



Issue 26

02 February 2022

Season 2021-22

# MAKE A DATE - FRIDAY AT EIGHT

**Welcome to Parknews** It was a bitterly disappointing day for the many of Park supporters who travelled to Bishops Stortford last Saturday. There is no disguising that it was a poor performance. It was a game we should have won – and it was certainly not a case of not taking the opposition seriously enough, though Stortford certainly looked nothing like a team with relegation worries. It was one of those days where almost everything we tried misfired. It happens to all teams – fortunately to ours less often than most. You may be assured that the players and coaches felt the defeat more keenly than anyone else, and will be working hard at training this week and focussing on this Friday evening when we play our “match in hand” at home to Tonbridge Juddians.

With some of the stunning performances the team have put in this season there is no reason that one poor one should in any way affect their confidence, but as supporters we can do our bit by getting solidly behind them. TJs may currently be the bottom club in the league – someone has to be! – but we know that there are no poor teams in National 1. Last week serves to underline the fact that a return to our very best may be necessary if we are to get the result we need to underline our promotion challenge.

The other results were not kind to us last weekend. **Caldy** boosted their own credentials with a 40-7 away win at **Darlington Mowden Park** and are now only five points behind us, subject to Friday’s match. Three points behind them are our next away opponents, **Sale**, who also won away, beating **Leeds Tykes** 17-13. **Cinderford** re-lit their own title bid with a 41-5 win over **Tonbridge Juddians** taking them within two points of Sale and two points behind them are Cambridge who won away at **Birmingham Moseley** by 21-10. We, of course, can only control what we can do – the prize is there to be taken if we perform consistently. That starts this Friday evening, and your solid vocal support can really help.

Friday night will be Tonbridge Juddians’ first visit to the Rock and, whilst playing on the Friday evening probably suits everyone, we are grateful to them for agreeing to the switch, which gets the International weekend off to a great start. TJs were founded in 1999, an amalgam of two much older clubs: Tonbridge, founded in 1904 and Old Juddians, founded in 1928. When a League structure was formed in 1987 Old Juddians were allocated to London 2 (South) finishing bottom of the table, while Tonbridge finished mid-table in Kent 1. The combined club started in London 2 (South) and dropped as far as London 4 (SE) before a run of success that really began in 2008, with this season the club joining National 1, the highest position in their history.

We should bid a particularly warm welcome to a TJ’s player who has immaculate Rosslyn Park credentials in the form of Matthew Foulds. Matt is the son of Stephen Foulds, an outstanding second row with our successful 1980s team, grandson of David Foulds a Park legend. Matt turned out for Park as a youngster, mainly playing in the second XV, but moved to spend our winter in Christchurch, New Zealand, to improve his game under a former Park star, Brad Mooar, who was then coaching Canterbury (and is now on the All-Blacks coaching staff). Matt prospered and when Brad moved to take over a top club in Spain he tempted Matthew to go with him and he qualified to become a full Spanish International. We wish Matt every success with the rest of his career on his return to these shores – after Friday evening!

It was a mixed bag for the Clubsides (see Will Thorogood’s column further on for more detail) in summary: The **Fours** won a cracking match on the 4G against London Cornish by 26-19; the **Nomads** lost by 48-10 at Battersea Ironsides and the **Bs** could not play London Welsh Druids due to the number of injuries. Unfortunately, as they are perfectly entitled to do, Welsh claimed a walkover rather than agreeing to re-schedule. Unfortunately, still no action for our **netballers**.

## Six Nations at the Rock

Whilst we do not have any live action at home on the pitch this weekend,

Hugo Ellis leads a Park attack  
[Photo: © Isabelle Lovell]



### Future events

Friday 04 February

**Friday night lights at the Rock**

**1st XV**

v

**Tonbridge Juddians**

National 1

Home KO 8:00PM

Bar open 5:00PM

Pre-match meal at 6:00PM

[Buy your match day, hospitality and parking tickets here](#)

Saturday 05 February

**In the Clubhouse**

**Six-Nations live on the big screen**

Bar open from 1:30

**Ireland v Wales**

Kick off 2:15PM

**Scotland v England**

Kick off 4:45PM

Saturday 12 February

**1st XV**

v

**Rams**

National 1

Home KO 3:00PM

the Clubhouse and bar will be open from 1:30 for all the televised 6-Nations action on the big screen. Why not bring your friends along to watch the Internationals in a real Rugby Club atmosphere? There's no admission charge, the drinks are cheaper than most local pubs and the bar income really does help the club in these difficult times.

### Apologies...

To those supporters who turned up early at Bishops Stortford expecting to see the Rangers play at 14:00. The information was correct at the time Parknews was posted on the website, and no one subsequently told us it had been called off! We'll try to ensure that we can get something out if that happens in future, but it can sometimes be very difficult, especially in these fraught times. It's always the case that one wants to give game time to the whole squad if at all possible, so it tends to be only after everything else has been tried to rescue a fixture that a match is reluctantly called off.

## Bishops Stortford 36 Park 24

National 1



Credit goes to relegation-threatened Bishops Stortford, who fought for everything and looked anything but candidates for the drop. But Park simply lost their way among a welter of penalties, yellow cards and handling errors. Neither side was aided by a strong gusty cross-wind.

In terms of possession and territory the visitors dominated the first half but seemed to get themselves into trouble as soon as they got into a scoring position, or some error would intervene. Park started by taking the game to their hosts, but were undone on four minutes when, completely against the run of play, a Stortford winger ran out of his own half, supported by scrum half Sam Bryan who raced away to hit Park with a sucker-punch of a try, leaving debutant fly half Alfie Orchard an easy conversion.

Park returned to do the lion's share of attacking but met with a stubborn and committed defence. Eventually the Park pack forced the situation for Dylan Flashman to score out wide, leaving Harry Leonard an impossible task from the tee. It looked as if Park were at last up and running.

It should perhaps have sounded a warning when Park were penalized at a scrum giving the hosts another chance, but they missed the kick. At the other end Park looked to have scored but were ruled as being held up. Eventually Benji Marfo broke the deadlock on 25 minutes, scoring at pace up the wing, but far enough out as to leave a conversion far too difficult in the strong wind. But Park had taken a 10-7 lead and there was every expectation they would pull away.

### 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>

Another penalty gave Stortford an attacking lineout, but they mis-handled. Park strung together a super move but spoiled it with a forward pass.



Stortford had their first really strong attacking period just on the interval. Park looked to have successfully resisted but the hosts won back possession after a penalty and left-wing Joss Linney broke two tackles to cross the line, Orchard converting for 14-10 at the interval. That was a blow, but there was every reason to think Park would soon pull things together.

In fact it went from bad to worse as Stortford's confidence grew and Park went down in a flurry of self-inflicted wounds.

It started well enough, but a chance was spoiled by infringing at a lineout. Then another went begging thanks to a stray pass. Barely 5 minutes from the restart Orchard made a clever kick for Linney to score for Stortford, extending the lead to 19-10.





The match was still winnable for Park. Another good chance went begging when again being penalized, then Kyle Traynor received a yellow card, but hope was rekindled on 58 minutes when a high tackle by Stortford saw a penalty hoofed to touch and the pack drove over with Charlie Piper claiming the score and Leonard converting for 19-17.

Things again swung against Park when a good move from the home side saw lock Henry Charter score, extending the lead to 24-17.



A further penalty against Park saw Jack Gash depart for the bin, apparently taking one for the team having only just entered the pitch. With less than 15 minutes remaining Stortford used the advantage of the extra man for Charter to score again for 29-17.

As the game entered its final 10 minutes Orchard launched a cross-kick to send winger Joss Stannard racing in to effectively put the win beyond doubt at 36-17.

That looked even more certain when the referee decided Hugo Ellis had overstepped the mark in terms of debating decisions and sent him to the bin as well.

However, to their credit, Park didn't just give up and at the death won a penalty, hoofed to touch, for the pack to drive over and Charlie Piper to touch down and claim the four-try bonus point which could yet prove vital at the end of the season.

**Park:** Henry Robinson, Benji Marfo, Nick Scott, Phil Cokanasiga, Craig Holland, Harry Leonard, Luke Baldwin, Kyle Traynor, Charlie Piper, Oisin Kearney, Dylan Flashman, Henry Spencer, Dan Laventure, Arthur Ellis, Hugo Ellis(C)

**Replacements:** Ollie Dawe, Austin Hay, Jordan Martin, Jack Gash, Josh Amadi

**Tries:** Spencer 15, Marfo 25', Piper 65' 77' **Conversions:** Leonard 65' 77'

**Sin Bins:** Traynor 52, Gash 65', Ellis 72

## Clubsides

Will Thorogood reports: There are no Clubside games this weekend (5/2/22).

Six Nations rugby takes centre stage this weekend, with matches being shown live in the Clubhouse, however do not forget that the 1's will be performing at the Rock on Friday evening, 8pm kick off, against Tonbridge Juddians, rearranged from 18th December. So, get your players, partners, companions and pooches down for a belated rearranged Xmas celebration! I'm not sure what the Rangers are doing, except their game on Thursday against Barnes is off.

**THE BOLENSKY ASSOCIATION DINNER**

23rd February 2022  
 Drinks reception at 6.45pm  
 Carriages at midnight  
 Rosslyn Park FC  
 Priory Lane, London  
 SW15 5JH

**£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  
 hannahborall@lifesearch.co.uk  
 0207 065 1054

In aid of the Rosslyn Park Injury Trust  
**Guest speaker to be announced**

## Fours 26 London Cornish 2s 19 Middlesex Merit Premier

Talking of pooches, last Saturday afternoon was a bit like Crufts, with pedigrees, Heinz 57 Varieties and other canine faithfuls, sporting club colours and supporting/barking the 4's on against London Cornish 2's in their MMT Premier basement battle. Thankyou, Tilly Orson 🐕🐕 and Luna Biltoo 🐕🐕, amongst others. Watch out Liverpool Spion Kop! You made the difference. Woof, woof. 🐕

This was an important game, and victory was vital for the 4's to ease the potential relegation pressure in this competitive league. Not quite a survival match, but every point gained is a life-line! Anyway, I don't know what the 4's had put in their porridge, but after an initial five minutes of sizing each other up and a little sparring, the 4's started to up the pace, finding gaps and creating overlaps. Suddenly, a deluge of tries of quick tries from Fred Ahern, Joe Seymour (x2), and, before long, the 4's were 19-0 ahead, and that's how it stayed until half time.

Was it too good to be true? Would the 4's run out of puff?

The second half saw Cornish switch on and the 4's switch off. An early, well worked try from Cornish, then a second to make it 19-14. 4's are getting worried. Game on.

However, a superb individual, weavily maze, "Jonny Mayesque" length of the pitch try from Gabs was converted to give the 4's some breathing space, 26-14.

Again, Cornish exerted considerable pressure, and we didn't help ourselves because of ill discipline and a yellow card, giving Cornish the opportunity of another late try, 26-19. However, after a few scares, frayed nerves and some resilient defence, the final whistle was blown as the ball was scrambled into touch. A sigh of relief and a well earned victory. 26-19. Bonus point acquired. Hooray!

A tense, sometimes scrappy, physical encounter but some of those latent skills did come to the surface. Hard work won, with a few smiles. Well played, gentlemen.

## Nomads

The Nomads had an early kick off down at Earlsfield at midday in their Surrey Championship game. Maybe, a bit too early, as it turned out not to be a good day at the office against Ironsides 3's. Ironsides 3's 48 Nomads 10. No details available. One of those days and the vagaries of Nomadic rugby life, I'm afraid, but they will bounce back, for sure.

Thanks must be given to Lord Weatherall for helping to access the Nomads' strip. The Nomads didn't have a key to the kit shed, but John saved the day, and the Nomads didn't have to play in skins, as much as they may have wanted to!

## B XV

The B's didn't play against L. Welsh Druids because of a growing injury list, and had to forfeit the fixture because Welsh didn't want to rearrange.

Clubs fixtures will resume on 12th February.

## Mini / Youth Rugby

The club will be hosting another of the popular and successful Rugby Camps on 16 & 17 February, aimed at ages 7-15. Details are given on the adjacent flyer. Book early to avoid disappointment.



## Save the Date

### Rosslyn Park Annual Awards Dinner

Where: The Rock

When: 30 April 2022

Attire: Dress to impress

More details and ticket details to follow, but you can register your interest with [cori.pinkus@rosslynpark.co.uk](mailto:cori.pinkus@rosslynpark.co.uk).

## Away travel

Get your (relatively) cheap advance tickets now for **Sale** on 19 February. Sale FC still play at their traditional home: Heywood Rd, Sale M33 3WB. Manchester Piccadilly is the station to book to, from where the Metro Tram service (about every 14 minutes) on the Altrincham line will take you close to the ground. Brooklands station (one stop past Sale) is a 300 metre walk to the ground but – if it is important to you – lacks a decent watering hole. If you alight at Sale there is a Wetherspoons pub close to the tram stop but it's a much longer walk to the ground (though you could get another tram to the next stop). The ground itself has a decent clubhouse BUT, last time we were there, no proper ale. Note to senior citizens: your Freedom Pass is not valid on the tram, you need to buy a ticket before you ride.

On Saturday 05 March we play away to our old friends **Cinderford**. By public transport it's best to get the train from Paddington to Gloucester, then a bus from the nearby bus station on to Cinderford (a cab weighs in at over £40). The bus takes around 40 minutes and runs every half-hour. If you are fortunate enough to hold a Freedom Pass then it is valid on the bus. More details nearer the time, but it is worth noting that the first return bus to Gloucester after the match arrives perilously close to the final whistle. With a 15:00 kick off a quirk in the bus timetabling has meant that if you miss this one it's an hour to the next. Fortunately the bus stop is just outside the ground.

Whilst Cinderford are capable of creating a hostile atmosphere on the field, as befits a true Forest of Dean club, off the field it's a lovely club to visit: a real community club with salt-of-the-earth rugby people. Our regulars usually arrive early to sample a couple of decent town pubs in Gloucester before progressing to the ground, but there's nothing at all wrong with the clubhouse which has 3 bars. Admission is by an arm band that you buy just inside

the clubhouse.

After Cinderford we have three fairly local away matches remaining: **Blackheath** on 26 March, **Chinnor** on 09 April and **Tonbridge Juddians** on 23 April.

## A tour to savour

Our former player, and now a club sponsor, Duncan Sambrook, has recently opened for conducted tours the Heritage Centre at his eponymous brewery on the old Young's site at Wandsworth. With beer being brewed there since at least the 1530s it is London's – and almost certainly the UK's – oldest site on which beer has been continuously brewed, which fits neatly with Sambrooks being now London's longest established independent brewery (after Fullers being sold off). So a small group of Park supporters decided to take a tour last Thursday evening...and were mightily impressed.



We met up in the brewery's Taproom, which sells the full range of Sambrooks' beers in – as you would expect – excellent condition. They also do a mean pizza should anyone decide that an intake of blotting paper might be a sensible precursor to events.

At 7:00PM on the dot we were ushered to the Heritage Centre to meet our guide: former Youngs Head Brewer and noted raconteur, John Hatch, who poured us each a glass of quite outstanding ale that he had brewed himself in his microbrewery on the site. John proceeded to give a fascinating talk about various beer styles. He also has encyclopaedic knowledge of the brewing process and a fund of stories of various incidents at the site over the years (not all strictly to do with brewing!).

As we progressed around the Centre, we paused to sample a fine glass of porter and view some interesting artefacts at various locations. The tour is scheduled to last an hour; ours lasted 15 minutes longer and the time flew by. At the end tokens were imparted that could be used at the bar and we were conducted back to the Taproom, where a pleasant evening was had by all.

Highly recommended for anyone with an interest in beer. You can book a tour on the Sambrooks website: <https://www.sambrooksbrewery.co.uk/pages/heritage-centre-and-tours>

As this Parknews went to press, a remarkable coincidence: the results of the Park Raffle Giveaway were published, and one of our number won 10 places on a future tour. He will not be short of willing mates!

## Club Membership offers for the remainder of this season 2021/22

- Half Season Memberships now available

Single Full Non-Playing Membership now only £100.00 until the end of the season

Includes 7 Home games  
Complimentary Match day Programme  
10% off Loyalty Bar Card  
Exclusive invite to events

**Ripley Membership** now only £500.00 until the end of



the Season

- 3 Full Membership cards
- Complimentary Match day programme
- Complimentary pre-match lunch for one game for yourself

and two friends

- Includes 7 Home games
- 15% off Loyalty Bar Card
- Exclusive invite to events
- Exclusive Ripley Cap and Scarf

- London Broncos have kindly offered our Members the opportunity to watch them play this season for £1.00. Applicable to the following games - Widnes on the 30th January 2022 and Whitehaven on the 13th February 2022. A limited number of tickets will be made available for £1.00 per ticket. Please keep an eye out as we will be sending details directly to onhow to book.

### Player Sponsorship

**Now only £200.00 + VAT for the rest of the Season**

There are still some players yet to be sponsored this season. If you or your company would like to join the band of player sponsors then please contact Kenny Moore in the club office on 020 8876 1879 or mobile 07818 415 376

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: £200 + VAT per player

### 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>

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.

**Don't miss Rosslyn Park's next home game! Under the floodlights this Friday Evening**  
Rosslyn Park vs Tonbridge Juddians  
Friday 4 February 2022  
Kick off at 8.00PM  
[Buy your match day, hospitality and parking tickets here](#)



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**OUR REMIT IS TO DELIVER THE BEST POSSIBLE PRODUCT**



**OUR INTENT IS FUNDAMENTALLY ENGRAINED IN OUR PROCESS**

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