



Issue 28

16 February 2022

Season 2021-22

PARK SUFFER FIRST HOME DEFEAT

Welcome to Parknews Park suffered their first home defeat of the season on Saturday to see their lead at the top of the table cut to seven points, as each of our five main rivals won. There are no hard luck stories, on the afternoon Park played poorly and Rams were the better side, having clearly done their homework on how to stop us playing our normal game. Perhaps it was the pressure beginning to bite, but Park made some uncharacteristic handling errors, allied to a propensity to leak penalties in contact. It really denied us any real continuity. The fast, flowing handling movements that have seen Park put teams to the sword at the Rock this season were strangely absent. You can only play as well as your opponents allow, and Rams were a very good side. But were they really *that* good?

It was undoubtedly an off day for Park. These happen during a long season. But it is important to regroup and keep faith with the excellent Rugby that has taken us to the top of the table in the first place. This Saturday we face a potentially even trickier prospect with the long trip to Sale, who sit third in the table. Their only home defeat has been to second-placed Caldy (21-26). They come off a 7-try (50-40) away win at Taunton last week and clearly present a potent threat.

This weekend

Our old friends Sale are possibly the club best placed to take up the title challenge should Park falter. They got off to a poor start away from home, losing their first three away matches at Chinnor, Tonbridge Juddians and Rosslyn Park. They gave us plenty to think about in that earlier match at the Rock, running in three tries in a narrow 20-15 defeat. Since then their only defeat on the road has been a 17-14 reversal at Cambridge. Six of their nine remaining fixtures are at home.

Whenever we have visited Heywood Road we have been met by all-out attacking Rugby, and there is no reason to believe that Saturday's visit will be any different. It would be a real boost to the team to get some solid vocal support up there. The address of the ground is: Heywood Rd, Sale M33 3WB. The match kicks off at 14:30. 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.

One fact you may want to bear in mind when deciding when to move towards the ground is that Manchester United kick off at home at 3:00PM that afternoon, and Old Trafford (outside the cricket ground) is one of the tram stops en route to the Sale ground. You may think it sensible to not hang around too long after the match if you want to avoid the soccer traffic in returning to the town centre.

On **Friday evening** the **Rangers** home League match against **Brunel University**, has unfortunately had to be postponed to later in the season as Brunel are unable to play on this date. The **B XV** are due to be at home on the 4G at 2:00PM on Saturday against **Chiswick 2** in Middlesex Merit Premier and would welcome support. The Clubhouse will be open for that. The **Nomads** are due away at **Old Reigatians**.

Both our Netball teams in the Kingston League are away, but would very much appreciate a shout if you are in the area. The **Reds** are playing **Teddington B** at Stanley Primary School, Strathmore Road, Teddington

Kyle Traynor leads a Park attack against Rams [Photo: © Isabelle Lovell]



Future events
Friday 18 February

Rangers v Brunel Uni
Match Postponed

Saturday 19 February

Sale v 1st XV

National 1
Away KO 2:30PM

B XV v Chiswick 2

Middlesex Merit Premier
Home KO TBA

Reigatians 2 v Nomads

Surrey Championship
Away KO TBA

Netball

Teddington B v RPNC Reds

Kingston League Div 5
Away 09:30

Seymours B v RPNC Blues

Kingston League Div 12
Away 11:30

Next 1st XV Home match
Saturday 12 March

1st XV v B Moseley

National 1
Home KO 3:00PM

TW11 8UH with a start time at 09:30. The **Blues** take on **Seymours D** at Chertsey Rec, Guildford Road, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 9BW and that one starts at 11:30.

Park 13 Rams 17

National 1

Park lost their unbeaten home record with an error-strewn



[Photo: © Isabelle Lovell]

performance in which they conceded far too many penalties. It meant there was little continuity in their play. Indeed it was only some excellent defensive play that kept Park in with a chance in a match in which they were rarely an attacking force.

The early play was dominated by Rams as Park conceded penalties that gave the visitors a platform to kick into the 22. It was only some superb defending – plus a malfunctioning Rams lineout that kept the home goal-line intact.

Having dominated thus far, the first time Rams conceded a penalty they were in trouble. The ball was hoofed to touch, Park won the line-out and drove over in the left corner on 17 minutes, Kyle Traynor claiming the spoils for 5-0. Craig Holland's conversion attempt narrowly missing.

The game continued to be played predominantly in Park's territory. They did show the odd flash of what they are capable of, but an error or conceding a technical penalty too often intervened for them to be able to apply consistent pressure.

Eventually Rams found a way through Park's defences. On 35 minutes scrum half Cole made a run and his pass made space for his half-back partner Grundy to dive over on 35 minutes. A fairly straightforward conversion was missed for 5-5.

With the interval beckoning, Rams conceded a penalty just outside their 22 and Holland's kick took Park into half-time with an 8-5 lead that was distinctly against the run of play thus far.

Park looked a tad brighter at the start of the second half. Early on Henry Robinson looked to have got round the outside of the defence to score, but play was brought back presumably for a foot in touch.



[Photo: © Isabelle Lovell]



[Photo: © Isabelle Lovell]

However, it was Rams who regained the lead on 53 minutes with an all out attack, which Park initially stopped at the cost of penalties, but eventually Rams had a spare man out wide in the form of winger Bird, who crossed with ease for 10-8. A bizarre conversion attempt barely left the ground.

Park tried to rally but it was no surprise when Rams looked to have put matters beyond doubt. A concerted attack saw Park's scrum buckle under pressure, conceding a couple of penalties before the inevitable penalty try on 67 minutes for 17-8.

Park tried to retrieve the situation and applied some real pressure to win a penalty, kicked to the 22. The pack lay siege to the line and eventually Charlie Piper muscled his way over wide on the left. With less than 5 minutes to go this left Holland a very difficult conversion to put Park within two points, and the possibility of winning it with a late penalty. The ball went narrowly wide of the far post, and with it realistically Park's chances.

Rams deserved the win and Park must regroup to face a potentially even tougher challenge at Sale next Saturday.

Park: Henry Robinson, Benji Marfo, Brandon Jackson, Nick Scott, Craig Holland; Luc Smith; Dave Lewis; Kyle Traynor, Charlie Piper, Oisin Kearney, Dylan Flashman, Jordan Martin, Dan Laventure, Arthur Ellis, Hugo Ellis(C)

Replacements: Ollie Dawe, Sam Garvey, Jamie Gray, Luke Baldwin, Quinten Koster.

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>

Rangers 26 Rams 2s 19

Raging Bull Lge Div 1

The Rangers held out to win an entertaining match, but had to withstand the visitors gnawing away at their lead as the bench emptied.

After some fairly level sparring, Rangers took the lead on 13 minutes. The forwards formed an attack up the left but, as they were tackled, speedy winger Josh Adams arrived at their left to take the ball at pace, hand off a defender and dive over for a fine try in the corner for 5-0.

Park began to dominate and might have added two further tries but for being penalised when the score looked inevitable. However, eventually they won a penalty, kicked it to touch and flanker Ben Kirby, who had an excellent game, forced his way over. Owen Waters converted for 12-0.

A cracking move across the field saw Park almost scoring a great try but Rams managed to hold it up and claim the drop-out.

Just before the interval, Park increased their lead when a penalty



Photo by John Weatherall

was stroked to the corner. The throw at the lineout was long but Park won back the ball for full-back Chris Stegman to score. Waters added the conversion for 19-0 at the interval.

It was Park who started brighter in the second half, and it was our other speedy winger, Timi Oploeade who ran in to score near the posts, Waters converting for 26-0.

As replacements came and went thick and fast Rams began to gain a foothold in the match. A speculative attack saw their right wing run across the face of the posts before spotting a gap and cutting in sharply to score, converted for 26-7.

When Rams scored a second try out on the left, converted for 26-24, they seemed to gain belief and proceedings were evenly contested.

As the clock ran down Rams came up with the try of the match with a high-speed movement across the field through several pairs of hands to go in at the corner, but it was too late to change the overall result, which was a well-deserved 26-19 win for the Rangers.

Rangers: Chris Stegman; Timi Oploeade, Henry Cheeseman, Matty Edwards, Josh Adams; Owen Waters; Olli Veni; Jake Buckingham, Conrad Carkeet, Josh Rasor; Rob Lind, Will Burton; Ben Kirby, Tyler Bush, Alex McLean.

Bench: Ali Wade, Benjamin Russell, Jon Mills, James Brooks, Jack Webster, Sam King



Photo by John Weatherall

Clubsides

Will Thorogood reports that, as previously mentioned, there were, disappointingly, no Clubsides games last weekend, so I was able to take it easy at the Rock on Saturday. I watched the Rangers scrape home, 26-19, I think, against Rams 2's with Lord Weatherall, who does a sterling job looking after the team, their kit and the refs. He is an unsung hero and true ambassador, I have to say, and has often bailed out or helped out the Clubsides, as well.

I'll leave out a match report of the 1's v Rams 1's, but a game, I think, we would prefer to forget but possibly learn from it!

However, just to say that Rams had done their homework and knew how to play us. On the day, the better side won.

It was nice to see "old" teammate from the 1980's, Andy Little, a B's stalwart scrum half for some 15 seasons, in the mould of Dupont? or Edwards?, maybe, and former Hatters' skipper, another No.9, Duncan Isley. Some catching up was done. Also, nice to see Julia and Daniella from the Slingbacks, too. That's the great thing about the Club, you're never far from a familiar face.

Anyway, back to this weekend, 18-19/2. We have the following games scheduled:

Fri, 18th-Rangers v Brunel Trailfinders Home ko 8pm-Zoo Sports Shield.

1's v Sale Away.

B's v Chiswick 2's Home ko 2pm-MMT Premier..

Nomads v Old Reigatians 2's Away-Surrey Championship.

4's- Bye week. Saving themselves for the rearranged "Big One" against the B's(MMT Prem) on Friday evening, 25/2. Take note!

Accommodation – can you help?

We are reaching out to all today to see if you have or know someone, who may have suitable accommodation available for rent on a 6 month contract starting in the next couple of weeks. We are looking for room only arrangement primarily but would consider a 1 bedroom apartment as well. If you are able to assist we would love to hear from you. Please contact Dom Shabbo on [020 8876 1879](tel:02088761879) or email dom.shabbo@rosslynpark.co.uk

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.

Sale away

An away trip to Sale may stir memories of great League games past for Park fans. But for a previous generation of players and supporters - well before league rugby began - it dredges up the tale of Eric the Navigator. Park were due to play at Heywood Road, a quite distant fixture in those days, and not everyone was keen on such a long day out. So our late Past President, Eric Mountjoy, had a bright idea: why don't we fly? No English team had ever flown to an internal fixture before so why should not Park be the first? Everyone assembled at heathrow, boarded and took off - but fog descended on Manchester's airport and the plane could not land. It had to turn back to Heathrow, landing on a runway to the south of where it had taken off. Park's pathfinders became not the first to fly to an internal fixture, but in all probability the first to set off for a match and end up further away from the ground than when they started out! It was never Eric's fault - but he was never allowed to forget it!

Away travel

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.

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 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:



THE OBOLESKY 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
hannaheborall@lifesearch.co.uk
0207 065 1054

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

The Obolesky Association Rosslyn Park Injury Trust

Twitter: <http://bit.ly/2PqDIQy>

Facebook: <http://bit.ly/2NG7bxV>

Instagram: <http://bit.ly/34d652t>

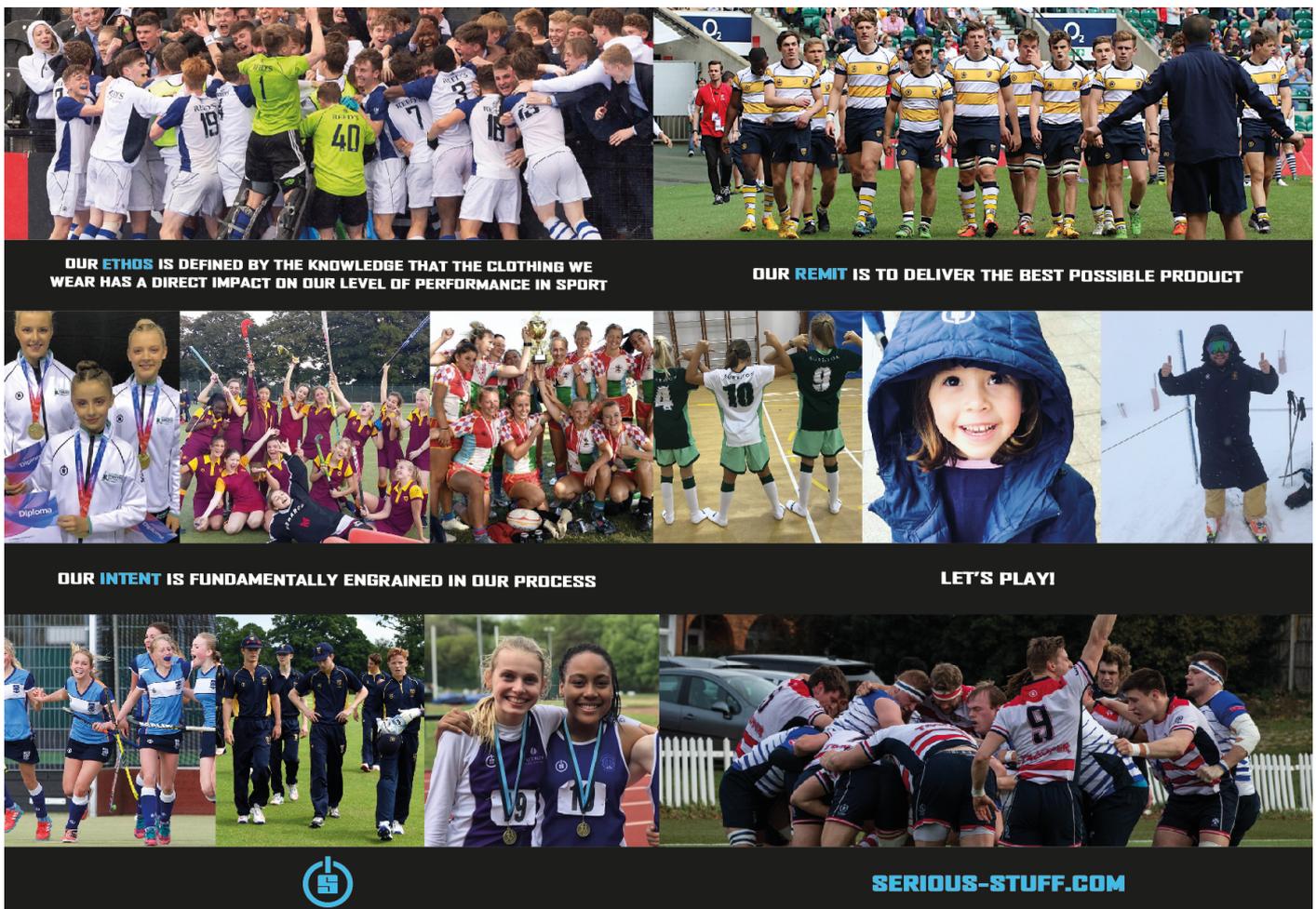
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OUR INTENT IS FUNDAMENTALLY ENGRAINED IN OUR PROCESS

LET'S PLAY!

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