



Issue 34

30 March 2022

Season 2021-22

# TOP OF THE TABLE CLASH ON SATURDAY

**Welcome to Parknews** To say that last Saturday was a bitter disappointment is to put it mildly, especially with so many supporters turning up ready to cheer Park to a famous victory. To lose playing poorly to a side we should have been able to beat and in such an important match is a hard pill to swallow, but taking such defeats on the chin is an essential part of being a supporter. These things happen – we just have to learn the lessons, put it behind us and to look forward. The players and coaches will be feeling the defeat just as keenly as anyone and working hard in training this week to put things right. There is still everything to play for. With Saturday's opponents, Caldys, away support increasing with their success, if ever we needed every single supporter vocally behind the team it is this Saturday. There's pre-match entertainment, spot prizes plus 30% off draught beer and cider from 1:00PM-2:30. There's a 3-course lunch available at £30.



Last week saw a magnificent staging of the Rosslyn Park HSBC National Schools 7s with over 800 schools competing on 22 pitches with around 10,000 spectators over the 5 days

The **Rangers** visited **Amphill** last Saturday and lost by 42-24. Unfortunately we have no match report, but team manager John Weatherall persuaded our video cameraman Connor to kindly extract a couple of still photos from his footage, which appear later. The **Nomads** beat **Cobham 2s** by 57-7 in the Surrey Championship.

This Saturday's match is now absolutely crucial. Our opponents **Caldy**, are five points ahead of Park after putting eight tries on Taunton last Saturday, but we have a game in hand. However, if teams finish level final placings are determined not by points difference (which would strongly favour Rosslyn Park) but on number of matches won. Currently Caldys have won 19 to our 17 so even a bonus point win without Caldys gaining a point would see them still placed above us in the table. Should we end up with the same number of wins then final placings are determined by number of draws, where they have two to our none. So we have to pull clear of them in terms of match points in the final run-in - which is where our game-in-hand enters the equation. A Park win and we would probably still be marginal favourites for promotion to the Championship, with our future in our own hands, but a defeat would lead to us depending on others. If the worst were to happen Caldys will still face difficult matches away to Rams and home to Sale.

Caldy may seem the most unlikely League leaders, especially if you listen to the pronouncements of their Director of Rugby, Gareth Davies. Caldys were promoted as unbeaten leaders of National 2 North last playing season, having been relegated from National 1 the season before. Davies admitted recently that he had not been sure how his team would fare back at the higher level, and that at the start of the season he would have accepted finishing on 65 points, the general accepted safety level in this division. They indeed started tentatively, having difficulty coping with the pace in the higher league and lost their first two matches, away to Cinderford (21-29) and home to Birmingham Moseley (0-24). But they proved to be fast learners - they have lost only one match since! That was at home to Rosslyn Park back in November, when we won a tight match at Paton Field by 26-20. Since then they have won 13 matches on the trot including a 4-try-bonus-point win away to Sale. They will be thirsting for revenge on Saturday and present the strongest possible challenge to our ambitions.

This Saturday our **B XV** and our **Fours** have both reached the semi-finals of the MMT Premiership Cup this weekend. Both have been drawn away, to **Hammersmith & Fulham 2** and **HAC 2** respectively. We wish them good luck, but even if they both contest the final it will be played at Ruislip RFC. There was no **netball** last weekend, but both the **Reds** and the **Blues** are on parade this Saturday. The Reds are away to **Actonians** in Division 5 of the Kingston League at 1:00 PM Roehampton Sports & Fitness Centre, Laverstoke Gardens, Roehampton, SW15 4JB. The Blues are already

Future events  
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, where you can also book for the pre-match lunch.

## Hammermith & F 2 v B XV

MMT Premier Semi Final  
Away KO TBA

## HAC 2 v Fours

MMT Premier Semi Final  
Away KO TBA

Netball

## Actonians v Park Reds

Kingston League Div 5  
Away 13:00

## Park Blues v Putney Ladies

Kingston League Div 12  
Home 12:30

Champions of Division 12 in their first season, but they will be keen to keep their unbeaten record when they take on **Putney Ladies** at home (Roehampton University, Froebel College, Roehampton Ln, London, SW15 5PJ) at 12:30.

## Blackheath 31

### Park 24

#### National 1

A grandstand finish that had Blackheath in desperate defence was not enough to save Park's bacon – or disguise the fact that overall this was an inexplicably, desperately poor performance by Park. Blackheath were clearly up for it – inevitably given that it was a local Derby and they were under threat of relegation. Park seemed unable to cope with the fact until it was effectively too late. Our fast three-quarters who have woven high-speed magic almost every week were simply never in the match.

An early home try, a result of taking a scrum rather than opting to kick a penalty, winger Jake Lloyd getting over and fly half Freddie Gabbitas converting on only 5 minutes should have been the wake up call.

That seemed to have been the case when, on 13 minutes, Park hoofed a penalty to touch and drove over for Jared Saunders to touch down. Fly half Craig Holland could not quite manage the wide conversion into a strong breeze, but there was every hope that Park would kick on from there.



Instead it was Blackheath who dictated proceedings for long periods. They extended their lead on 25 minutes, when a kick to the corner led to a penalty in the Park 22. That was propelled back to touch and an indecisive line-out saw home flanker Harry Holland seize the loose ball and scamper over. Gabbitas converted for 14-10.

With nothing going right for them Park became visibly frustrated and began to lose discipline. Penalised on half-way, they were marched back 10 metres for arguing, providing an easy kick for touch about 10 metres out. The consequent throw was not straight, providing a means of escape.

They were not so lucky on 33 minutes when the hosts put together a good move finished off by Lloyd's second try out on the right to increase the lead to 19-5.

Nothing would work for Park. A penalty on half way failed to find touch. They cut through the middle only to knock on.

Their frustration was compounded on the stroke of half time when home full back Nick Foster ran through tackles to grab a bonus-



point try and a 24-5 lead at the interval.

With the strong breeze in their favour for the second half the gap looked bridgeable if Park could rediscover anything like their true form. Things started optimistically, forcing a penalty, kicked to the corner for an unstoppable catch-and-drive for Hugo Ellis to touch down for 24-10.

But Park were soon back on their own 22 and conceding a penalty. Gabbitas missed an easy chance, but nailed a more difficult kick after a neat move by Blackheath hit Park with a sucker punch in the form of Lloyd's hat-trick try in the right corner. At 31-10 with just over half an hour remaining it looked all over.

Park did finally launch a massive response, primarily through the pack. They exerted immense pressure but the home side summoned their every resource to defend their lead. There was hope on 54 minutes when the scrum drove over for scrum half Dave Lewis to touch down, Holland converting for 31-17.

Another all-out attack stretched the home defence but couldn't break it. A massive attack came to nought when Park conceded a penalty. Another was stopped at the cost of a yellow card. With five minutes remaining, Park finally breached the defence through Hugo Ellis to claim the 4-try bonus and Holland's conversion brought them into losing bonus point territory at 31-24.

Park went back on the attack, set up an attacking lineout but Blackheath stole the throw. Another strong attack ended with a knock-on. But it was too little too late. Taken over the 80 minutes the better side on the day won.

**Park:** Robinson; Scott, Cheeseman, Koster, Marfo; Holland; Gash; Traynor, Saunders, Maguire; Flashman, Gray; Spencer, A Ellis, Laventure

**Bench:** Garvey, Piper, H Ellis, Lewis, Smith.

## Rangers

The Rangers travelled to Ampthill last week to play the second-string of the Championship club for a League fixture. Unfortunately we do not have a match report on the 42-24 loss, but video cameraman Connor kindly extracted some stills from his footage to give a flavor of proceedings.



## Clubsides

*Will Thorogood Reports* that the Nomads were the only Clubside to perform at the weekend, taking a trip to the leafy lanes of Surrey to play Cobham 2's in their ultimate Surrey Championship fixture of this season's campaign. I don't have details of the course of the game, although it sounds as if it was one-way traffic, but it was played as a "double header", winner taking all the league points for both the home and away games, which had been postponed from earlier in the season. Well, the Nomads took the league points with a convincing 57-7 win! Well played.

As it turns out, there is still some Clubside activity this coming weekend. Both the 4's and the B's have reached the MMT Premier League Play-Off semi-finals. Congratulations, gents. Hard tasks ahead of them, but both sides, on their day, are very capable of reaching the final, which would mean an "All Park" finale which would be on the 23rd April at Ruislip RFC!? Watch this space...

Games for the weekend:

4's v HAC 2's Away ko TBC MMT Premier Semi Final Play-Off

B's v H&F 2's Away ko TBC MMT Premier Semi Final Play-Off

## Chobham 2s 7 Nomads 57

Surrey Championship

By Adam Fotherington



The Nomads ventured to Cobham RFC for their last game of a tough post-Covid season. Double points were on the line, following a previously cancelled fixture, so the boys were pumped to finish the campaign on a high.

Weather conditions, absolutely perfect. The sun was shining, temperatures were around 19 degrees and a slight breeze provided a much-needed cool relief.

A strong start by the Nomads evidenced by a dominate set of scrums by the pack was rewarded by a cheeky opportunistic try for Tommy H, followed by Gregor tidily finishing in the corner. A yellow card to match his shorts for Chow gave the oppo some relief, but the pressure was relenting and Pentz from Tommy J's cross field kick touched down in the corner. Set piece and defence wins game and both were on point for the Nomads. Two 5m drives by the oppo were stopped and the following counter attack resulted in 2 more tries for the Nomads with some big chase downs by Cam J. Lachy on point with his borrowed boots - Half time Nomads up 32-0 up.

Second half kicked off with the young oppo fronting up and getting some points on the board. Some big carries by Jamie, Vin, Chow, Cake, Blair, San, Shotton and Spice resulted in gaps forming with Chow and San crossing the white line. As the game opened up, the galloping Pentz cut them apart and scored a beautiful a solo effort and followed up by putting Ant in to sprint into the corner. Big debuts in the loose from the Chilean powerhouse Big Vin and Eddy the Eagle.

Final score 57-7 to the Nomads and a great finish to the season. MOTM obviously Chow, but a big shout out to Pentz for his 4 meat pies.

Next came the main part of the event, the post-game beers. Pints/jars/schooners whatever you call them flowed at the excellent Cobham clubhouse (great hosts) resulting in some much-deserved sore heads the next morning. If Carlsberg did rugby away days.....

**Team line up (1-15):** JK, Vicente, Chow; San, Fothers; Shots, Tommy H, Spice; Teddy; Lachy (c); Cam, Gregor, Jamie, Chairman Moss; Pentz

**Bench:** Eddy, Ant, Cake, Tommy J, Blair, Andy

## Sevens heaven

There are many things our club can be proud of, and key among them has to be that amazing feat of organisation the Rosslyn Park HSBC National Schools Sevens. The 2022 tournament took place last week, blessed by the best weather for some years. More than 800 school teams took part on 22 pitches over 5 days with play constant each day from around 10:00 – 17:00. Over the whole week some ten thousand spectators took advantage of the sunshine and free admission to witness some super Rugby. The temporary facilities improve every year and would put some senior clubs to shame. The matches on the two main pitches are live-streamed over the internet and watches by thousands more around the world.

The tournament kicked off on Monday with the **Juniors** and **Under-11s** who (along with the Prep schools later in the week) are





not permitted by RFU regulations to play out finals to establish overall winners and losers, but there was plenty of entertaining Rugby nevertheless. Tuesday saw the inaugural running of a **girls U-15** competition, contested by 16 schools with **Ivybridge College** emerging as the first winners, beating **Kings of Wessex** in the final by 24-5. It was also the start of **Vase** competition comprising 192 schools.

Wednesday saw the start of the **Colts** tournament, also contested by 192 entrants, plus the final stages of the Vase in which Stowe beat **Oakham** by 38-5 to become 2022 Champions. Thursday saw the start of the prestigious **Cup** competition, which attracted 50 entries. The final of the Colts saw **Eton** beat **Harrow** by 29-12.

Friday saw 60 **Prep schools** play out their competition. There were 48 entries for the **Girls U-18** competition, which illustrated the giant steps female rugby has taken recently with **Exeter College** winning a nail-biting final against **Oaklands** by 17-15. The Boys U-14 final saw **Sedburgh** win another tense encounter against Scottish side **George Watson** by 22-21. The **Girls AASE** was contested by the 9 elite (in Rugby terms) girls U-18 teams and showcased some amazing skills, **Hartpury** beating **Bishop Burton** in the final by 38-5. Inevitably the main focus was on the Cup, **Wellington** staging a comeback from 12-0 down to defeat **Millfield** by 35-19 and bring down the curtain on a fabulous week.

The competition could not take place without the team of dedicated volunteers and our sponsors to whom the club is deeply grateful.

### Title Race

With now either four 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 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 P24– 93pts

Home	Away
Bishops Stortford	<b>Rosslyn Park</b>
<b>Sale</b>	Rams

#### Rosslyn Park P23 – 88pts

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

#### Sale P23 - 85 pts

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

#### Cambridge P23– 83 pts

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

### Youth & Mini Rugby

There will be another of the popular Easter Camps, run by Alex Davies of AE Elite Sports running on 13-14 April from 10:00 to 15:00. The camps are aimed at players aged 7-15.



### Chinnor Points deduction

Chinnor have been deducted 5 League points after being found guilty of using an unregistered agent in respect of two players, Ryan Lomas and Max Heathman. Both players received two-match suspensions. However all of the punishments are suspended until the end of the 2022-23 season, except that the agent involved has been fined £400. In addition DoR Richard Thorpe is required to design and deliver a training session for his players and coaches on the requirements of the RFU agents regulations which must be completed by 31 March.

### 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).**

## Away travel

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 hostels, 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.

## 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.**

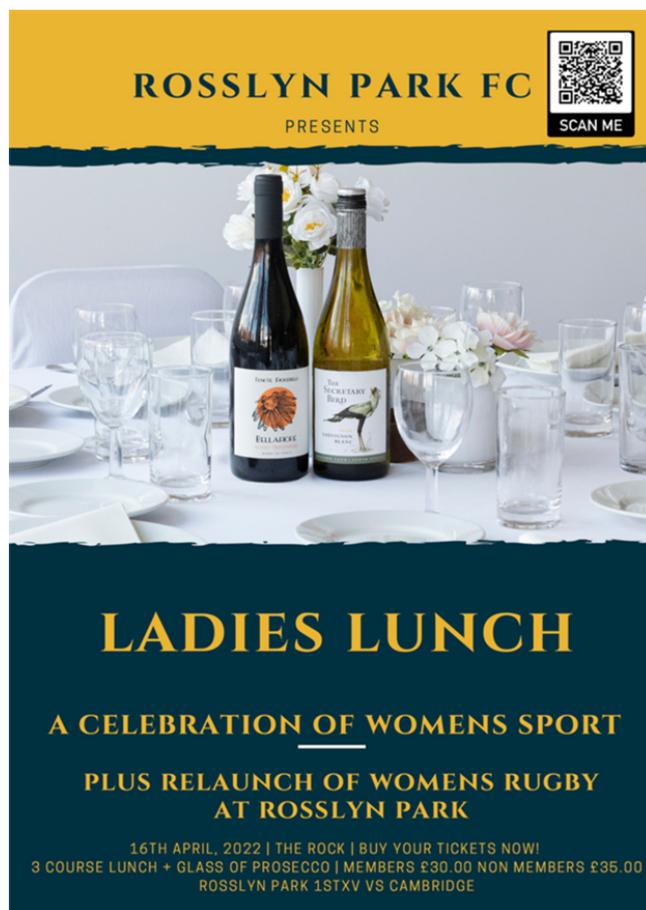
## Keep up to date

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>



ROSSLYN PARK FC  
PRESENTS

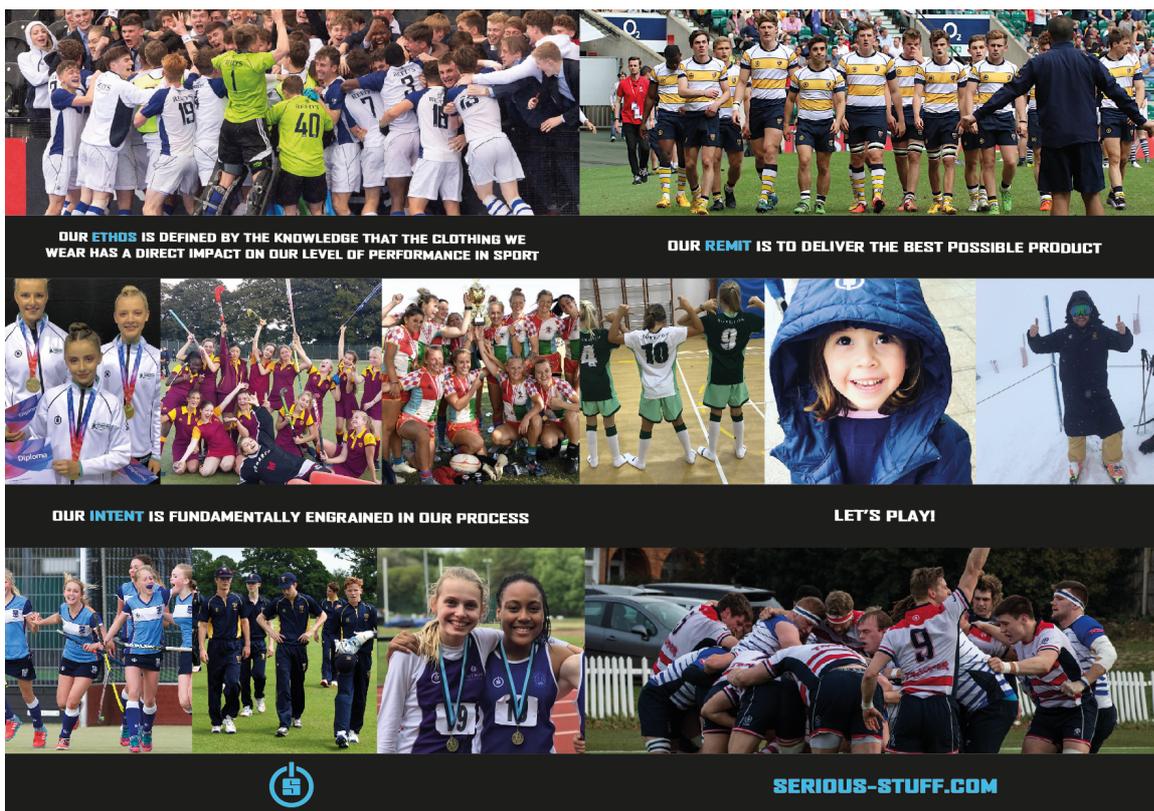
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PLUS RELAUNCH OF WOMENS RUGBY  
AT ROSSLYN PARK

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ROSSLYN PARK 1STXV VS CAMBRIDGE

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OUR REMIT IS TO DELIVER THE BEST POSSIBLE PRODUCT

OUR INTENT IS FUNDAMENTALLY ENGRAINED IN OUR PROCESS

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