm not after Brownie Points, honest) for their medical attention, care and advice to the Welsh casualty)). After that, the halftime score was 4's 8 Druids 12. The game was set for an interesting second half?!..

Whether it was the effect of the earlier stoppage, the cold, our or the Welsh fitness, and some Druidic incantations, the 4's were spellbound, and overwhelmed by a constant Welsh surge. I won't go into detail, and the 4's never yielded, but the Welsh just upped their game by several gears. A lot of tries to none in the end ensued in favour of the Welsh. If you don't want to know the score, please look away now...8-60.

This is a very competitive league, and the roll of the dice of the league schedule has meant the 4's have played the top two sides in consecutive weeks. Do not despair, stout Yeomen of the 4's, we have all been there at one time another, but we do bounce back! The Nomads made the trip down the A3 to play their rearranged "double header" (winner takes all), facing Guildford 2's in their Surrey Championship match. I don't have match details, but the Nomads' good form continued, and they came out with a 48-7 win. Well done! Hooray. You must be scaling the heights of the league table with that result, but keep your feet firmly on the ground?!

The B's ended up playing a Hammersmith&Fulham Combo XV down at Hurlingham Park, over the water and inside the new ULEZ area (I hope they didn't have to pay), in a quickly arranged friendly.

Scheduled MMT league oppo, Old Habs 2's, had to cancel on us. Anyway, it sounds as if the B's had a good game, against an always competitive club, and had a close 34-27 win.

Games for 10th and 11th December. Rangers v Richmond Vikings Home ko 8pm.

Saturday 11th: B's v 4's Home on 4G ko 4pm. MMT Prem. Big local derby game. Nomads v Law Society 2's Away Surrey Championship.

## Minis and Youth

There will be a Kicking masterclass at the Rock on 22nd December from 10-2pm, aimed at ages 9-15, with premiership rugby stars attending!!! To book please head to [www.aelitesports.com](http://www.aelitesports.com)



## Netball

### Park Kingston Reds 43

### Actonians B 25

#### Kingston League Div 5

**Park Line up:**, GS: Tash Eeles< GA: Laura Garnier, WA: Emily Heapey, C: Lucy Patterson, WD: Kila O'Boyle, GD: Simone Quick, GK: Saskia Leppard

**Bench:** Abby Mahal, Charlotte Walker, Bella Murrison, Hannah Gilbert, Emily Sarsfield-Power

As the last game of 2021, the Reds team went onto court with a really positive attitude, looking to see the year off with a final win. We started the game off really strong and dominated possession all the way down the court. Despite trying a new combination in the circle, all of our attacking players really brought what we'd practiced in training onto court on Saturday to start the game with an absolutely storming first quarter. Tash Eeles, in particular, demonstrated some new techniques in the circle that got us off to a great start. We therefore managed to pull away in the first quarter with a 15-3 lead.

At half time, we made use of some fresh legs by making a number of substitutions, bringing on Abby Mahal, Emily Sarsfield-Power, Hannah Gilbert, Charlotte Walker and Arabella Murrison, as well as some other change of positions on court. Similarly, our opposition made a number of changes to their team which meant an unpredictable start to the second half. Thankfully, the Reds really embraced the change and used that high energy on court to our advantage. Another new combination in the attacking circle really paid off, as well as some great defensive play by our attack (specifically Bella Murrison) meant that we were able to keep the ball in the attacking third for the majority of the second half.

In addition, some fantastic work by our defence throughout the whole match meant that we finished the game at 43-25 - another

great win for the Reds. This is a fantastic way to end the year, but we're also sad to say goodbye to one of the original members of the Rosslyn Park netball club, Kila O'Boyle. Kila has been a key member of the club and we wish her all the best in her studies and hope she'll be joining us back at the clubhouse soon!

Home POM: Tash

Away POM: Lucy

Plus shout out performances from Emily Heappey, Hannah Gilbert and Laura Garnier - a full team performance!

## Kingston Blues 46

### Putney E's 27

#### Kingston League Div 12

**Park Line up:**, GS: Alice Feltham, GA: Tash Levy, WA: Maddie Dean, C: Hayley Birks, WD: Charlotte McDonough, GD: Jude Lewis, GK: Jess Turpin

**Bench:** Gabs Cross, Kate Hughes

Kingston blues kicked off their match against Putney on Saturday with a solid team consisting of Jess Gk, Jude GD, Charlotte WD, Hayley C, Maddie WA, Tash GA and Alice GS.

Score at the end of first quarter: 12-4 to Park. The first quarter started off strong for the blues. GA and GS worked well together in the circle with Alice having a strong hold, allowing some great shots. The defence was particularly strong for the first quarter, with GK getting multiple rebounds and turnovers in the opposition circle.

Score at the end of the second quarter: 27-12 to Park. The team went into the second quarter with the same team. This time the team were attacking into the direct sunlight, meaning feeds into the circle needed to be accurate by C and WA. Both of which played well together, focusing on space and swift movements. GS got some great over head balls which helped Park continue to lead the game.

Score at the end of third quarter: 37, 18. The third quarter saw a few changes in the line up. Maddie moved to WD, Tash to WA and Kate on as GA. The defence was strong around the opposing D, meaning that we got a good few rebounds. The game was calm and controlled. The blues focused on staying ball side which gave us more control in the game.

Score at the end of the game: 46, 27. In the final quarter the blues maintained their focus and reading of the court, allowing them to stay ahead. The defence did a sturdy job of bringing the ball down the court and allowing the attack to stay high for quick court play. WD got some great interceptions. Well played team.

Home POM: Kate Hughes

Away POM: Charlotte McDonough

## Away travel

It's certainly not too early to be getting cheaper rail tickets for **Leeds Tykes** on 08 January. The match will take place at Headingley Stadium, Kirkstall Lane, kicking off at 2:30PM. Leeds (from Kings Cross) is the station to book to, however **there are major rail works that weekend** and if the few through trains don't suit you, look at travelling via Sheffield from St Pancras. From there a cab takes about 15 minutes but if you're going straight to the match you are better catching the metro train onwards to Burley Park (Headingley station is further away and uphill). Burley Park Station is on the Harrogate Line and is less than half a mile walk from the ground. Trains run half hourly (29 and 59 past the hour) and should take around five minutes. From the station walk north on Chapel Lane and then turn left onto Newport Rd (about 130 yards) and left again onto Newport View. The road turns right and you should see the ground straight ahead. Return trains are at 13 and 43 past the hour. You could try booking straight through to Burley Park, but generally it is cheaper to book the main journey well in advance and then get a cheap day return to cover the local service. If you want a restorative pint near Leeds station before travelling on then the Hop, beneath the Arches of platform 17 is worth searching out - several ales from the Ossett brewery plus changing beers from the Ilkley, Rat and Thornbridge breweries. It's a long time since we visited, but if you're searching for a watering hole nearer the ground then the Cardigan Arms at 364 Kirkstall Road is recommended by



the CAMRA app, serving four different ales from the Kirkstall brewery, plus two guest ales.

That is followed by a short trip to **Bishops Stortford** on 29 January. Stortford play at Silver Leys, Hadham Road, CM23 2QE. By public transport Bishops Stortford is the nearest station, from London Liverpool Street (though if you are handy to the tube it will probably be easier to get the Victoria Line to Tottenham Hale and change there). A cheap day return purchased on the day is usually the best bet in terms of price. For those who prefer to make a day of it, there are some decent old pubs around the town but they don't open before noon, so need to rush. The ground is just about walkable from the station (about a mile and a half) but it isn't a very pleasant stroll so you're probably better to budget for cab. The club itself is a very friendly place with a decent clubhouse and salt-of-the-earth rugby people, but unless things have changed since our last visit there's no cover or seating, so do dress appropriately.

## Player Sponsorship

When Phil Cokanasige scored that fabulous try on Saturday (<https://twitter.com/i/status/1467925105456132100>) he wasn't sponsored, so potential sponsors missed out on the attendant publicity and seeing 'their' man later get Man Of the Match. Other players not yet sponsored include Charlie Piper - Hooker, Jamie Gray - lock, Luke Baldwin - Scrum Half, Nick Scott - Centre.

Player sponsorship is a great opportunity to be linked with a Rosslyn Park player and to follow his progress throughout the season.

You get:

PA announcement when your player scores a try  
Company logo/name against player profile in match-day programme

Company logo/name against player profile on website  
10 tickets for a 1st XV home game of your choice

Cost: £400 + VAT per player

If you are interested please contact Kenny Moore in the club office on 020 8876 1879 or mobile 07818 415 376

## Cardiac Monitoring

The club's new Cardiac Monitoring programme, available to all playing members, has drawn praise from throughout the sport and beyond. However, like everything else, it does take money to provide the service. Dom has written to members inviting them to take part in a raffle to help defray the costs of this important player welfare initiative.

### The Prizes

ALL of which are included in EVERY monthly draw  
£500

RP Kit Hamper

Two VIP tickets to the London Floodlit 7s in Corporate Marquee (Food & Drinks included)  
Training session with 1st XV coaching team for an age group

Meal for 4 at the [Hand in Hand, Wimbledon](#) (value £100 per meal)

Free of charge use of the Club House or Obolensky Bar for an event

Pre-match lunch for two people at a 1st XV match of winners choice

Mixed 6 Bottle Case of Wine

Plus from our wonderful Sponsors in the December Draw

Spoke London - £100 Voucher from Spoke of London

Serious Stuff - One Puffa Jacket or Festival Coat

FRANKE - A Coffee Machine worth £600.00

Train Inside Out - One Foundation Class plus One free class

Savills - £200.00 Fortnum & Mason Hamper

BMS - £200.00 Fortnum & Mason Hamper

Zest Property Services Domestic Boiler Service (worth £180+VAT)

Richmond Physiotherapy - Free Massage

Heineken - Bottle of Hendricks Gin (70cl)

Heineken - Magnum of Moet Chandon Champagne (worth £75.00)

Sambrook's Brewery - Special Christmas Box (worth £50.00)

Additional Prizes will be added weekly For the latest list of prizes and winners visit the [RPFC Raffle Giveaway page](#) on the website

Tickets cost just £50.00 and are for entry into all 3 draws

[BUY TICKETS ONLINE HERE](#)

**Terms and Conditions**

One ticket buys one entry into each raffle draw. The first raffle will be drawn on the 31st December 2021, the second raffle will be drawn on the 31st January 2022 and the third raffle will be drawn on the 28th February 2022. Prize winners will be randomly selected and notified in person and announced on all Rosslyn Park Media channels. Raffle prizes are final and cannot be exchange for any other prize or cash.

### 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.

**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>

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