



Issue 38

27 April 2022

Season 2021-22

PARK RETURN TO FORM TO GO THIRD

Welcome to Parknews With having to play on Easter Saturday it was a relatively small crowd that witnessed Park returning to something like early season form on Saturday against a good Cambridge side. Taken over the whole 80 minutes the final score probably under-states Park's performance. Although Cambridge managed a bit of a comeback in the last 15 minutes, and Park perhaps lost a bit of discipline towards the end, it was still Park who looked more likely to score in the last throes of the match. A 4-try bonus win over one of the top sides in the division is not to be sneezed at. Saturday's 26-20 sees Park replace Cambridge as the third placed club, level on points but ourselves having more wins. So, if we can gain maximum point wins in our last two matches – against two of the lower teams in the League – we would finish no lower than third.



Jack Gash passes from the back of the scrum watched by Hugo Ellis
[Photo: © Isabelle Lovell]

The second club, Sale are away to Caldy this Saturday. Were they to lose that match without gaining a point – a not impossible scenario - we would be within a point of them with a game to play if we get 5 points this Saturday. Their last match is at home to Chinnor which they ought to win, but if Chinnor raise their game as they did against us recently anything is possible! And the exclusion of Ealing from the Premiership may not be as cut-and-dried as the ruling bodies think it is (see article on promotion and relegation later).

Before we get too far ahead of ourselves, this coming Saturday we break new ground with a visit to Tonbridge Juddian. Unfortunately it will also be the last – for a season at least – because their relegation is already a mathematical certainty. They were promoted from National 2 South at the end of the previous completed season but found the higher level just a bit too hot to handle. Their first match at National 1 level was an honourable 18-18 draw with Bishops Stortford and two weeks later came their best result of the season with a 30-21 home win over Sale. But that win flattered to deceive and TJs have won only three matches since, with narrow victories over fellow-strugglers Plymouth Albion, Leeds Tykes and Blackheath. In our home match back in February Park beat TJS by 57-5. However, unlike some of their predecessors, Tonbridge have not thrown silly money around in order to maintain their status so they will be well placed to rebuild for a return to the higher level.

It would be great to see and hear a good number of supporters at our final away trip of the season and our first ever visit to **Tonbridge Juddians**. The ground is The Slade, Tonbridge, TN9 1HR and is just over half a mile from Tonbridge station. There is a regular service from Waterloo East and other London stations: the journey takes around 45 minutes. Full adult return fare shown on the National Rail planner when we went to press was £16.20, but it looked as if you could get two single tickets for £6.20 each way, so do check that out. 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, which – from the station, is effectively just behind Tonbridge Castle. 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. There's also an historic castle almost next to the ground, but it will cost you £9 to get in.

If you can't make it to Tonbridge then at the Rock we did have a **Surrey Championship Plate semi-final** with our **Nomads** taking on **KCS 2s** at 3:00PM, but that is now off and both teams seeded through to the final. But in the morning the **Roslyn Park Blues** netball team will be attempting to end their season, not only as Champions, but with a 100% record in their first season! It's a home match at Roehampton Uni (Froebel College, just off Roehampton Lane) with a 10:00 start against **Spencer**. Please do go along

Future events
Saturday 23 April
Netball

Park Blues v Spencer
Kingston League Div 12
Home (Roehampton Uni) 10:00AM

At the Rock
Surrey Championship Plate semi-final
Park Nomads v KCS 2
Home KO 3:00PM
MATCH CANCELLED

Away match - travel advice inside

Tonbridge Juddian
v
1st XV
National 1
Away KO 3:00PM

Saturday 30 April
Last home League match of the season
1st XV v Plymouth Albion
National 1
Home KO 3:00PM
FREE POST-MATCH ENTERTAINMENT
5:00PM - 7:00PM CLOGIRON play LIVE
7:30-9:00PM ANNUAL AWARDS
9:00PM UNTIL LATE: DJ JOE
Discounted advance tickets available from the
Roslyn Park website now, where you can also
book for the pre-match lunch.

and give Rosslyn Park's most successful team a shout.

Rosslyn Park 26 Cambridge 20

National 1



Park leapfrogged Cambridge into third place after a win that was a tad more convincing than the scoreline suggests.

Park had the better of the initial jousting, but fell behind when conceding a penalty about 25 metres out on 17 minutes. Cambridge fly half Harry Johnstone belted it between the posts for 3-0.

It took Park less than 5 minutes to grab the lead, their attacking intent paying off when consistently pressing inside the 22 and flanker Dan Laventure burst through to score.

Park increased their lead on 28 minutes when the Cambridge full back, fielding a well-placed kick, was forced to run back with the ball behind his own goal line and touch down. From the restart a tap to Nick Lovell saw him barge through to score. Fly half Harry Leonard converted for 7-3.

Cambridge had a determined look about them in the second half, but Park still had more of the play. However they were undone on 51 minutes when conceding three successive penalties, each allowing the visitors to kick to touch from their own 22 further and further down Park's left flank. From the third throw they could not get a successful drive going, but the ball was worked across the field and powerful right wing Kwaku Asiedu sprinted in at the corner for 14-8.

Park returned to the attack and forced Cambridge to drop out from behind their own line. Cambridge defended and tackled well but a clever kick from centre Brandon Jackson was gathered by winger Josh Addams who used his speed to breach the line. The conversion attempt hit the outside of the near post, so it was 19-8 on 54 minutes.

The home side were still edging things in a tight match, but a clash on halfway saw Arthur Ellis sent to the bin for 10 minutes.

It did not stop Park from continuing to press. Josh Adams, attacking up the right, kicked the ball on into the path of fellow winger Ben Howard, who kicked on and won the sprint to touch the ball down a



fraction before the dead-ball line. Howard converted for 26-8 on 66 minutes.

Seeing third place in the league slipping from their grasp Cambridge upped their game in the last 15 minutes and Park were forced to defend. Things looked a bit tighter when a Cambridge replacement seemed to jink through any number of tackles from his own 22 to set up an attacking position that eventually saw Priestly score out wide for 26-13 on 68 minutes.

It got even tighter when winger Asiedu, whose strength and speed demanded the attention of more than one defender, got round the left of Park's defence, his effort converted by Johnstone for 26-20, bringing his team into losing bonus point territory on 75 minutes.

But Park kept their heads and had the only real chance in the last 5 minutes, kicking a penalty to the 22 but the throw was ruled not straight. As soon as the 80 minutes were up, the ball was kicked out over the stand, and the ghosts of Chinnor the week before hopefully exorcised.

Park: Smith; Adams, Jackson, Cheeseman, Howard; Leonard; Gash; Wade, Piper, Lovell; Flashman, Spencer; Laventure, A Ellis, H Ellis.

Bench: Garvey, Hay, Burton, Lewis, Koster



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 match with Jersey last weekend had to be called off when we found we had not enough fit and available players to field a team.

Clubsides

Will Thorogood reports: I hope you all had a pleasant Easter and took full advantage of the Spring sunshine? The Clubside machine, after a couple of weeks off, whirs back into action on Saturday! Only one game, but one worth not missing: Nomads v KCS 2's Home ko 3pm-Surrey Knockout, Plate Semi-Final.

Going on the form of the Surrey Championship League matches over the season, this should be a real humdinger between two sides who like to play fast, open rugby football. The Nomads managed, on both occasions, to pip Kings 29-17 and 34-31, so anything could happen in the next 80 minutes! Come down and see how this encounter unfurls! Should be interesting...

1's got back to winning ways against Cambridge on Saturday, and as I understand, the Rangers did not play at the weekend.

Promotion and relegation

Ealing Trailfinders are appealing the decision to refuse them promotion to the Premiership but the Editor understands that – regardless of the outcome – legal advice suggests that they have a

case at Law to get the decision overturned by the courts and, with Mike Gooley at the helm, seem very likely to pursue that angle rather than just accept a situation most people in Rugby regard as unfair. They are understandably trying not to stir up unnecessary trouble and letting the appeal be heard first, but there appears to be more than one avenue open to them for a legal challenge, one of the more obvious being Restraint of Trade. The estimable Mr Gooley could certainly afford to assemble a decent legal team should he choose to do so, so it may be a while yet before we know for certain how many clubs will be promoted from National 1.

As things stand, though, it looks very much as if it will be just **Caldy** promoted, though **Sale** still have a mathematical chance of replacing them. Coming down, though are **London Scottish** which would mean an extra local Derby next season, plus the expense of a long away trip saved. There were rumours of Scots joining a new Scottish league next season: those stories have gone quiet lately, but should it happen then it is almost certain that the vacancy in National 1 will be filled by promoting an extra club.

Tonbridge Juddians are already relegated. Immediately above them are **Leeds Tykes** and **Blackheath**. Should Blackheath lose at Cinderford in their one remaining match then Leeds would require just 3 points from their last 3 matches to send our near neighbours down. Should Blackheath win at Cinderford then **Plymouth Albion** could come into the equation as they are just 3 points ahead of Blackheath.

Coming up it looks a done deal so far as National 2 North is concerned with **Hull** (not to be confused with Hull Ionians) currently 14 points ahead of the opposition. That will be a new ground to visit next season, assuming we are still in National 1.

The South is less clear cut. **Esher** currently have a four point lead over **Redruth**, with **Clifton** a further 4 points back. We have had some great trips to both Redruth and Clifton in the past, but the prospect of a couple of juicy local Derbies with Esher looks good.

The Capital's greatest Rugby Party The London floodlit 7's – Now on sale!

Since its beginning in 1975 the Rosslyn Park London Floodlit 7s tournament has been a great way to end a long 15s season. An evening of high class rugby including sides from the Premiership, Championship, national leagues and top level universities all competing against each other. In past years it's not just been the team names but the players themselves that have attracted the crowds with the Premiership teams bringing along the likes of England's Danny Care, Ugo Monye, Chris Robshaw, James Haskell, to name a few.

This year's London floodlit 7's will take place on Thursday 05 May with gates opening at 4pm.

Come join us for a night of thrilling Sevens rugby in a party atmosphere like no other.

Tickets are only £10.00 per person and can be booked online here [Book London Floodlit 7's Tickets](#)

Corporate Hospitality/ Sponsorship

Reserve your space now min 20 Guests

- Food included (Jolly Hogg)
- Private Bar (Refreshments served at club prices)
- Private DJ & Music
- Silent Auction
- Acknowledgement of your sponsorship via the digital Screen & Pitch Side branding
- Internal/ external Heaters
- Indoor/ Outdoor furniture

Distant Tours

Rugby Austria last week tweeted a photo of the Rosslyn Park team that became the first to play Rugby in Austria in 1912. There was no



accompanying story, so if any readers saw it and were interested, the tour had come about after a Hungarian soccer team had toured England, watched a Rugby match and were so impressed that they wanted to import the sport to their own country. Rosslyn Park were invited to tour, sending two teams comprising 42 players to be called 'Rosslyn Park' and 'Nomads'. So keen were the Hungarians that they put in £400 of the £500 that the tour cost.

The tourists covered over 3000 miles in ten days, before the era of air travel. The first match was a stop off in Prague and drew a large and appreciative crowd who cheered every move, particularly any hard tackles. Despite a bone hard pitch no one was injured and the Nomads won 15-6. There was a banquet afterwards and – clearly an era before 'Tour Rules' – it is recorded that Rosher, Glover, Haxell, Davies and Mitchell contributed to the festivities. We can probably all make an educated guess as to what that means!

The following day the players dragged their hangovers onto the train on to Budapest, where two matches were played on successive days. Again large crowds were attracted, many of whom seemed to know the Laws. As a result of this great success the famous Budapest Torna sports club, who produced many Hungarian Olympic athletes over the years, decided to form a Rugby section.

It was then on to another stop off in Vienna for the final match, hence the Austrian connection. A handsome trophy was presented to the Rosslyn Park team after the match, before the players made the long rail journey back to London. All part of the evangelical work that the club has done over the years to spread the game to far-flung places. There's a lot to be proud of in our fine old club.

400 Club

The April winners are winners are £100 Graham Davies, £50 Michael Stannard and £25 Stephen Condon.

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.

Wandsworth Chamber of Commerce Networking event

Wednesday 20th April 2022.

If you are a local business owner and would like to network with a number of businesses across the Wandsworth borough then please

Join us for an informal evening get together. Rosslyn Park will be hosting a quarterly event, in conjunction with Wandsworth Chamber of Commerce, to bring together company leaders from across the borough to network and offer insights in what it takes to operate a National League One facility.

6.30pm Welcome drinks
6.45pm Introductions

Rosslyn Park Club – More than just a Rugby Club – Kenny Moore Commercial Manager

Brief History
Find out more about the creative ways Rosslyn Park help operate their club
Introduction to Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens. The largest Schools Sevens Tournament in the World
Opportunities

7.00pm Informal networking
8.30pm close

To RSVP please contact kenneth.moore@rosslynpark.co.uk

Don't miss
Final League match, plus Annual Awards
Live music and DJ
Saturday 30 April
1st XV
v
Plymouth Albion

National 1
Home KO 3:00PM

FREE POST-MATCH ENTERTAINMENT
5:00PM - 7:00PM CLOGIRON play LIVE
7:30-9:00PM ANNUAL AWARDS
9:00PM UNTIL LATE: DJ JOE

Discounted advance tickets available from the Rosslyn Park website now, where you can also book for the pre-match lunch.

Keep up to date

Keep in touch with everything happening at Rosslyn Park by regularly visiting the Club's website at

www.rosslynpark.co.uk

The club is also active in several social media channels:

Twitter: <http://bit.ly/2PqDIQy>

Facebook: <http://bit.ly/2NG7bxV>

Instagram: <http://bit.ly/34d652t>



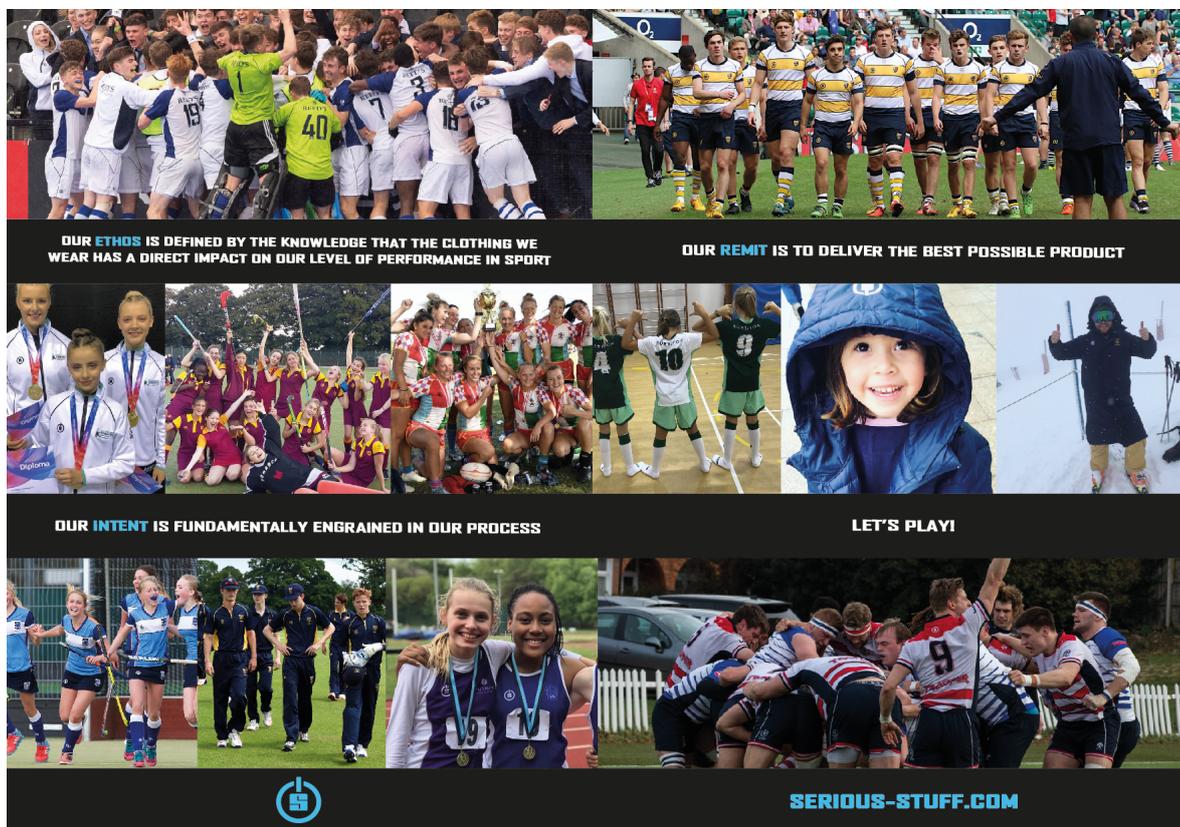
30th APRIL 2022

ROSSLYN PARK ANNUAL AWARDS

3PM - 1ST XV VS PLYMOUTH ALBION
5 - 7PM - LIVE BAND, CLOGIRON
7.30 - 9PM - AWARDS PRESENTATIONS
9PM - LATE - DJ JOE
FREE & OPEN TO ALL

YouTube: <http://bit.ly/2PQSpqC>

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OUR INTENT IS FUNDAMENTALLY ENGRAINED IN OUR PROCESS

LET'S PLAY!

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