



Issue 33

23 March 2022

Season 2021-22

# PLEASE SUPPORT PARK AWAY THIS SATURDAY

**Welcome to Parknews** After a week off, the senior squad resume action this weekend with a vital local Derby away to **Blackheath**. With our promotion rivals picking up bonus-point wins with monotonous regularity it is crucial that we do not drop our focus for a moment. That would be greatly helped if we could assemble an army of vocal Park supporters there. Travel details are further on, but the Blackheath ground at Well Hall is a stone's throw from Eltham station in travelcard zone 3 which has a frequent service. The players were really chuffed with the vocal support they got at Cinderford, so let's step it up a gear and really get everyone behind them as the curtain descends on the season and promotion soon decided for another year.

Blackheath have been enduring a poor season by their own standards, but most of their losses have been by very small margins – only away to ourselves, Caldy and Cambridge have they failed to secure at least a point in each match. Blackheath are far from safe from the spectre of relegation, currently third-from-bottom they are four points ahead of Leeds Tykes but the Yorkshire club have two matches in hand. Blackheath will be fighting as if survival depends upon it. Add into the mix that they have been something of a bogey side to us whenever we have been having a good season, plus the fact that you can throw the form book out of the window for these local Derbies, and we have a potential banana skin in front of us.

The address of the ground is Well Hall, Kidbrooke Lane, London SE9 6TE. It 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. 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.

While the players need to concentrate on Blackheath first, supporters can plan for the following Saturday (02 April) which could turn out to be one of the most important in the Club's history. Our visitors are the current league-leaders **Caldy**. A Park win could be a giant step towards bringing Championship rugby to the Rock next season. Caldy 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.

If you really can't make it to Blackheath this Saturday, at the Rock the **Fours** are playing **Old Haberdashers** at 14:00 in Middlesex Merit Premier. The **Rangers** are away at **Amphill** in the Raging Bull League and the **Nomads** away to **Cobham** in the Surrey Championship.

All this week the **Rosslyn Park HSBC National Schools 7s** are taking place at the Richardson Evans grounds, just off the A3 by the Robin Hood roundabout. There is no admission charge and the tournament runs every day from around 10:00 – 17:00. You can find out everything about the tournament from the website at <http://www.rpns7.co.uk/>  
[The Tournament schedule can be found here](#)  
[For fixtures and results throughout the week can be found here](#)  
[Live stream on youtube](#)

Last weekend the Rangers did not have enough available players to fill the bench when facing the second string of Championship side Jersey Reds. But those who did play, reinforced by Clubside players from the B XV,



Owen Waters leads a Park attack against Jersey on Saturday with Timi Opleade outside in support

**Future events**  
**Saturday 26 March**

**Blackheath**  
v  
**1st XV**  
National 1  
Away KO 3:00PM

**Fours v Haberdashers**  
Middlesex Merit Premier  
Home KO 2:00PM

**Cobham v Nomads**  
Surrey Championship  
Away KO TBA

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

**1st XV**  
v  
**Caldy**  
National 1  
Home KO 3:00PM  
Discounted advance tickets available from the  
Rosslyn Park website now

gave us a treat of running rugby that deserved a bigger crowd as they threw the ball around to take a 59-21 win. There are several players here who are hammering on the door for a First XV place. **But pride of place this week must go to the netballers of Rosslyn Park Blues whose two wins over the weekend made them LEAGUE WINNERS with two games still to play.** The Rosslyn Park Reds also won and are still in the title hunt. Full reports on all the matches further on.

## Park Rangers 59 Jersey Athletic 21 Raging Bull League Div 1



Park kicked off into a strong wind but got off to a dream start, winning the ball and putting together a good move for lock Rob Lind to score in the first minute. Owen Waters added a good conversion for 7-0.

Jersey came back strongly, forcing Park to drop out from behind their own line. With the elements very much against them Park really could not kick clear for any distance, but they defended brilliantly which, allied to some poor handling from their opponents, kept them afloat until they were able to run the ball out of defence. As the ball crossed half way winger Timi Oploeade burst up the right and hacked on, the ball was gathered and shipped through hands to the opposite wing where Chris Stegman was waiting to pounce, Waters nailing a difficult conversion for 14-0.

If Jersey were shading possession, Park were much faster and decisive when they had it and Stegman, having a terrific game on the left wing, hared up his flank to grab a second try. The conversion was narrowly missed for 19-0.

Jersey finally got on the scoreboard when a fine run from their fly half started a good move that saw Park penalized. The kick to touch saw a well-executed catch and drive to reduce the deficit to



19-7 following a superb touchline conversion. When the Channel Islanders added a second converted try for 19-14 it looked as if Park might be in for a battle.

Instead, a really good move through the middle saw Stegman complete his hat-trick to the right of the posts, Waters adding the extras for 26-14.

There was just time before the interval for Park to add another cracker of a try, full-back Olli Rosillio coming into the line and running round behind the posts to give Waters an easy kick for 33-14 at the interval.

Park lost no time in getting back in the groove, almost from kick off centre Quinten Koster out-paced the visiting defence down the left, Waters again converting, off the post, for 40-14.

Jersey had a really good attack which was only stopped at the cost of a yellow card for prop Josh Rasor, but after kicking the resulting penalty to touch they failed to secure their own throw and Park escaped.

Park were soon in again with a strong run through the middle by impressive combative flanker Tyler Bush, Waters' conversion bringing up 47-14.

Park were not done yet, a really great team try up the right saw right wing Timi Oploeade scorch in to finish it off. He is another real prospect, with pace to spare and a strength of tackle out of proportion to his frame. He had time to trip, pick himself, and still make the line.



Stegman nearly got a fourth with a strong run up the left, hacking on but the ball reached the dead ball line before he could fall on it.

Jersey got a deserved consolation try in the right corner, finished off with a top notch conversion for 52-21

But it was Park who had the final say on the stroke of full time through a good try from Brendan le Gaulle. Owen Waters capped a fine individual performance with his eighth conversion out of nine. He'd looked really annoyed at the one he missed!

**Park Rangers:** *Olli Rosillio; Timi Oploeade, Sam King, Quinten Koster, Chris Stegman; Owen Waters; Jack Webster; Jake Buckingham, Conrad Carkeet, Josh Rasor; Rob Lind, Will Burton; Brendan Le Gaulle, Tyler Bush, Alex McLean.*

**Bench:** *Charles Satow, Ekundayo Shasanya, Ed Daniel. Ali Stephens.*



## Clubsides

Will Thorogood reports that, well, after the excitement, elation or disappointment of the 6 Nations finale, the Clubsides' games for this coming weekend (rearranged affairs) are as follows: 4's v Old Habs 2 Home ko 2pm MMT Premiermand Nomads v Cobham Away ko TBC Surrey Championship. B's league programme completed.

I have nothing to report from last weekend, except the Rangers had a convincing win over Jersey 2's Saturday lunchtime, 59-21. Thanks to some of the B's who helped bolster the Rangers' numbers. None of them looked out of place.

## Women's Rugby

The Club announced this week that the new Head Coach of the re-formed Rosslyn Park women's team will be Marc Turner. Marc will start immediately. He is currently Coach of the Brazil Women's Sevens and has been coaching at Harlequins in various roles since 2013, currently in their Player Development Programme at U-15/16 level. He has worked on performance analysis with the England women's team. Marc's strong technical knowledge and his experience of the women's game will be a great asset in re-building our women's programme. His day job is as a lecturer in Performance Analysis and Talent Spotting at St Mary's University, which could come in very handy in his new role! Marc will report to Kieran Power, Director of Rugby. The team will have access to the First XV infrastructure and coaching, training on Thursday evenings. With good coaching and the added benefits of a 4G pitch, decent floodlighting and good changing facilities we hope it will be an attractive package for both experienced players and for newbies who want to grow with the team and take Rosslyn Park women's rugby onwards and upwards.

Dom Shabbo has written to as many former Slingbacks as we have addresses to come to invite those still playing and committed to the new ethos to come along and meet with Marc, but as the Slingbacks ran their own admin we do not have everyone's details. If anyone reading this falls into that category, is interested, and has not been contacted please do get in touch with the club office.

## Mini / Youth Rugby

There will be another kicking masterclass at the Rock on 15 April, run by Alex Davies. More details soon, but if you can't wait to book, contact the club office.

## Netball

Our new team Blues have secured their place as winners of their league following back to back wins at the weekend. Only 2 games left to remain unbeaten for the whole season. Reds narrowly lost after an incredible performance, meaning promotion will go down to the final games.

## Rosslyn Park Reds 30 Cumberland A 31

### Kingston League 5

This was a huge game for the Reds this week as it was a fight for second and third in the league. The whole team wanted to rise to the challenge and put out a strong performance. Our usual GS Charli was away so the line up this week was slightly different from our normal squad. We had great strength on the side line with some strong players so we knew we had to put it all out on court and give it our all!

Quarter one was a strong quarter where we finished with a 6 goal lead with some great feeds into our shooting circle. Tara held her space well and was able to put the shots up. We maintained this lead (just) throughout quarter two but Cumberland we're hot on our heels and had picked up the pace of the game. Unfortunately, quarter 3 saw us make some errors and we let Cumberland into the game. Our defence was working really hard to keep them out of the shooting circle with Charlotte and Simone working incredibly hard to get the turnover. Throughout quarter 4 Rosslyn Park stepped up and gave it absolutely everything and managed to fight back from being 6 goals down.

The whole team put in an outstanding effort to equalise to 30-30. In the last second of the game, on the whistle Cumberland scored making it 30-31 to them. This was a devastating and hard loss for the team but everyone gave 100% and should be proud of the fight displayed on court. This was a solid team effort.

## Rosslyn Park Blues 43 Guildford C 30

### Kingston League Div 12

Day 1 of double header weekend for the Rosslyn Park Blues, with nothing but clear blue skies, a far cry from the torrential rain the girls played in the last time they were on court in Chertsey! Ankles were warm, eyes were in and the Blues were ready to face Guildford for what they knew was going to be the most competitive match of the season so far.

Quarter 1 kicked off with a solid team consisting of Jess (GK), Gabs (GD), Jude (WD), Mads (C), Hayley (WA), Kate (GA) & Pip (GS).

Score at the end of the first quarter: 11-6 to Park. Guildford started strong, but Park quickly turned it around with great defence getting plenty of rebounds and turnovers, a strong mid court quickly and skilfully getting the ball down the court, and good movement and accuracy from the shooters. A strong start for Park. Score at the end of the second quarter: 21-14 to Park.

The second quarter saw the fantastic debut of Alex (WD) & Bella (GS), who rapidly fell into the rhythm of the team and kept the momentum up. The Blues were also lucky to have some extra cheer from the sidelines keeping the energy high.

Score at the end of the third quarter: 28-20 to Park.

The third quarter saw more changes to the squad but fresh legs kept the pace up and the quality high. Defence was relentless, and the feeds into the circle from the mid court were smooth. Final score: 43-30 to Park.

A big final quarter with Park scoring 15 goals to secure the win.

From the first centre, Guildford was bringing it to the Blues, determined to stop the undefeated streak of RPNC. But the relentless defence, strong mid court and great combinations of attack combined made sure that streak continued. The home player of the match was Alex, making her debut for Park. Away players were Jess & Gabs in what Guildford described as "the best defence they have ever played against". Well played Park!

## Rosslyn Park Blues 55 Worcester Park Lions C 30 Kingston League Div 12

The second game of the double header weekend for Kingston Blues and a sunny morning for it! Gabs GK, Jess GD, Alex WD, Jude C, Maddie WA, Pip GA and Bella GS made up the starting 7. Score at the end of first quarter: 17-4 to Park.

An epic first quarter for the Blues with fantastic flow down the court. GD and WD worked well to bring the ball up the court, with excellently placed feeds into the circle from C and WA. Lovely movement from GA created space, allowing GS to showcase her impressive holds on her debut weekend. Both GA and GS showed notable shooting accuracy to secure a strong goal difference for Park. Score at the end of the second quarter: 26-18 to Park.

The second quarter saw a few changes in the line-up. Jess to GK, Gabs to GD and Haley to C. The Lions came into the second with a point to prove and brought a strong fight. GK and GD worked hard to get their hands on the ball and to keep the Lion shooters high. WD got some great interceptions too. Score at the end of third quarter: 43, 23 to Park.

The third quarter saw Jude back on as C and Hayley to WA. Blues came back into the third quarter with a level head and determination to take back control of the game. C was pivotal in this, slowing the pace of the game and creating space for GD and WD to drive the ball up the court. WA made some excellent drives to pocket. We saw some impressive long-range shots from GA and WA and C made great use of the swing ball with more accurate feeds into the seemingly magnetic hands of GS. Score at the end of the game: 55, 30.

In the final quarter the blues maintained their focus and really worked to play their own game. The defence was particularly strong for the last quarter, with GK and GD working nicely to secure multiple rebounds and turnovers in the opposition circle. The effective shooting pairing continued to work their magic reflected in the final score of 55 goals to 30. The home player of the match was GS Bella and the away player C Jude. A great weekend for the Blues, who are looking to go undefeated for the season! Well played team.

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 \(clubleague.azurewebsites.net\)](https://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

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

### Rosslyn Park P22 – 86pts

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

### Sale P23 - 85 pts

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

### Cambridge P22 – 78 pts

<i>Home</i>	<i>Away</i>
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 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 hosteleries, 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.

### Last of the Summer Whine

Before last Saturday's Rangers match the Editor, along with a club official, was conversing with three senior referees bemoaning the increasing Americanisation of the sport. This we attributed to large extent to the selling off of a significant share in the Premiership to the US venture capitalists CVC. This subject was brought about by the 'smart ball' used for the first time in the Newcastle v Leicester on BT Sport the night before. This is a standard Gilbert ball, but with a chip in the valve area which sends signals to transponders embedded around the ground. It generates the sort statistic that is manna to American Football crowds when flashed up on a large screen, but things perfectly observable – if actually of any interest – to those actually interested and watching the match. We all shook our heads sagely. One ref quoted a former RFU President he's met at a 7s tournament the week before as saying, "Rugby used to be about people – now it's just about making a profit. No one cares about the grass roots any more".

Sadly, we had to report that Rosslyn Park had taken a tentative step down this path to Rugby Hell on the previous Saturday. I refer, of course, to the modern practice of releasing a cacophony of sound over the loudspeakers when a try is scored. Some of us wish to applaud, shout our encouragement or discuss the move with those around us. Instead we are instantly drowned out with a diabolical noise purported by some to be music. Has anyone done research into how many people actively attend a match because scores are heralded with this infernal racket? Because it will certainly drive some away. By the way does anyone know where you can buy Sanatogen nowadays?

### 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 on Twitter.

**Next 1st XV home match**

**Saturday 02 April**

**THE BIG ONE!**

# 1st XV v Caldy

**National 1**

**Home KO 3:00PM**

Book your discounted match tickets now on the Rosslyn Park website, where you can also book for the pre-match lunch

OUR ETHOS IS DEFINED BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE CLOTHING WE WEAR HAS A DIRECT IMPACT ON OUR LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE IN SPORT

OUR REMIT IS TO DELIVER THE BEST POSSIBLE PRODUCT

OUR INTENT IS FUNDAMENTALLY ENGRAINED IN OUR PROCESS

LET'S PLAY!

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