PARKNEWS

Issue 31 09 March 2022 Season 2021-22

ONLY ONE GOING UP - EVERY POINT IS VITAL

Welcome to Parknews Firstly, **please note that Saturday's match against Birmingham Moseley kicks off at 2:00PM** to enable everyone to watch the six-nations rugby in the Clubhouse afterwards. If you know any Park people who are not connected to the internet, please do make sure they are aware.

Just after the last Parknews went to press the RFU released its bombshell announcement that it supported the decision of the Professional Game Board that neither the ground of **Ealing** nor that of **Doncaster** met Premiership standards in terms of ground capacity. An unscientific survey of the Rugby 'Twittersphere' has seen this condemned by the great majority of fans and clubs and makes one wonder from where the RFU claims its democratic mandate. Regardless of the rights and wrongs, as a consequence, only one club will be promoted from National 1 to the Championship at the end of this season. So the battle at the top of our division becomes even more of a dogfight. At the other end of the table, only two clubs will now face the drop. Both clubs have the right to appeal, and Doncaster immediately announced their decision to do so while Ealing were discussing their next steps, so it may not be entirely cut-and-dried yet, but it is difficult to see what evidence they might be use unless either club are allowed to appeal with revised proposals.

So with just one place up for grabs, **Park**'s away 13-10 away win at **Cinderford** last Saturday could be crucial indeed. We could have done with a five pointer but in the prevailing conditions, and against a defence as good as Cinderford's, fighting to stay in the title race, that was never a realistic prospect. There is a match report from Cinderford further on, but the defeat leaves **Cinderford** ten points adrift of the top three and - while a really strong finish could see them catch any of the top three - they're not going to catch all three of them. The same could probably be said of **Rams** who shared our fate at **Sale** by losing to a last-minute score (22-21). Sale are two points behind Park, having played one match more, but have an easier run in. **Caldy** pulled away by another point to go two ahead of Park after a home win by 47-28 over Plymouth Albion. Caldy have also played one more match than Park, have yet to play at the Rock (and away to Rams) and their final home match is at home against Sale. **Cambridge** maintained their challenge, coming back from 15-0 to win by 22-20 (including four tries) at Darlington and are 7 points below the top three. So Park are still very much in the title race and your continued vocal support could make a real difference.

Elsewhere around the Club, the **Rangers** had a significant win over **Bishops Stortford** even though we did not have enough available players to put anyone of the bench. The **Nomads** beat **KCS 2s** by 34-31 (report further on). But the really worrying news is that the **Fours** and **B XV** had to cancel their matches because they could not field a team between them. This is far from just a Rosslyn Park problem - the more 'social' end of the game is in real trouble, if those at the top could spare a little attention from doing the Premiership's bidding.

This weekend

This Saturday's visitors, Birmingham Moseley, are old friends indeed, recalling some wonderful battles at The Reddings and at Priory lane in their previous guise, as simply Moseley. In those old amateur and early league days the two clubs were among the biggest names in the land. Alas Moseley have not been having their best season despite starting off with three successive wins (including an impressive 24-0 away to Caldy). In eighteen games since then they have won away at Chinnor and have done doubles over strugglers Tonbridge, Leeds and Blackheath, and last week they

Henry Robnson braks to score at Cinderford [Photo by Isabelle Lovell]

Future events
Saturday 12 March

1st XV
v
Birmingham Moseley

National 1
Home **KO 2:00PM**
Followed by Six Nations Rugby on the big screen in the Clubhouse

Rangers v Leicester Lions

Raging Bull League Div 1
Home (B of E, Bank Lane) KO 2:00PM

B XV v London Cornish

Middlesex Merit Premier
Home (Richmond Park) KO12:30PM

HAC 2 v Fours

Middlesex Merit Premier
Away KO TBA

Chobham v Nomads

Surrey Championship
Away KO TBA

Netball

Fairlands v NCRP Surrey

Surrey Netball League Division A
Away 10:00AM

bagged another four-try bonus point win (22-20) with a late try against Taunton to rise to eighth in the table.

At the risk of tempting fate, their troubles had seemed to stem more from attack than defence inasmuch as they have only recorded 4-try bonuses in six matches: last week and in a 29-27 win at Chinnor, plus all four matches with the two bottom clubs Leeds and Tonbridge. Park won the away match at Moseley earlier in the season by 29-8, and although that was a pretty convincing win Moseley certainly didn't look like a team that might flirt with being dangerously close to the relegation struggle, and indeed they have now pulled clear. They are certainly a side good enough to spring a surprise against any of the top teams. Despite their relative lack of success recently, they remain one of the best supported teams in the league and will bring a loyal and noisy bunch of knowledgeable supporters to the Rock.

Former Players' Lunch

The match with Birmingham Moseley this Saturday sees our annual **Former Players' lunch** which, with the revised 14:00 kick off, will now start at noon. There may still be the odd place available if you get in quickly for the most popular lunch of the year. The menu is: Chicken liver pate (vegetarian option Mushroom and walnut pate) Steak and kidney pie with mashed potatoes and a panache of vegetables (vegetarian option Leek, cheese and potato pie with mashed potatoes and a panache of vegetables) Jam Roly poly pudding and custard & Cheese and biscuits and the cost is £40.00 per person or £45.00 with a match ticket. You can book match tickets and / or lunch on the website. There's a special offer for everyone: 30% off Draught Beers and Cider from 13:00 to 14:15

Also at 'home' this Saturday, but taking place at Wimbledon Community Centre (Formerly the Bank of England ground in Bank lane) the **Rangers** are due to play **Leicester Lions** in our return Raging Bull Division 1 fixture. Park won the away match earlier in the season so the Lions will be thirsting for revenge. Also affected, the **B XV** are at home to **London Cornish** in Middlesex Merit Premier at 12:30 but that match will take place on the Richmond Park pitches. In the same competition the **Fours** travel up to the City to play the **Honourable Artillery Company**, while the **Nomads** travel to **Chobham** in the Surrey Championship. If you are in the Sutton Area then our **netballers** are in town: the **Surrey League** team have a Division A match away to **Fairlands** at the Harris Academy in Chiltern Road, Sutton starting at 10:00AM.

Cinderford 10

Park 13

National 1

The strong, icy winds made this tense match really difficult for both teams, not helped by an over-pedantic referee completely out of sympathy with what two good teams were trying to cope with. As a match for the neutral this would not have provided much of a spectacle; for those invested in the fortunes of either side it was a gripping battle.

It would be simplistic, but not entirely inaccurate, to say that Park won because the edge they enjoyed at the lineont was greater than

that Cinderford enjoyed in the scrum. But it also came down to really gutsing it out and Park could hardly have given more to the cause.

Park played into a strong wind in the first half. Early on they won a penalty at a scrum and even the prodigious boot of fly-half Craig Holland could make barely 10 metres to touch.

Park had the first real attack, but got penalised as things got interesting.

After that Cinderford used the conditions to exert immense pressure on the visiting defence. A grubber kick had to be touched down by a Park defender for a drop out. Park's defending was superb, but it was impossible to kick clear beyond about 20 metres into the wind. What really kept the scoresheet blank was a superbly drilled Park lineout which consistently intercepted Cinderford's throw.

Park very nearly scored from a breathtaking run out of defence by full-back Henry Robinson, who reached inside the home 22, where he got a pass away to Brandon Jackson inside him, who slipped the ball on towards the middle but it was knocked-on with the defence at sixes and sevens. Park continued to press and won a penalty 30 metres out in front of the posts but Holland's effort was blown off course.

Cinderford had a penalty on half way which floated on the wind close to the corner, but Park won the lineout. The clearance kick could get no further than the 22. In their desperation to win a lineout the Cinderford throw was not straight. But again Park could not clear beyond the 22, but again, also, Park won the subsequent lineout.

But Cinderford had the visiting defence under pressure and home lock Tyler Jerrum eventually managed to charge down a Jack Gash clearance kick and dropped on the ball to give the home side a 5-0 lead on 27 minutes.

Park had a slight edge in what open play there was and very nearly got an equaliser when they drove to the line. A quick tap penalty by Hugo Ellis nearly bore fruit but, before anyone could notice Jackson signalling for the ball in space on the left, Park were penalised.

But with the elements in their favour for the second half there was every reason to believe Park would prevail in the end.

Cinderford made a spirited start to the half, but Park now had the upper hand. The four try bonus point was never on, but Park chipped away and forced penalties on 51 and 57 minutes for Holland to give his side a 6-5 lead.

As the afternoon wore on so the wind force began to drop. And so for the only time in the match did the concentration of Park's defence. A rare lineout win for Cinderford saw the ball released quickly and flanker Matt Lane got over the line to take back the lead at 10-6 on 59 minutes.

Park resumed the upper hand and a superb attack up the left saw Robinson shout for the ball on an overlap and he sprinted away to score an excellent try in the corner. Holland added a peach of a

conversion for 13-10.

Cinderford, scrapping for every ball, are not the easiest side against whom to play possession rugby, but – while it didn't feel that easy in the tension of the moment – Park did it pretty much to perfection and when the referee indicated that time was up the ball was booted out to claim a really hard-earned victory.
Park: *Robinson; Marfo, Scott, Cheeseman, Jackson; Holland; Gash; Traynor, Saunders, Lovell; Flashman, Laventure; Spencer, A Ellis, H Ellis*
Bench: *Dawe, Kearney, Piper, Baldwin, Smith*

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
The Rangers travelled to the re-arranged match at Bishops Stortford with just the bare 15 players to complete the fixture, a prop at number 8 and no replacements. Unfortunately we do not have a match report or photos as team manager John Weatherall was unable to travel. But to their great credit Park led 14-7 at half time and two unanswered unconverted tries in the second half saw them run out winners by 24-7. This week the Rangers are at home at 12:30 against Leicester Lions at Bank of England

Park: *Olli Rosillo; Will Foster, Timi Opleade, Matty Edwards, Chris Stegman; Owen Waters; Jack Webster; Sam Garvey, Conrad Carkeet, Ali Wade: Callum Mackenzie, Joran Martin; Rob Lind, Brendan Le Galladudec, Josh Rasor.*

Clubsides
Games for this Saturday are as follows, but details to be confirmed:
B's v L.Cornish 2's Home MMT Premier. ko TBC (could be between 12pm&1pm). Game most likely to be in Richmond Park. 4's v HAC 2's Away MMT Premier ko TBC
Nomads v Chobham 2's Away Surrey Championship. ko TBC.
Rangers v Leicester Lions 2's Home Zoo Sports. Kick Off TBC and venue (maybe at 2pm at the Bank of England)

1's v Birmingham Moseley Home. Kick Off NOW 2pm. Please note.

Ex-Players lunch on Saturday, too, plus England v Ireland. It's going to be busy.

As for last Saturday...where do I start? Firstly, there was a disappointing show, or no show , more to the point, for the B's and 4's in their respective MMT Premier matches against Hammersmith & Fulham 2's & Belsize Park 2's on Saturday afternoon. Both our sides failed to raise teams for these games, and even not enough to merge, and for at least one of these games to take place! I just don't know where everyone has gone!? This is lost game time, for others , and revenue, whether it be for us or the oppos! Let's hope we can do a bit better this week, please.

Nomads 34
KCS 2's 31
Surrey Championship
The Nomads, however, did have a full team for their encounter against KCS 2's in their Surrey Championship game.

This game, on the 4G, was a real humdinger...fast, furious, frantic, even frenetic! Typically, the Nomads turned up at the club, in dribs and drabs, wiping the sleep from their eyes, but once they had donned their red and white hoops, there was a transformation, a metamorphosis..."rugby mode". A team of Clark Kents, but no telephone boxes needed. Would KCS be their Kryptonite? At times, yes, as KCS exposed some of the Nomads weaknesses (missed tackles, discipline and fitness levels) and they paid for it by conceding points. However, our "Caped Crusaders", well a few "Cape Town" Crusaders, showed their real resolve, mettle and tenacity, in defence and attack, to keep in the game and in touch!

This is what I'd call a "Fiddler's Elbow" game...back and forth, ebb and flow, to and fro. We'd score, KCS would reciprocate, and so it went on. I forget the scoring sequence, but 5-0(interception) to us, then 5-5, then 5-12(Pen try), discipline. By the time half time came, Nomads 19 KCS 12. We had added a couple of good tries to take the advantage.

More of the same, in the second half, we'd score, they'd score...nail biting stuff, and some very good rugby on display. To cut an exciting story short, Nomads 6 tries (ncluding a hat trick from Willis) KCS 5 tries. It could have gone either way, but a win for Park Nomads 34 KCS 31 in the end, just.. I'm glad it went our way, though. The moral of the story is that everyone enjoyed the game, the post match imbibing, hospitality and food.An afternoon of good old fashioned grassroots rugby football. Sorry no photos available. Thanks Lachlan Mac and Fothers for your work in getting the team together.

A big thanks, also, to Pippa Rollitt, who gave up her Saturday afternoon, to provide her physio skills and cover for the game.

Netball
If you are in the Sutton Area then our **netballers** are in town: the **Surrey League** team have a Division A match away to **Fairlands** at the Harris Academy in Chiltern Road, Sutton starting at 10:00AM. Unfortunately we don't have a report this week.

If you want to check how our teams are doing, these links may help:
SURREY- Premier A (clubleague.azurewebsites.net)
KINGSTON REDS- Division 5 (clubleague.azurewebsites.net)
KINGSTON BLUES- Division 12 (clubleague.azurewebsites.net)

Title Race

With now either six or five matches to go, and now only one to be promoted, below are the remaining fixtures of the top five, with clubs presented in present league order, remaining home matches on the left, away matches on the right. Matches in bold type are those against fellow top 5 clubs.

Caldy P22– 83pts

Home	*Away*
Taunton	Leeds
B Stortford	**Rosslyn P**
Sale	**Rams**

Rosslyn Park P21 – 81pts

Home	*Away*
Moseley	Blackheath
Caldy	Chinnor
Cambridge	Tonbridge
Plymouth	

Sale P22 - 80 pts

Home	*Away*
DMP	Moseley
Cambridge	**Caldy**
Blackheath	
Chinnor	

Cambridge P21 – 73 pts

Home	*Away*
Plymouth	Tonbridge
Taunton	Leeds
B Stortford	**Rosslyn P**
	Rams

Rams P21 – 71 pts

Home	*Away*
Chinnor	Cinderford
Moseley	Blackheath
Caldy	Chinnor
Cambridge	

Colin Herridge 1940-2022

The club was saddened to hear of the passing of former Rosslyn Park player Colin Herridge, who died from a heart attack on 28 February. A precociously talented young scrum half, he went on to cut a significant figure in the game with both Esher and Old Surbitonians, but it is for his 40-odd years association with Harlequins and the RFU he will be best remembered.

He played a central role in transforming Harlequins from an amateur club into a professional outfit, soon becoming Club Secretary, a role he held for 14 years. He also served as an executive member of the Rugby Football Union Committee, was media director for the England team and Treasurer of the RFU. He was also Chairman of Ready, a charity which helps young people with disabilities play sport.

In addition to all this, he found time and energy to devote to a successful business career, with Directorships and ownership of the Slug and Lettuce pub group, Grosvenor Inns and Hayters sports agency.

Not entirely a foreigner to the odd drink and cigar, Colin actually had a great sense of humour, which was not always reflected in the somewhat pompous pronouncements he was occasionally required to make on behalf of the RFU. One former senior Park player of Colin's era, upon reading one of these statements from on high, observed to the Editor, "Colin used to play for us - a really confident youngster. He once got a bit too 'gobby' on a trip to Redruth, so we stopped the coach 200 yards from the hotel, stripped him off and made him walk the final 200 yards stark naked. Look where he is now!" before adding, "He was a pretty good player and had a decent enough sense of humour to laugh it off. Real Rugby man through and through, as it turned out". Which is probably how he would like to be remembered.

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 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 26 March we make the short trip to **Blackheath**, who now play at Well Hall, Kidbrooke Lane, London SE9 6TE. The ground is a short stroll from Eltham station, which is in London Travelcard Zone 3 with a regular service from Waterloo East, Charing X, Victoria and London Bridge. You will see the ground on your left just before the train pulls in at Eltham station. As you come out of the the station, cross the main road and turn right; Kidbrook Lane is the first turning on your left. If you are thinking of making a day of it, we must report that our regulars have never found a decent hostelry anywhere near the ground and normally alight at Blackheath to frequent a couple of pubs there, travelling the last two stops to Eltham a bit later. However, the ground does boast a large Greene King beer tent which, along with the ground, opens up at noon. The ground now boasts two stands, one of them covered, and there is hard-standing around most of the pitch. However, if you're standing on a wet day you'll probably encounter a bit of mud at some stage as you move around so do wear appropriate footwear. Do note that Blackheath publish their matchday programme (free) on their website for you to read or download.

On 09 April we visit **Chinnor** who play at Kingsey Road, Thame, Oxon. OX9 3JL. The ground is situated at the junction of the A4129 (Princes Risborough road) and the Thame Ring Road. Leave the M40 at either junction 7, 8 or 8a and head towards Thame. You will eventually come to a roundabout: take the exit signposted Aylesbury (A418). After 4 miles, you will come to another roundabout, take the 3rd exit, and Chinnor Rugby Club is approx. 1 mile along this road on the left, just 15 yards before a roundabout. By public transport the nearest station is Haddenham & Thame Parkway, from Marylebone. There is a regular service but some trains are quicker than others, so do check the timetable before you travel. A cheap day return is usually the cheapest ticket. From the station there is a bus into Thame (though we've never used it) and there is a small cab business next to the station exit. Thame is walkable for the really determined but the ground is about 1.5 miles on from the town centre, so if you only want to see the match you are probably best just getting a cab direct to the ground, which has a decent clubhouse that sells good beer. Thame itself is an interesting old

market town if you want to make a day of it. There are plenty of good hostelries, but be prepared to pay London prices.

For our final away trip of the season we pay our first ever visit to **Tonbridge Juddians** on 23 April. The ground is The Slade, Tonbridge, TN9 1HR and is just over half a mile from Tonbridge station. Essentially, looking at Google maps, from the station walk up into town and just past the Humphrey Bean Wetherspoons pub cross the River Medway and turn left to walk along the riverbank for a few yards, then turn right towards the ground. We have never been there before, but some who have report a decent clubhouse selling good beer, but pretty spartan beyond that: no seating or cover so just hope it's a fine spring day! If you are thinking of making a day of it the good news is that the CAMRA Good Beer Guide lists four pubs within half a mile of the station, five if you include Wetherspoons.

National League Rugby Review

The National League Rugby Review Show each week is the best source of information about the game at our level. It includes news plus film of matches and now costs just £6. For more details check out the link below. Your club receives a small contribution for ever individual supporter subscribed.
https://www.ncarugby.com/national-league-rugby-review-show/

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:

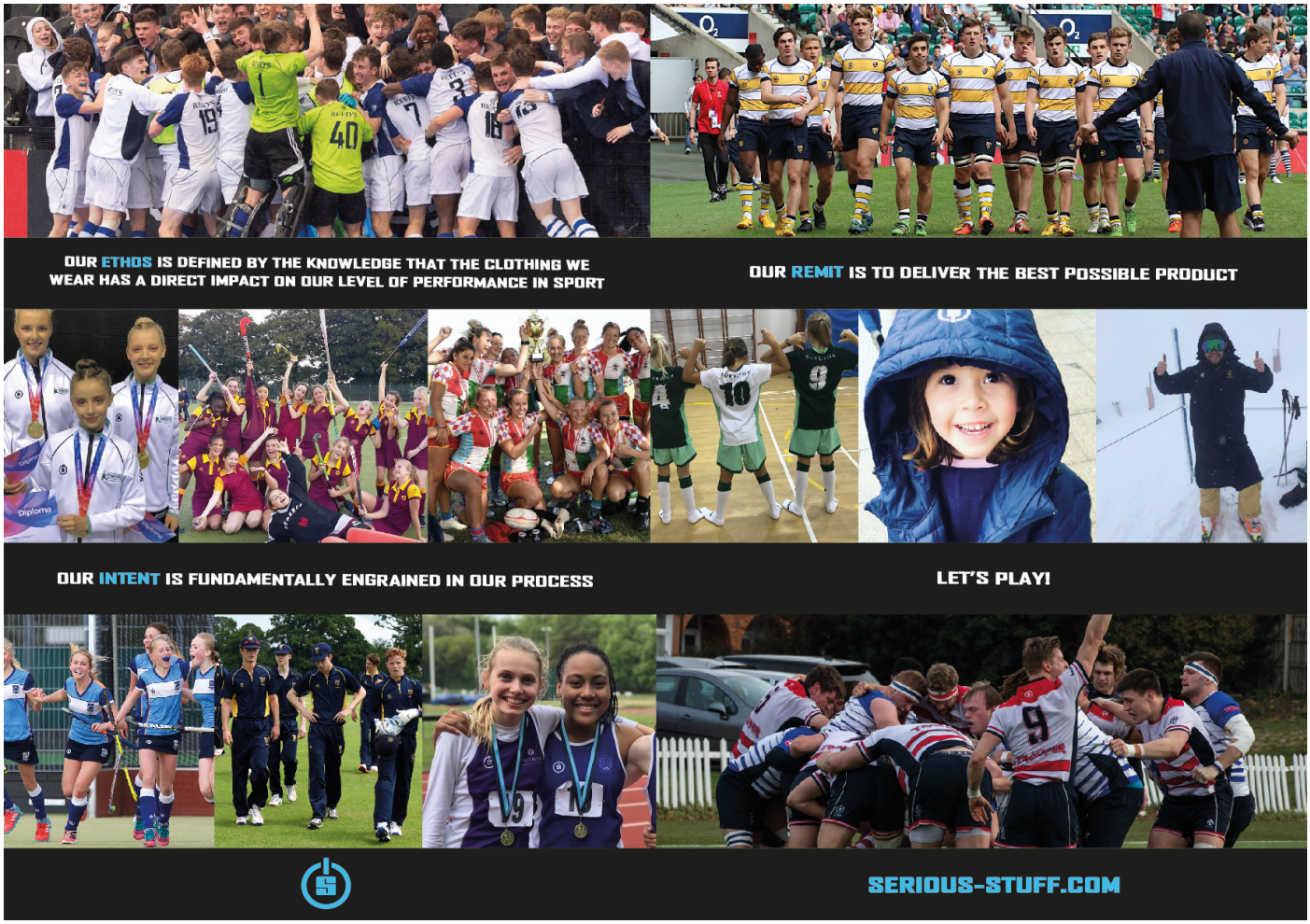
Twitter: http://bit.ly/2PqDlQy

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 with "Send Me ParkNews" in the subject line. You can also receive a tweet immediately Parklife appears on the website by following @RPNoseyParker on Twitter.

This Saturday at the Rock
Rosslyn Park
v
Birmingham Moseley
National 1
Kick off 2:00PM

Advance tickets for match and / or lunch on the club website now
30% off Draught Beers and Cider from 13:00 to 14:15