



Issue 32

16 March 2022

Season 2021-22

# PARK TURN ON THE CHAMPAGNE RUGBY

**Welcome to Parknews** It was a slightly disappointing attendance last Saturday given that we are in contention at the top of league, but those who stayed or went to Twickenham missed out on a spectacular display of attacking rugby from Rosslyn Park. The 4-try bonus was secured within 27 minutes as Park trounced a Birmingham Moseley side that sat in mid-table but – on the day – didn't look in the same league. Unfortunately, each of our main rivals also had 5-point wins: **Caldy** (2 points ahead of us but we have a game in hand) beat Leeds 28-13 at home while **Sale** (a point behind, we have a game in hand) won at home against Darlington MP by 36-14 and **Cambridge** (8 points behind us) ran in 59 points at Tonbridge. **Rams** did not play, but are now surely out of realistic contention being 17 points off the leaders.

The bonus points system is a Coach's nightmare at this stage of the season. Do you go all out for the 4-try bonus from the start, risk potential defensive lapses and thus not winning at all – or do you make sure of the win, possibly missing out on the bonus and risking your rivals gaining a point on you? Thank goodness that's Kieran's job! Our next match at Blackheath is very much a case in point. They are having a poor season, but most of their losses have been by very small margins – few teams have put four tries on Blackheath this season, and they have scored a lot of points with the boot. What is absolutely clear is that some solid vocal support behind the team will be a great help. It's an easy ground to get to – let's create an atmosphere that turns it into a home match!

It would be very remiss not to mention the next home match on 02 April, which could turn out to be one of the most important in the Club's history. Our visitors are league-leaders Caldly. A Park win would be a giant step towards bringing Championship rugby to the Rock next season. Caldly have been taking a very large contingent of very noisy supporters to all their recent matches. We simply can't afford to let them out-shout us on the terraces. Please do come down and bring as many mates as you can recruit – it could make or break our season.

Elsewhere around the club, The **Rangers'** match with **Leicester Lions** was called off as were the other Clubsidest's matches except the **Fours**, who were incredibly unlucky to lose by 33-31 away to the **Honourable Artillery Company**. More of that in Will Thorogood's report later.

## This weekend

There's plenty of FREE rugby entertainment at the Rock this Saturday, with the senior squad involved in the form of the **Rangers** playing their Raging Bull Division 1 match against the second team of Championship side **Jersey Reds**, kicking off at 12:30. The Clubhouse will be open for that and then on into the evening for **all the 6-Nations rugby on the big screen**. With no admission charge, you can bring your friends down – the bar revenue really is important to the club, so watch everything in a real rugby club atmosphere with drinks cheaper than most local pubs! If **netball** is your sport then you have two options: the **Park Reds** are playing **Cumberland** at 11:30 at Hollyfield School, Surbiton Hill Rd, Surbiton, KT6 4TU, then at 14:00 the **Blues** are playing **Guildford** at Chertsey Rec, Guildford Road, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 9BW.

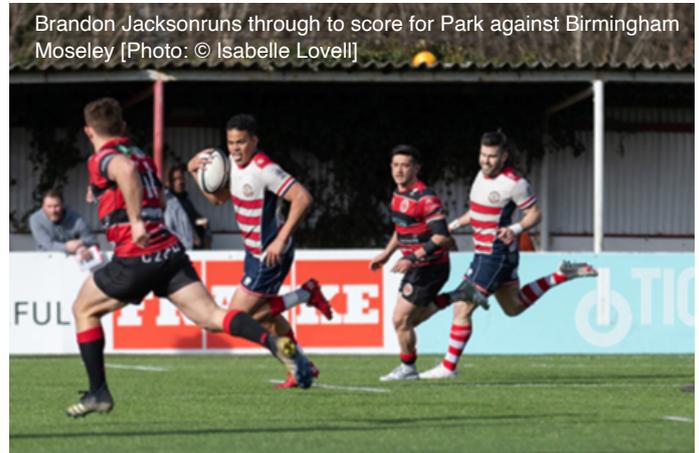
## Park 47

### Birmingham Moseley 14

## National 1

Park returned to the champagne rugby they played earlier in the season and the speed of movement, of ball and of feet, had Moseley floored to the extent that Park had registered the four-try bonus inside the first half hour. Park did have the advantage of a blustery diagonal wind in their favour in the first half but there was far more to it than that.

After only 5 minutes Park had a penalty, hoofed to the corner, and the pack



Brandon Jackson runs through to score for Park against Birmingham Moseley [Photo: © Isabelle Lovell]

Future events  
Saturday 19 March

## Rangers

v

## Jersey Reds

Raging Bull League Div 1  
Home KO 12:30PM

Followed by Six Nations Rugby on the big screen in the Clubhouse

Wales v Italy 14:15

Ireland v Scotland 16:45

France v England 20:00

Netball

## Cumberland v Park Reds

Kingston Leage Div 5  
Away 11:30AM

## Guildford v Park Blues

Kingston Leage Div 12  
Away 2:00PM

Sunday 20 March

## Worcester P v Park Blues

Kingston Leage Div 12  
Away 11:00AM

Next 1st XV home match

Saturday 02 April

THE BIG ONE!

## 1st XV v Caldly

National 1  
Home KO 3:00PM



h  
 ority to shove Moseley back over their own line for prop Sam Garvey to claim the try. Fly half Craig Holland converted from out wide for 7-0.

Park were running Moseley ragged, but the visiting defence held out for another ten minutes until a super high speed move up the left wing was finished by full-back Henry Robinson, Holland nailing another good conversion for 14-0.

A good move through the middle through several hands saw the ball end up with Benji Marfo who needed no invitation to streak through to score. Holland again delivered on the 2 points for 21-0 on 24 minutes.

Moseley may have thought things might get easier when prop Nick Lovell had to limp off, only to be confronted with the return from exile of Stewart Maguire.

They soon had other worries as some clever high-speed interplay on the right wing between Robinson and Brandon Jackson saw the latter sprint in to collar the bonus point on 27 minutes.

Moseley finally began to find their feet in the game, defying some committed Park tackling to set up a score of their own through flanker Fyn Brown. Fly half Dan Lewis nailed a superb conversion into the wind for 28-7 on 31 minutes.

The indignity of conceding a try only goaded Park to re-assert but the ball was dropped just as a try seemed likely. Moseley reached the sanctuary of the dressing room three tries down, but with a slight advantage from the elements in the second half.

Only three minutes into the half Park set up another attack and number 8 Hugo Ellis used his strength and skill to set up winger Josh Addams to sprint in, though he appeared to pull his hamstring in doing so and was replaced by Luc Smith. Holland converted for 35-7.

Park looked like scoring again when the pack drove their opponents back fully 20 metres to their own 5 metre line, only to then concede a penalty.

However, it didn't take long before they were in again, winning a Moseley line-out for Jackson to hare away for his second try,



bringing the score to 40-7.

Moseley never gave up and, stemming originally from Park messing up an attacking lineout, nearly engineered a breakaway try up the right. It was stopped close to the line but only at the cost of a penalty and a yellow card for Robinson. The visitors went to the corner and following the throw Mason Tonks got over. Lewis kicked his second superb conversion for 40-15.

Inevitably it was Park who had the last word, and it was a great move through several hands that released Holland to cut through the middle. Smith added the conversion for the final score of 47-14.

A word for the large contingent of Moseley supporters who, despite what was in reality a good old-fashioned thrashing kept up positive noisy support until the final whistle.

**Park:** Robinson; Marfo, Jackson, Cheeseman, Addams; Holland; Gash; Garvey, Saunders, Lovell; Flashman, Laventure; A Ellis, Spencer, H Ellis

**Bench:** Wade, Piper, Maguire, Lewis, 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>

## Clubsides

Will Thorogood reports that for the forthcoming weekend, the Finale of the 6 Nations, the Clubsides have no games scheduled, so sit back and enjoy the theatre, drama and twists and turns...let's hope there are no more red cards! As far as I'm aware the only game for Saturday is: Rangers v Jersey 2's Home ko 12.30pm in the Raging Bull Shield

Last weekend (12/3) only saw the 1's and 4's performing. An impressive 47-14 win for the 1's against Birmingham Moseley. I'll leave the match report to the experts...

The 4's paid a visit to EC1 to play the Honourable Artillery Company 2's at their HQ in their penultimate Middlesex Merit Premier League encounter. Will Orson, skipper, managed to cobble a side together, and so they assembled at this little oasis in the heart of the financial centre. I do not have details of the course of the game, or the scoring sequence and the scorers, but there was almost an upset against one the stronger teams in the league. I'm told the 4's were, as always, expecting a hard and difficult match against HAC, but they surprised themselves (good to have some self faith and belief) and they played some of their best rugby this season. A game they should have won, but HAC just managed to eke out a lucky win, HAC 2 's 33 IV's 31. The 4's did Will Orson proud. Well played, gents!

The IVs' last game will be at the Rock on the 26th March against Old Habs 2's (rearranged from November) which may well determine the one-up-manship rivalry and pecking order between the IV's and the B's in the league. Watch this space...

The B's were disappointed when London Cornish 2's pulled out of their home league encounter late in the week. Frustratingly, Luke tried, in vain, to find a replacement friendly on Friday morning. The Cornish game would have been Luke's swansong as B's skipper, after four seasons (no Frankie Valli) at the helm...a good, hard working and dedicated servant, through thick and thin. Thank you.

The Nomads, unfortunately, didn't have the staff to go down to Chobham for their penultimate Surrey Championship game, but Fother's is optimistic that they will get a side out for their trip to Cobham on the 26th. This is a rearranged game and will be played as a double header. So, a game of some significance!

**ROSSLYN PARK FC**  
PRESENTS

SCAN ME

**LADIES LUNCH**  
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PLUS RELAUNCH OF WOMENS RUGBY  
AT ROSSLYN PARK

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ROSSLYN PARK 1STXV VS CAMBRIDGE

## Women's Rugby

Rosslyn Park will be re-launching Women's Rugby at the Rock at the forthcoming Ladies' Day Lunch (16 April, before the Cambridge match). There will be several changes in the way it is organised with the Club making a significant investment in the fastest-growing area of our sport. The team will be run by the club along the same lines as our First XV men. We shall be appointing a professional women's Coach, providing physiotherapy cover home and away and providing transport to matches where necessary, and further support through the Men's First XV infrastructure already in place. It would be premature to name the coach until the ink is dry, but he or she will be looking after recruitment (and will be available to talk to players at the National Schools 7s on the day of the girls' competitions).

The team will train on Thursday evenings, with access to the Senior Squad coaches. That also has the advantage that local University players who train on Wednesdays will be able to join us. We would hope that playing and training with top coaching on a 4G pitch with decent floodlighting and dressing rooms, plus support provided will be an attractive incentive to players. Of course, those former Slingbacks still playing regularly, who share the Club's ambition to drive women's rugby at the club to the highest possible level, will be very welcome to come on the journey.

Attitude will be important for players as much as experience and ability. A commitment to team and team-mates is the essential ingredient. Players keen to take up the sport who want to learn and improve will always be welcome.

One innovation concerns overcoming a sort of 'discrimination' brought about by grass pitches. Women tend to have to play on Sundays, because the male sections of clubs have league matches on Saturday afternoons and they do not want other teams cutting up the pitch before their matches - and it's too dark to play afterwards. Always playing on Sundays limits the enjoyment of Saturday evenings and is not the ideal preparation for work on Mondays. With our 4G pitch, and the co-operation of opponents, we can play matches on Saturdays or even on Friday evenings.

It is planned to play friendly matches in August. The RFU have indicated that they see no reason we cannot re-enter the leagues at the same level as we left, which would give a good base to build from, though they did say that was not an absolute promise. In the ideal world we would get enough recruits to allow us to also run a second team at a lower level, but that may not be possible from the start.

## Netball

Rosslyn Park Reds had back to back games last weekend, playing on Saturday and Sunday to catch up from January's postponed games. This weekend it's the Blues playing catch up with a visit to Worcester Park on Sunday after Saturday's match at Guildford. The Reds visit Cumberland on Saturday.



## Rosslyn Park Reds 26 Capital Nuns B 46

### Kingston League Div 5

Saturday saw Reds take on top of the league, Capital Nuns. Nuns are an established and strong team and after losing to them in the first round of the season we knew it would be a tough game. The first quarter ended 12 - 5 to Nuns and it was clear Rosslyn Park Reds were going to have to fight hard to stay in third game. Goal Defence, Simone Quick came off in the second quarter due to injury meaning the reds has to shuffle their positions. The final score was 46 - 26 to Nuns, but the Reds still managed to come away with 1 point by keeping that goal difference to less than half.

Home POM: Lucy (C) and Saskia (GK)

Away POM: Abby (GD)

## Worcester Park Lions 45 Rosslyn Park Reds 45

### Kingston League Div 5

Sunday saw the Reds take on Worcester Park Lions, a team that they beat last time around by only 3 goals. The two teams have been very even in the league table throughout the whole season, winning and losing to the same teams. The reds started off strong going up by 3 goals at the end of the first quarter but the second quarter saw the Lions fight back and the first half ended 27 - 26 to Worcester Park Lions.

A shuffle round of positions for the second half helped the Reds to get the game back under control. There was still only 1 goal in it going into the final quarter. The reds started to tire, the Lions got several goals in a row and we went down by 6 goals. But it didn't end there, the Reds kept their heads up and fought all the way to the end, resulting in a draw and final score of 45 - 45. A nailbiting and exhilarating game, as reflected by the scoreline.

Home POM: Charli (GS) and Emily H (WA)

Away POM: Fran (GA and WD)

## Ashtead All Stars D 26 Rosslyn Park Blues 41

### Kingston League Div 12

Kingston blues kicked off their match against Ashton on Saturday with a solid team consisting of Gabs Gk, Miller GD, Charlotte WD, maddie C, tash WA, Kate GA and Pip GS.

Gabs and Miller worked well together and put up a strong defence. The first quarter proved more difficult for blues than most previous matches and had to bring their best game. GA and GS worked well together in the circle with Pip having a strong hold, allowing some great shots. The centre court were getting some fantastic interceptions and making use of the whole court. The team went into the second quarter with the same team apart from Tash came on in centre and Maddie switched to WA. The rain started which meant a much slipperier court therefore we had to adapt our play to shorter sharper passes and more holding in the circle. GS and GA got some great over head balls which helped Park continue to lead the game.

The third quarter saw a few changes in the line up. Maddie moved back to centre, Kate as WA. The defence was strong around the D. The opposing attack were getting into good space and shooting well, which put more pressure on defence but they held their nerve and got lots of intercepts and rebounds. The game was calm and controlled. The blues focused on staying ball side which gave us more control in the game.

In the final quarter Kate went back to GA and Millie came on as GS. Gabs moved into GD with Miller as GK. Blues maintained their focus and defence did a solid job of bringing the ball down the court and allowing the attack to stay high for quick court play. WD got some great interceptions. The away player of the match was GA Kate and home player was Gabs (GK). Blues maintain their unbeaten record for the season.

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

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:cori.pinkus@rosslynpark.co.uk).

### Title Race

With now either six or five matches to go, and now only one to be promoted, unless Ealing or Doncaster successfully appeal against the decision on their grounds, below are the remaining fixtures of the top four (ie those within 10 points of the leaders 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 P23– 88pts

Home	Away
Taunton	<b>Rosslyn Park</b>
B Stortford	Rams
Sale	

#### Rosslyn Park P22 – 86pts

Home	Away
------	------

Caldy	Blackheath
Cambridge	Chinnor
Plymouth	Tonbridge

#### Sale P23 - 85 pts

Home	Away
Cambridge	Moseley
Blackheath	<b>Caldy</b>
Chinnor	

#### Cambridge P22 – 78 pts

Home	Away
Plymouth	Leeds
Taunton	<b>Rosslyn Park</b>
B Stortford	Rams

### 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 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.

### Coaching appointment

During the week, the club announced the appointment former Great Britain rugby league international Danny Ward to its 1st XV coaching Team. If Twitter is anything to go by, he's quite a catch!



Lots of Rugby League fans have been tweeting congratulations to Danny and to the club on making a great appointment.

Danny played as a prop in Rugby League for Leeds Rhinos, Castleford Tigers, Hull Kingston Rovers and Great Britain. After retiring from playing, he became head coach of the London Broncos from the beginning of the 2018 season and in his first year of being Head Coach achieved promotion

into the super league, winning the final million pound game 4–2 against the Toronto Wolfpack.

In the release announcing the appointment, Kieran Power said: *"We're delighted to bring in Danny's experience to assist with the coaching here at Rosslyn Park, and especially with Danny's experience recently in winning the Championship with London Broncos. He has already added a lot of value in his first week with the club".*

Danny said: *"I'm delighted to be joining Rosslyn Park. I know a few of the guys from my time when coaching at London Broncos and it's an exciting time to be joining the club. I'm looking forward to getting started and helping this group deliver on its potential".*

### 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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**Next 1st XV home match**  
**Saturday 02 April**  
**THE BIG ONE!**

# 1st XV v Caldy

National 1  
Home KO 3:00PM



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