



Issue 29

23 February 2022

Season 2021-22

PARK'S LEAD IS CUT TO 4 POINTS

Welcome to Parknews You would need to be hard-hearted indeed not to feel sympathy for Park on Saturday. An uncertain journey up to Manchester, post Storm Eunice, an almost water-logged pitch, they out-played Sale for most of the 80 minutes and had to travel back with just a solitary point for their efforts. Their lead at the top thus reduced to four points, Park have to sit this Saturday out as we were due to play Old Elthamians, while Caldý – the second club – play Tonbridge Juddians, the bottom club – in what could easily be a five point win for them. This sport can be cruel.

Having said that, Park can take a lot of encouragement from Saturday's match. Heywood Road is never an easy visit at the best of times, least of all in the conditions last Saturday, and yet Park out-played the home side for the lion's share of the 80 minutes. We would not lose many matches playing that well. It was an immense physical effort on the part of the players, but at least they now have a week off to recover. Our next match, on Saturday week, is probably our most difficult one remaining this season, but a win over **Cinderford** at Dockham Road would surely re-establish confidence – and we have yet to play Caldý at home. So it is all still very much in our own hands.

The other results went mostly against us, with **Caldý** beating **Cambridge** 9-0, Sale beating ourselves 21-17 and **Rams** beating Bishops Stortford by 17-5 (**Cinderford** were postponed at Leeds). While we sit out this Saturday the other top six clubs are engaged: Tonbridge Juddian v Caldý; Bishops Stortford v Sale; Rams v Darlington Mowden Park; Taunton v Cinderford; Cambridge v Chinnor.

With so much depending upon Saturday week's match at **Cinderford** it would be great if we could get a significant body of Rossllyn Park people along to support the team. By public transport it's best to get the train from Paddington to Gloucester (there were still some cheaper advance tickets as we went to press) then a bus from the nearby bus station (clearly signposted) on to Cinderford - a cab will cost over £40. The 22 bus from bay J takes around 40 minutes and runs every hour on the hour for the 14 mile journey. If you are fortunate enough to hold a Freedom Pass then it is valid on the bus. If you're an old hand at Cinderford, do note that there are no longer two buses serving the route – it's now just an hourly service. The first return bus to Gloucester is at 16:32 which is perilously close to the final whistle, but there is another at 17:32, so do bear these times in mind when booking your return rail journey. Fortunately the bus stop is just outside the ground. These details are given in good faith but do check the timetable yourself at <https://tison-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/Timetables/West/2021/22-210321.pdf>

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 and serves a decent pint. Admission is by an arm band that you buy just inside the clubhouse.

Storms permitting there is plenty of entertainment at home this week. On **Wednesday evening** the **Park netballers** play **Hampton** in a Surrey League A match starting at 8:00PM on the netball courts at Roehampton Uni, Froebel College, Roehampton Lane. On **Thursday evening** the **Rangers** play **Esher** on the 4G in the Raging Bull League, kicking off at 7:45PM. On **Friday** we have our own local Derby when the **B XV** play the **Fours** in a Middlesex Merit Premier match at 7:45PM. The clubhouse will be open and it's free admission for those last two. On **Saturday morning** our **RPNC Surrey** team were due to play but that is no longer on, but please do get along to the club for all the televised **6 Nations Rugby** on Saturday afternoon on the big screen. Bring your friends – the club needs the bar receipts! There's also a bargain awaiting with 20% off draught

Action from last Saturday at Sale. Apologies but we have no photos beyond those pinched from the club's National 1 Bulletin



Future events
Wednesday 23 February

RPNC v Hampton A

Surrey Netball League Division A
Home (Roehampton Uni) 8:00PM

Thursday 24 February

Rangers v Esher 2

Raging Bull League Div 1
Home KO 7:45PM

Friday 25 February

B XV v Fours

Middlesex Merit Premier
Home KO 7:45PM

Saturday 26 February
In the Clubhouse

Live 6 Nations Rugby **Scotland v France**

KO 2:15

England v Wales

KO 4:45

20% discount draught beer and cider
1:30-6:30PM

Next 1st XV Home match
Saturday 12 March

1st XV v B Moseley

National 1
Home KO 3:00PM

beers and cider 1:30-6:30PM. It's a great excuse to introduce your mates to the delights of Rosslyn Park.

We'll try to tweet a message if anything has to be called off in these storm-ridden times.

Sale 21 Park 17

National 1

Sometimes it's just not your day. After an uncertain journey up immediately after the storm, Park arrived to face a pitch inspection. Thanks to some really hard work by the Sale ground staff sweeping gallons of surface water from the pitch the match went ahead (and, to be fair, players of a previous era would have wondered what the fuss was about). The very muddy pitch and gusting winds did not favour the sort of running rugby that Park prefer. But the team buckled down, fought for everything and out-played Sale for most of the 80 minutes.

If you wanted to be hyper-critical you could say that Park should have made more of their chances, but they looked the winners until the last play of the match. There were few passages of play really worth reporting: it was a forward slog and defenders booting as far as they could, but it was generally Park on the front foot after an early self-inflicted close thing. An early Sale penalty was hoofed to the corner but Park intercepted and cleared.

The first quarter saw Park almost monopolized possession. A penalty was stroked to the corner but Park lost the lineout. Another penalty led to an all-out assault on the Sale line. It looked as if Park had got over and touched down but the referee, who was well placed, ruled otherwise.

Then on 21 minutes, completely against the run of play, Sale's Fergus Mulchrome simply broke away from midfield to score an easy try, converted for 7-0.

Park continued to dominate but could not cross the line until a 5 metre throw led to pressure on the Sale line, a further penalty and the pack forced their way over for Hugo Ellis to claim the try. Harry Leonard's conversion brought the scores level at 7-7.

Park had to endure a penalty to the corner at the end of the half, but a throw not straight put an end to that brief period of danger.

Park took the game by the throat in the second half. An early penalty saw a throw on the Sale 22 but the ball was lost.

A penalty on the edge of the 22 narrowly missed, the squally winds playing their part. But Park soon won another penalty and this time Leonard was on target to give Park a 10-7 lead on 50 minutes.

Another big Park attack looked likely to score, but was stopped at the cost of a yellow card for Sale. A penalty was hoofed to the corner and Park camped on the Sale line until a further penalty was awarded. That went to the corner and eventually Park crashed over in the form of Jarred Saunders, converted for 17-7 on 63 minutes.

With 3 minutes remaining Sale had their first really concerted pressure in the Park red zone. After reset scrums, Sale's Priestly-Nagle took a quick tap and managed to dive over, the conversion narrowing the gap to 17-14.

Just as Park looked to have successfully run down the clock, the dangerous Sale centre, Fergus Mulchrome got the ball some 50 metres out and pinned back his ears to run wide on the left, evaded two tackles and touched down close to the posts. The conversion ended the match at 21-17.

*Park: Henry Robinson, Benji Marfo, Brandon Jackson, Nick Scott, Craig Holland; Harry Leonard; Jack Gash; Kyle Traynor, Jarred Saunders, Oisin Kearney, Dylan Flashman, Jamie Gray; Henry Spencer, Arthur Ellis, Hugo Ellis(C)
Replacements: Ollie Dawe, Sam Garvey, Charlie Piper, Luke Baldwin, Henry Cheeseman.*



Clubsides

Will Thorogood reports The weekend of the 26th has been left free on the fixture card for people to enjoy the continuing sagas, twists and turns of the 6 Nations! So, get down to the club to watch the games in comfort? However, there are matches on the Thursday and Friday evenings preceding the weekend:

Thursday 24th February: Rangers v Esher 2's Home ko 7.45pm.

Friday 25th February: B's v 4's Home ko 7.45pm. MMT Premier. "Le Crunch" Derby Match. Should be a cracker, as there is a lot of pride at stake for both sides. Nomads-not playing. Bye week.

Last weekend was somewhat of a disappointment for all the senior sides at the club. Brunel Trailfinders pulled out of the Rangers' home Zoo Sports Shield game on Friday evening. I'm just wondering how the game would have panned out if Storm Eunice had featured in it?! Would it have actually been played because of the hazards of the jetstream tempest? How many balls may have ended up in the depths of Barnes Common or may still be in orbit?!

Likewise, Chiswick 2's bailed out of the B's Saturday MMT Premier game rather late in the day on Friday afternoon. Unfortunately, this did not give us the time to find an alternative fixture, although we did try.

For the Nomads, it was one of those weeks where players seemed to be away doing other things, so they had to cancel and concede their away fixture against Old Reigatians because of insufficient numbers. Pity, but getting down there could have been a problem because of the chaos caused by Eunice on the transport networks. Generally, it sounds as if a lot of local games were called off.

The 1's managed to get up to Manchester to play Sale, but they just got pipped by a late Mancunian try 17-21. Hopefully, along with the loyal cohorts of travelling support, they got back safely?

Netball

The Rosslyn Park netballers have been defying the storms and putting in some great results, with all three sides winning. In order to catch up on postponed fixtures there is a Wednesday evening match at Roehampton University against Hampton starting at 8:00PM, Your support would be most welcome. The courts are at Froebel college on Roehampton Lane, almost next to Clarence Lane and more or less opposite Queen Mary's hospital. Unfortunately there is no match on Saturday.

Cobham 32 Rosslyn Park Surrey 35

Surrey League Div A

Matchday starting line-up: GK- Anna Whadcock; GD- Abby Mahal; WD- Claire Shapland (C); C- Hazel Cochrane; WA- Francesca Bennett; GA- Beth Hunt; GS- Tara Ellis
Subs- Hannah McNally; Milly Marsh

With no match since the end of November, the Surrey squad went into a must win game vs Cobham with limited match fitness under our belts and still having players unavailable due to injury. In a tight and highly contested league, with one team unfortunately withdrawing rendering previous results against them null, Cobham sat 1 league place above Park prior to this match.

Park struggled to find their feet in quarter 1, making unforced errors. At the Q1 break, Park were down by 4 (11-7). Keeping the same 7 for Q2, and being asked to address errors and dictate the pace of the game, play started to flow more easily. The game was brought back to within three before an errant centre nearing the end of the quarter meant Cobham converted fast and led by 5 at the half time interval (22-17).

Half an hour to pull the game back for Park. Some half time changes saw a midcourt shift, with Hannah McNally entering the court at WA and Fran Bennett moving to GA. Claire Shapland and Hazel Cochrane switched positions to play C and WD, respectively.

A low scoring third quarter that was end to end, the circle defensive duo of Anna Whadcock and Abby Mahal really started to step up taking rebounds with ease and impressively keeping Cobham to 4 goals in the third quarter. The attack kept patient and displayed great control on transition and in what was an extremely low scoring quarter (4-7), Park were able to bring the game back to within two goals (26-24).

Keeping a stable 7 for the final quarter and forcing Cobham to make changes on account of intense full-court defensive pressure in Q3, Park kept their foot on the pedal in Q4, forcing Cobham to make further errors and converting turnover ball to goals. An impressive fightback, winning the final quarter by 5, gave Park a hugely important win in the context of the season- **Final score: Cobham 32- 35 Park'**

Quarter breakdowns

Q1- 11-7

Q2- 22-17 (11-10)

Q3- 26-24 (4-7)

Q4- 32-35 (6-11)

Player of the match (Home): Anna Whadcock

Player of the match (Away): Hazel Cochrane

Teddington B 23 Rosslyn Park Blues 47

Kingston League Div 12

Matchday starting line-up: GK- Abby Mahal; GD- Simone Quick; WD- Emily Sarsfield-Power; C- Hannah Gilbert; WA- Laura Garnier; GA- Tash Eeles; GS- Charli Hicks
Subs - Char Walker

Player of the match (Home): Char Walker

Player of the match (Away): Laura Garnier

Reds took to the Court for the second time in 2022 for a game against Teddington. The team had a fast start with an incredible defensive trio: Mahal, Quick & Sarsfield-Power stopping Teddington from entering the circle. Some great circle work in attack enabled a strong lead of 14-4 to Park after the first quarter.

The second quarter saw a mix up in defence with Walker coming on as WD, Sarsfield-Power moving to C and Gilbert to WA. Garnier and Hicks worked the ball around to create space and maintain the lead. Walker made a great impact, generating lots of tips and interceptions by applying pressure to their attack. The team changes needed some work to get settled in, and as Teddington shooters got their eye in, they closed the score-line down to 21-10.

Entering into the 3rd quarter, the attack knew they had to step up their feeds into the circle due to a very tall defensive pair. Gilbert, Eeles and Hicks worked solidly to ensure that the ball was carefully fed into the circle and reduce overheads. Presenting clearly at the front, Eeles and Hicks were able to separate the defence. Park defensive pair Mahal and Quick worked tirelessly to perplex Teddington attack and they struggled to get the ball in a good place to shoot. Park extended their lead to 34-18.

The aim of the 4th quarter was to stop Teddingtons taking 1 point, the whole team put 100% effort into getting as close to 50 goals as possible. Sadly Walker had a nasty knee injury half way through the last quarter after an incredible performance as WD. Park wanted to finish strong and managed to end the game 23-47. A fantastic effort all round.

Reds have their two hardest games back to back with Capital Nuns on March 5th and Worcester Park lion on March 6th.

Seymours D 19 Rosslyn Park Blues 37

Kingston League Div 5

Matchday starting line-up: GK- Jess Turpin; GD- Jude Lewis (C); WD- Hayley Birks; C- Tash Levy; WA- Bella Murrison; GA- Kate Hughes; GS- Pip Medley

On Saturday 19th February the Blues travelled to Chertsey to take on Seymours D. Despite Seymours position at the bottom of KDNL 12, the game promised to be challenging with Storm Eunice serving difficult playing conditions and a depleted squad of seven depriving the Blues of substitutes. However, rallied by a strong performance in training earlier in the week, the Blues took to the court raring to maintain their undefeated season.

A shaky start for the Blues saw Seymours take an early three goal lead in the first quarter. However, strong defence from captain Jude Lewis (GD), Jess Turpin (GK) and Hayley Birks (debut WD) saw opportunities made to end the quarter with the Blues taking a one goal lead over their opponents.

The Blues attack settled in to the game well, a commanding performance from Tash Levy in C creating fantastic opportunities for the shooting circle. Pip Medley (GS) came in to impressive form, scoring key goals despite high speed winds and rain. With the attacking play starting to gel, the Blues secured a 17-11 lead entering the second half of the game.

The girls showed impressive character in the third quarter. Despite the weather conditions they dug deep to deliver their best quarter of the game, scoring 10 goals to Seymours' 3. Arabella Murrison delivered a decisive performance in WA, feeding Medley and Kate Hughes (GA) with patience and precision.

The final quarter saw the Blues score 10 goals to Seymours' 6, the girls showing determination to finish the game strong despite a resurgence from their opponents. Birks continued to dominate in WD, controlling the mid court attacking play well and delivering key turnover. Hughes and Medley showed strength in the shooting circle in what became a physical game.

The game ended with the Blues taking a 37-19 victory over the home side. Sadly they were unable to prevent Seymours taking home a point, but were pleased to have delivered a strong performance in the conditions.

Home player of the match was awarded to Tash Levy who lifted her side, delivering a strong personal performance in C as well as providing an infectious attitude which buoyed her team mates. Birks' confident debut in WD earned her the away player of the match.

Player of the match (Home): Tash Levy

Player of the match (Away): Hayley Birks

The Blues return to the court on Saturday 5th March Ashtead Allstars D.

If you want to check how our teams are doing, these links may help:
SURREY- [Premier A \(clubleague.azurewebsites.net\)](https://clubleague.azurewebsites.net)
KINGSTON REDS- [Division 5 \(clubleague.azurewebsites.net\)](https://clubleague.azurewebsites.net)

KINGSTON BLUES- [Division 12 \(clubleague.azurewebsites.net\)](http://Division 12 (clubleague.azurewebsites.net))

Upcoming Games:

23/02/2022: Surrey vs Hampton - 8pm @ Roehampton Uni
05/03/2022: Reds vs Capital Nuns - 11am @ Aspire, Southfields
05/03/2022: Blues vs Ashstead Allstars D - 2:30pm @ Downsens School, KT22 8TJ
06/03/2022: Reds vs Worcester Park Lions - 10am @ Malden Wanderers Cricket & Lawn
07/03/2022: Surrey vs Omega - 7:30pm @ St Martin in the Fields High School for Girls

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:020 8876 1879) 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.

Away travel

On Saturday 05 March we play away to our old friends **Cinderford**, see earlier in this Parknews for travel details. After Cinderford we have three fairly local away matches remaining: **Blackheath** on 26 March, **Chinnor** on 09 April and **Tonbridge Juddians** on 23 April. We'll give details for those nearer the time as there is little advantage in booking advance travel tickets.

Title Race

With now 8 matches to go for most clubs, below are the remaining fixtures of the top six, remaining home matches on the left, away matches on the right. Matches in bold type are those against fellow top 6 clubs.

Rosslyn Park P20 – 77pts

<i>Home</i>	<i>Away</i>
Moseley	Cinderford
Caldy	Blackheath
Cambridge	Chinnor
Plymouth	Tonbridge

Caldy P20 – 73pts

<i>Home</i>	<i>Away</i>
Plymouth	Tonbridge
B Stortford	Leeds
Sale	Rosslyn P
	Rams

Sale P20-71pts

<i>Home</i>	<i>Away</i>
Rams	B Stortford
DMP	Moseley
Cambridge	Caldy
Blackheath	
Chinnor	

Rams P19 – 65pts

<i>Home</i>	<i>Away</i>
DMP	Sale
Chinnor	Cinderford
Moseley	Blackheath
Caldy	Chinnor
Cambridge	

Cinderford P19 – 64pts

<i>Home</i>	<i>Away</i>
Rosslyn P	Leeds

Rams	Taunton
DMP	B Stortford
Blackheath	Sale
	Moseley

Cambridge P19 – 63pts

<i>Home</i>	<i>Away</i>
Chinnor	DMP
Plymouth	Tonbridge
Taunton	Leeds
B Stortford	Rosslyn P
	Rams

Promotion assessments

By the time this Parknews hits the website the RFU should have completed its assessment of the grounds of Ealing Trailfinders and Doncaster Knights to determine whether they meet the required standard for the Premiership. If the eventual Champions do not pass the assessment then only one club will be promoted from National 1. Doncaster intend to put up a temporary stand in addition to enhancing their existing facilities, raising their capacity to 10,000. They submitted these proposals once before and they were accepted, only for Bristol to pip them for promotion. In these times when money dictates everything, it is an open secret that the Premiership would prefer Doncaster as a Yorkshire 'franchise' chimes better with their plans. Ealing had an agreement with QPR FC to use Loftus Road, but now want instead to extend their existing stand, erect a large temporary one opposite and build a new entrance from the adjacent Castle Barr Park railway station. Presumably they will still have the QPR option in their back pocket if the RFU play hardball.

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](tel: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>

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