



Issue 02

17 August 2022

Season 2022-23

# SEE SOME GREAT RUGBY FOR FREE THIS SATURDAY

**Welcome to Parknews.** We have learned over the years not to pay too much regard to pre-season form, but those who attended Saturday's match at the Rock must surely have been impressed by some great running rugby as Park played a top-speed quick-passing game to finally overwhelm a decent Worthing Raiders side. They played fast and loose, and will need to cut out the loose bit as they conceded three interception tries. But Worthing, coached as DoR by one of our former coaches, Jordan Turner Hall, narrowly missed out on promotion last season and – on their showing for the first hour at least - would certainly not have been out of their depth in National One. So despite the overall final scoreline of 84 – 33 this was a genuine test of Park's mettle. The tackling was fierce throughout. It had been intended to play two matches – First and Second XVs – but Worthing contacted us days before the match to say that they had insufficient players available to field two teams, so it was agreed to play three 'blocks' of 40 minutes each way. With Park fielding separate teams in each block, these are each reported separately on page 2. The match was switched to the Rock when Worthing were refused permission to water their pitch because of the hosepipe ban and the surface was dangerously hard.

This Saturday we welcome to the Rock some exceedingly strong opposition for a double-header in the form of **Ealing Trailfinders** who most rugby people will agree should, by rights, be playing in the Premiership this coming season. That match kicks off at 15:00. Before that the Rangers take on a team that has close links to Ealing in the form of Brunel University. That match kicks off at 12:00. With all the First XV shirts still up for grabs, please do get down for both matches – admission is free, so do bring your friends along and show them what Rosslyn Park has to offer.

Ealing are old friends, in fact – of all the clubs still in existence – they are our second-oldest opponents, the two clubs having first met at our former ground at Gospel Oak on 19 November 1881, a score-less draw during Park's first season wearing the now-familiar red and white hoops. Both clubs have come a long way since those days! Ealing really took off comparatively recently, adding the Trailfinders name, when Mike Gooley, owner of the eponymous travel company, began his association with the club. They now stand on the brink of the reaching the Premiership but – importantly – have not lost the essence of being a real Rugby Club rather than a corporate entity.

Ealing will be a really tough nut to crack in every way: physically given their full-time training and the advantage that gives in cohesiveness, to name but two. However, the result in these pre-season matches is of secondary importance to testing out various combinations of players and highlighting any potential areas for improvement. It will be a really tough contest for Park in every way, Ealing have run up cricket scores against established Championship sides, but you risk learning not very much if you only play teams from lower divisions.

Next up after Ealing it's Friday night lights with a 20:00 kick off on 26 August with the **Firsts** against **Tonbridge Juddians**, who will be striving to return to National 1 at the first attempt. We enjoyed a couple of entertaining matches with them last term. On the Saturday the **Rangers** will take on the First XV of **Sevenoaks** who are newly promoted to National 2 South for the coming season, and will doubtless

Josh Addams bags a spectacular try in Park's 84-33 win (report inside)  
Match photos in this Parknews have been filched from the Club's Twitter feed



**Saturday 20 August**  
**Curtain Raiser**  
**Park Rangers v Brunel Uni**  
Pre-season match  
Home KO 12:00PM

**Rosslyn Park**  
v  
**Ealing Trailfinders**  
Pre-season match  
Home KO 3:00PM  
*Free admission - 2 matches for the price of none! Clubhouse open from noon*

**Friday 26 August**  
**Park v Tonbridge Juddians**  
Pre-season match  
Home KO 8:00PM

**Saturday 27 August**  
**Park Rangers v Sevenoaks**  
Pre-season match  
Home KO 2:00PM  
*Admission to pre-season home matches is free*

**Saturday 03 September**  
**First League match**  
**Park v Cinderford**  
National 1  
Home KO 3:00PM

be looking to prove themselves. It's free admission to all our pre-season home games and do look out for some special offers on refreshments!

The serious stuff starts the following Saturday, 03 September, with a really tough League encounter with our old friends from **Cinderford**. They made a sensational start to last season with a long unbeaten run. A hard match in every sense of the word, where your vocal support will be very valuable to our team. Get that date in your diary now!

## Park 84 Worthing 33

### Practice Match

#### First period: Park 15 Worthing 7

**Park:** Robinson; Walker, Stanton, Gordon, Marfo; Holland; Lewis; Dawe, Harding, Lovell; F Hosking, Gillanders; Robinson, Ellis, Laventure.

From kick-off Worthing had a couple of minutes continuous possession but, having penetrated the Park half they met an in-your-face defence with such effective tackling that they were pushed back to half way. Eventually they were forced to concede a penalty and Park looked really threatening with some good carries and passing movements. Eventually Charlie Walker showed his extreme pace down the right wing to score out wide, Holland's conversion only narrowly missing.



Park nearly scored again when an intelligent cross-kick from Henry Robinson found the outstretched fingers of Benji Marfo, sprinting up the left, who juggled the ball before passing inside but a knock-on was given before the 'score' could be completed.

Park wove some terrific patterns with high speed passing that allowed Worthing's defence to show how well-drilled they were. The problem with playing fast and loose is when it comes to the loose bit, and just as a try looked 'on' a pass inside was intercepted and Worthing sprinted away to score by the posts, converted for them to take the lead at 7-5.

Worthing looked really good themselves with a period of pressure, ended only when the player attempting to touch down lost control of the ball.

That stung Park into action, and a long kick up the right allowed Walker to use his speed for his second try, in the right hand corner. The conversion from the touchline only narrowly missed.

Park extended their lead with another great move, initialized by a run from Freddie Hosking. Walker then turned provider with a slick pass that saw Tom Stanton sprint home. Again the conversion missed by inches leaving the score at 15-7.

#### Second Period: Park 40 Worthing 19

**Park:** Luca Smith; Trimble, Aspland-Robinson, Scott, Addams; Holland (Leonard); Baldwin; Garvey, Harding (Ellis), Hay; Flashman, Humfray; Spencer, Bolwell, A Hosking.

Park's second period selection made a bright start with Worthing penalized early for holding on. The throw led to a scrum from which the visitors were again penalized and this time Park easily drove

over to make it 20-7. With the ball about to fall over, Holland picked it up and drop-kicked the conversion so the score was 20-7.

Just as it looked as if Park would pull away, loose play again gifted Worthing an interception try from within their own half, touched down by the posts for 20-14.



unlucky not to score when receiving a slightly mis-aimed pass at top speed. He juggled it at full stretch but could not quite control it before it crossed the touchline only 10 metres short.

The Raiders now lived up to their name with a really impressive move to score out wide. The conversion was missed but at 20-19 the visitors were right back in it.

This was not the best time for Park to illustrate the old axiom that history always repeats itself: the first time as tragedy, the second as farce. A third interception try, converted, gave Worthing the lead at 20-26.

Park moved up another gear as Worthing visibly tired. Addams added a really good try in the left corner, needing a spectacular horizontal dive to beat the last defender. Harry Leonard added a great touchline conversion for Park to regain the lead at 27-26.

It was now Park's turn to cash in on the interception tries, winger Max Trimble providing a simple conversion for Leonard for 34 - 26.

Park's quick, accurate passes were now opening gaps and another good move saw Trimble break up the right for scrum half Luke Baldwin to cash in. Leonard's conversion made it 41 - 26.

After some more slick handling a powerful run by Sam Aspland-Robinson scored to the left of the posts, making it 48-26 with Leonard's conversion.

Ellis had now taken over as hooker and an accurate throw from 5 metres out saw the pack force their way over for Ellis himself to touch down, Leonard again added the extras for 55-26 after 80 minutes.

By now Worthing were very tired and a few players had received knocks and they requested the third period be truncated. Park were less keen on this because they had a whole tranche of players yet to get on the pitch. A compromise was reached that the final period would two 15 minute periods.

#### Third period: Park 29 Worthing 7

**Park:** Alexis; Goble, Koster, Keay, Edwards; Leonard; Gash; Buckingham, Raser, Wade; Martin, Burton; Brendan LG, McLean, Kirby.

Worthing's tiny but wiry replacement scrum half looked anything but jaded as he feinted this way and that in front of Park's defence before setting up a try for his team to make it 55-33 with the conversion.

But that was as good as it got for the visitors as Park pulled away. Prop Jake Buckingham broke away and delivered what looked like a scoring pass until the referee ruled a knock on.

Fellow prop Ali Wade tore up his Front Row Union membership card with a super try, beating two defenders for pace and power on the left wing before plunging over, Leonard converting for 62-33.





Some more fast handling brought a peach of a try for Quinten Koster, Leonard hitting an upright with a drop kick conversion.

Park attacked up the right and Jack Gash, receiving a pass, ran a good diagonal to score by the posts, Leonard making the score 72-33.

Some more really neat inter-passing saw Koster streak in for his second try, this time Leonard simply mis-kicking the conversion.

The scores were completed when Gash took a quick tap penalty to set up Wade to sprint over for his second try, Leonard's conversion bringing the final score of 84-33.

In the absence of DoR Jordan Turner Hall, the man in charge of Worthing was another ex-Park man in the form of lock Jim Pearce who brought along his best mate, another Park legend, Jason Ford. It was great to see both men again – pity about the final score!

## Rangers Fixtures 2022-23

These are *provisional* fixtures for the Rangers this season. But please note that, while they are given in good faith, there are bound to be changes with some matches being switched to Friday nights. Hard pitches in the current drought could lead to matches being postponed and as the season develops clubs (including ourselves) can incur injuries that prevent them from fielding a second XV on particular days. We'd love to see crowds supporting the Rangers, but do check that games are on as scheduled if in doubt.

### September

03 H Maidenhead  
10 A Esher  
17 H Chinnor  
24 A Richmond Saxons

### October

01 H Bishops Stortford  
15 A Henley  
22 H Rams  
29 H Barnes

### November

05 A Ampthill  
12 H Blackheath  
26 A Worthing

### December

03 H Richmond Vikings  
10 TBC  
17 H Esher

### January

07 A Chinnor  
14 H Richmond Saxons  
21 A Bishops Stortford  
28 H Henley

### February

18 A Rams  
25 A Barnes

### March

04 H Ampthill  
11 A Blackheath  
25 H Worthing

### April

15 H Richmond Vikings  
22 A Maidenhead

## The new signings

Those of you who subscribe to the Club's Social Media channels, and / or check the website regularly, will already be aware of this, but there have been a number of new signings since last season. These are set out below for the benefit of those who have not.

## Backs

### Full backs

#### Joe Luca Smith: full back

Joe is an exciting full back who joins Rosslyn from Championship side Ampthill. The Newcastle University graduate has also represented Bath Rugby Club at 7s and played under Head coach John Mills at London Scottish before reuniting at Park.

Asked about signing for the club, Joe said "I am pleased to have joined Rosslyn Park and I'm looking forward to a good season both on and off the pitch. The squad that has been put together is very exciting and I look forward to contributing."

#### Charlie Walker: wing / full back

The former England 7's flyer plays predominately at Wing/Fullback. Charlie spent eight seasons at Harlequins scoring 44 tries. He then had spells at Italian giants Zebre and, closer to home, at Ealing Trailfinders before making the move to South West London. Charlie nearly became a Leicester Tigers player, but their Academy insisted on him leaving his school to join another; instead he completed his education and then joined Harlequins

Asked about signing for Park, Charlie said "I can't wait to get the season started, I'm looking forward to being back playing with old mates and in front of a loyal crowd. I'm hungry to win more silverware while enjoying my rugby again and speaking to KP made joining Park an easy decision."

## Wingers

#### Sam Aspland-Robinson: wing / centre

Sam is a Wing/Centre and former Wellington College pupil where he was victorious in the Daily Mail Cup and Rosslyn Park School Sevens. Along with those trophies, Sam has also won an England U20's Grand Slam and a Junior World Cup, and has represented Harlequins, Leicester Tigers and Coventry before landing at The Rock. Park fans will remember Sam playing for the club in the 2016/17 season. Sam has studied International Management while pursuing his Rugby career.

Sam is thrilled to be returning to the club, saying "I'm very excited to be back playing at Rosslyn Park after six years away, I'm looking forward to an enjoyable season on and off the pitch."

#### Alex Goble: wing

The Former Nottingham and Richmond winger is no stranger to National One having played a season at Old Elthamians. Alex will bring his larger than life frame to full force this season and hopefully the former England Counties U20 player can get Park on the front foot when he gets ball in hand.

Asked about joining the club, Alex said "I am excited to join Rosslyn Park this season and play alongside a very talented squad. Coming into our sixth week of pre-season, it is clear how motivated the squad are for success. I look forward to contributing towards our aims this season and being part of the Rosslyn Park community on and off the field."

#### Max Trimble: Wing

The flying winger has represented Abu Dhabi Harlequins, Coventry and Richmond and has also been capped for England Counties. Max has played for Coventry in National One and then went on to gain Championship experience with them and Richmond. Max's score rate is second to none in both competitions, which will prove invaluable this coming season.

Asked about joining the club, Max said "I am very much looking forward to contributing to this great club and hopefully using some of my experience to help the squad reach the next level. Park are

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renowned for playing a fast and expansive brand of rugby which suits my game perfectly so I'm very excited to get on the pitch with the boys."

## Centres

### **Matt Gordon: centre**

The Queensland-born Centre has an array of illustrious clubs to his name, including Queensland Country, Edinburgh, London Scottish and Ealing Trailfinders. Matt, also nicknamed **The Brisbane Bull**, will be bringing a powerful presence to Park's midfield.

Upon signing for the club, Matt said "I'm really excited to join Rosslyn Park and see what we can achieve as a group. The club is clearly ambitious with a strong squad, so it's an excellent time to join."

### **Will Glover: Centre**

The former Rosslyn Mini returns to Park after playing on the World 7s circuit for England. Will impressed whilst playing for Newcastle University and joined the England 7s set up upon graduation. After Covid, Will moved to Hong Kong to play for the Hong Kong Football Club before deciding to move back home to South West London and The Rock.

On returning to the club, Will said "Having come through the Rosslyn Park Minis I'm buzzing to rejoin and looking forward to a big season ahead!"

### **James Key: Centre**

James joins us from National One rivals Taunton after deciding to move to London. The powerful ball playing centre played over 20 times last season and was a key member of the Taunton squad after their promotion from National Two South.

On joining the club, James commented "I'm excited to be joining Rosslyn Park. The whole squad and staff have been extremely welcoming since arriving. I'm looking forward to the season ahead with such an ambitious and talented group."

### **Tom Stanton: Centre**

The young centre arrives from Gloucester Rugby after playing a key role in their Premiership Cup squad last season. Tom also brings Championship experience having had loan spells with Hartpury College and Coventry. The back, who can also play at full back and on the wing, will bring a versatile skill set to the squad this season.

Clearly pleased to be joining the club, Tom said "I'm very happy to have joined Rosslyn Park and have enjoyed getting started with a quality group of players and coaches."

## Half-backs

### **Luc Jones: scrum half**

Luc is a Welsh-born Scrum-Half and brings to the club a wealth of experience from a high level with his former clubs being Richmond, Jersey, Newport Gwent Dragons and Harlequins. Luc also has international experience, appearing in the Wales squad for the 2014 Under-20 Six Nations Championship and World Cup.

Luc is really motivated about the next chapter in his rugby career, saying "I'm looking forward to join what is a talented squad at Rosslyn Park with strong competition for places. A very exciting season lies ahead and I hope to contribute to achieve the goals we have set out on the pitch."

## Forwards

### **Props**

#### **Cameron Zeiss: Prop**

The serving police officer brings a wealth of experience to our front row having been an Esher stalwart, racking up over 150 appearances for the club. Cameron also has Championship experience playing for Plymouth and Leeds Carnegie. In recent seasons he has played for National One rivals Rams, but this season will see him proudly wearing the red and white of Rosslyn Park. He is a former Millfield lad.

Asked about joining the club, Cameron said "I've spent almost 10

seasons in the league and have had any number of tussles with Park during that time. This season we have an incredible player group and everyone is working hard for what is going to be a great season"

## Hookers

### **Billy Harding: Hooker**

Billy joins Park as an experienced National League rugby player having had stints with Stourbridge in National Two and Esher in National One. From there, Billy spent two seasons with London Scottish in the Championship, during which he spent time on loan to Rosslyn Park in the 2019/20 season, scoring a try against Blackheath on debut. Since then the athletic hooker signed for Amptill, where last season he featured for Wasps on a couple of occasions.

Asked about joining Park, Billy said "Rosslyn Park is a great club and they've assembled a really strong squad this year. I'm looking forward to the matches getting started and playing in National One again. It's a tough league and it should be an exciting season."

### **Taine Wagstaff: Hooker**

Taine is a young and promising hooker who joins us from Ealing Trailfinders Academy. As part of the Academy, Taine combined his playing duties by attending and playing for Brunel University. Taine is familiar with The Rock having played for Ealing last pre-season against our 1st XV and then later that season against Rangers for Brunel. He was captain at Whitgift school and spent a year in New Zealand honing his skills.

Asked about signing for Park, Taine commented "I'm really excited about joining Park. The ambition, the hard work and the group we have here are going to make the coming season really exciting and I can't wait to get started and be a part of this campaign"

## Second Rows

### **Freddie Hoskin: Second Row**

The giant second row is no stranger to Rosslyn Park having formerly played for Old Elthamians in National One. Since then, the former Exeter University player has played 29 times for neighbours Richmond in the Championship. Park are now hoping his 6ft 7-inch frame will be an imposing presence in the lineout this season.

Asked about joining the club, Freddie said "I'm massively excited to be joining a squad with such ambition and ability, as well as a few familiar faces. I'm looking forward to doing as much as I can to contribute towards what we're aiming to achieve this season."

### **Alex Humfrey: Lock / Back Row**

The former Welsh Students International is a talented lock/back row and has played for Neath, Bath and Manly Marlins in Australia. Once back in the UK Alex played for Yorkshire Carnegie, Amptill and Jersey before arriving in South-West London.

Alex is proud to be joining Park, saying "I'm really excited to be getting involved with such a historic club. I'm hoping to contribute as much as I can towards a successful season!"

## Back Rows

### **Matt Bowell: Back Row**

The former Truro College and Exeter Academy player has represented England U18 but has spent most of his senior rugby career plying his trade at Cornish Pirates. Playing 129 times for the Championship side Matt was clearly highly regarded by all, having been awarded the Players' Player of the Year in 2019 and Player of the Year in the season just gone. The back rower joins the club having decided to take up a new career in London and will bring a wealth of experience and some robust dynamic ball carrying to The Rock.

On signing for Park, Matt commented "I'm really excited to be joining a club with such a big history like Rosslyn Park, especially at a time when the club is going for promotion."

### **Oli Robinson: Back Row**

Oli, who can play across all the back row positions, arrives from Hartpury College. In 2018, Oli was voted the BUCS Super Rugby Player of the Season when playing for the University of Northumberland. This prompted Ealing Trailfinders to sign him on a two-year contract during which he went on loan to Bedford for a successful spell before signing for Hartpury.

Oli has been enjoying the challenge of pre-season, saying "I'm really pleased to have joined Rosslyn Park. We are currently a month into pre-season, which has been tough but extremely rewarding. It has also shown the quality of the squad ahead of this coming season."

### Archie Hosking: Back row

The destructive back row ball carrier comes fresh from a successful BUCS campaign with Exeter University. Last season, Archie made a handful of appearances for Exeter Chiefs in the Prem Cup, continuing his form from his university side. He also gets to link up with his former coach, Steve Walsh, from his time as a pupil at RGS Guildford.

On joining the club, Archie said "I'm very excited to be joining Rosslyn Park. The squad is very strong and competitive and I'm looking forward to what should hopefully be a very successful season."

coach, Steve Walsh, from his time as a pupil at RGS Guildford.

### Dan is skipper

We are proud to announce that **Dan Laventure** will captain the Men's 1st XV for the 2022/23 season. Dan takes over from Hugo Ellis who retired at the end of last season. The former Wimbledon RFC player joined Park in 2018/19, and has been an integral part of the team ever since. Dan was the Supporters Player of the Season in 2019/20 and the Coaches and Players' Player of the Season in 2021/22.

Head Coach Jon Mills said "Dan embodies everything that is good about Rosslyn Park and is the ideal person to take on the captaincy".

### Goodbye and good luck

It is always sad to say goodbye, but we would like to thank all of our departing players for their wonderful service to the club. As announced at the end of last season, Captain **Hugo Ellis** has hung up his boots. Hugo leaves Rosslyn Park a true club legend having spent 10 seasons with the club, and nine as captain – we all congratulate Hugo on a fantastic career. Joining Hugo in retirement are hookers **Karl Gibson** and **Tom Vaughan-Edwards**, second row **Jamie Gray**, prop **Stewart Maguire**. Everyone has made a tremendous impact on the club, both on and off the pitch, and will be sorely missed. We look forward to welcoming you back to The Rock very soon.

Backs **Lewis Jones**, **Owen Waters** and **Will Foster** have moved on from the club to continue their rugby careers elsewhere, we wish them all the best for the future.

### Clubsides

*Will Thorogood* reports that the 4's and B's are competing in the MMT Premier League, and the Nomads in the Surrey Championship. As a consequence of the drought and furnace like weather, the Surrey Reserve league fixtures have been deferred from 17th September to 1st October because of the concrete like grounds and player safety. However, because we have the 4G we should be able to play some of the postponed games, but we are waiting for Surrey to give us the nod.

Below are the Clubsides' 2022-23 *provisional* fixtures. **They are by no means finalized**, as we are waiting confirmation and agreement of kick off times from oppo so that we can try to maximize the 4G usage. Shuffling to be done.

### B XV

Middlesex Merit Premier  
September

17 A London Cornish  
24 H Haberdashers  
October  
01 A Park 4s  
15 H Belsize Park  
22 A HAC  
29 H L Welsh Druids  
November  
05 A London Kiwis  
12 A Streetonians  
26 H H & F  
December  
03 A Haberdashers  
10 H Park 4s  
January  
14 A Belsize Park  
21 H HAC  
28 A L Welsh Druids  
February  
11 H London Kiwis  
18 H Streetonians  
March  
04 A H & F  
11 London Cornish

### Fours

Middlesex Merit Premier  
September  
17 H HAC  
24 A L Welsh Druids  
October  
01 H Park Bs  
15 A Streetonians  
22 H H & F  
29 A London Cornish  
November  
05 H Haberdashers  
12 H London Kiwis  
26 A Belsize Park  
December  
03 H L Welsh Druids  
10 A Park Bs  
January  
14 H Streetonians  
21 A H & F  
28 H London Cornish  
February  
11 A Haberdashers  
18 A London kiwis  
March  
04 H Belsize Park  
11 A HAC

### Nomads

Surrey Championship  
September  
17 H KCS 2  
24 A Cobham 2  
October  
01 H Tiffians 2  
15 A Weybridge Vandals  
22 H Guildford 2  
29 H Ironsides  
November  
05 A Reigatians 2  
12 H Chobham 2  
26 A Reeds 2  
December  
03 H Cobham 2  
10 A Tiffians 2  
January  
14 H Weybridge Vandals  
21 A Guildford 2  
28 A Ironsides 3  
February  
11 H Reigatians 2  
18 A Chobham 2



|       |                     |
|-------|---------------------|
| March |                     |
| 04 H  | Reeds 2             |
| 11 A  | KCS 2               |
| 18    | Play-off            |
| April |                     |
| 01 A  | Camberley (Cup) tbc |
| 15 H  | Ironsides (Cup) tbc |
| 22    | Cup smi-final       |
| 15    | Cup final           |

## Women Players wanted

There is a fantastic opportunity for women players, and potential players, to join Rosslyn Park, one of the most highly regarded Clubs in the country that is progressive, embraces fun and has plenty of social activities on offer. Players of all abilities, from newcomers to the most experienced are welcome to join us as we build an ambitious squad and an exciting future. Our aim is to create a squad in a fun and enjoyable environment, open for all. Players will have access to professional dedicated coaching staff, strength & conditioning training as well as first class support from our physiotherapy teams.

We are operating a number of fitness and skill-based taster sessions that will be open to all levels. It is an opportunity to meet new friends, improve fitness and well-being and most importantly, have a lot of fun. If you are interested or know of someone who would be interested in playing and would like to get involved, we would love to hear from you. To join a session simply [click this link and send us an email](#) with your name, and mobile contact number. Alternatively if you would like to contact Marc directly: email: [marc.turner@rosslynpark.co.uk](mailto:marc.turner@rosslynpark.co.uk) or tel: 07759 775060

## Congratulations

Congratulations to former Park Slingback Camilla Brueton – better known as Milo – on her recent selection to represent Wales in the recent Euro 7s over-35 Rugby League contest, which took place over a week at Nottingham University. Milo helped Wales reach the final, where they lost to England.

## Netball

### National 1

A few National One sides played over last weekend and had results published. One team who couldn't play were our first League opponents **Cinderford**. Like Worthing, Cinderford were refused permission to water their pitch and the surface was considered too hard. They are now intending to play midweek and are offering up prayers to the rain gods. This could be a real problem for most clubs if the drought continues. **Esher** played away to **Leeds Tykes** on the Friday night but at time of writing we do not have a result. **Blackheath** played host to **Richmond** and lost by 12-45. **Bishops Stortford** had a 38-21 win away to **Canterbury**. **Plymouth Albion** also won away, by 42-35 at **Exeter University**, who have a strong relationship with the local Chiefs. **Cambridge** won by 37-21 against **Bury St Edmunds**. **Taunton Titans** were defeated 38-19 at **Clifton**.

### Old friends

The Editor spent a few minutes standing next to our former prop, Jason Ford. For the uninitiated, Jason was a fine front row legend of the old school in the amateur days, when delays at the scrummage were caused by props hoisting their waistbands while chugging back from open play rather than any complicated scrum-setting procedure. Jason was in his element when the mud went above boot height. Asked what he would have made of playing a match in Saturday's heat on a 4G pitch, Jason simply replied: "Don't be ridiculous – in my day we didn't turn up to pre-season training".

### Future Hope

Many of you will know Nigel Rosser as a player, coach or mini-parent. He has undergone quite a radical career change and is now working for a very worthwhile cause – with Rosslyn Park

connections in India. Nigel recently contacted Parknews:

After years of being a Rosslyn Park Senior and Development squad coach, mini coach, and proud Nomad, I now find myself living in and helping out a British-run NGO in Calcutta, India, called Future Hope.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AHtC8WQf7U&ab\\_channel=WorldRugby](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AHtC8WQf7U&ab_channel=WorldRugby)

Formed 35 years ago by ex-Park parent Tim Grandage, Future Hope saves slum children, gives them a secure home, feeds them, and educates them. Then makes them play rugby!

Which tough, feisty, hungry street kids from some of the most deprived areas in the world, absolutely love. They are also rather good, as is our fellow rugby NGO in Calcutta, Jungle Crows.

Many ex RPFC members have been volunteers at our base in Calcutta over the years and have been hugely enriched by the experience. So we'd also welcome and support any new gap-year Park players who want to come over to Bengal. It's not easy, but neither is Richmond Park on a sleety January Sunday morning! <https://www.futurehope.net/>

What we mainly would love right now from Park members is old kit, especially shorts (oddly) and (under size 9) boots. And any seconds that sports manufacturers might throw our way would be great, too.

Nothing is ever wasted. Dom and Cori will provide somewhere to dump stuff at the club you don't need and eventually it will all be DHL'd over to Calcutta.

Best wishes

Nigel Rosser.

## Scouting trip



The group of long term supporters, "Gordon's Corner" – named after the area of the bar they occupy - went to Hull (Jim Willerton's birth place 91 years ago) and took in some of the local culture, colour, beer and *rugby-a-treize* (Hull Kingston Rovers, the Robins, Jim's old team). Sadly they lost against Leeds Rhinos, but a good game, all the same. Rugby is rugby 🏉, and was the winner!

## Progressive Rugby report

Club President Nick Goddard, himself a recently retired leading consultant physician, sent Parknews a copy of a report, from the group Progressive Rugby which comprises a player welfare package they presented to World Rugby. Progressive Rugby comprises clinical experts, ex professionals, coaches and academics who love the game and want it to be enjoyed by future generations. It is a not-for-profit group, formed in February 2021 which has been highly critical of the length of the Graduated Return

to Play (GRTP) protocol following a brain injury (concussion), the reliability of the Head Injury Assessment (HIA) and the amount of contact training and games players have to endure during a season. They strongly believe that brain injury protocols must err on side of caution.

The report presents a well-argued case for some very radical reforms. It is unfortunately far too long to reproduce here beyond a summary of its proposals, but for anyone interested it can be accessed at [file:///C:/Users/tommo/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/NetCache/Content.Outlook/2WTHBQA3/Applying\\_the\\_Bradford\\_Hill\\_Criteria\\_for\\_Causation\\_.pdf](file:///C:/Users/tommo/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/NetCache/Content.Outlook/2WTHBQA3/Applying_the_Bradford_Hill_Criteria_for_Causation_.pdf)

Progressive Rugby's Professor John Fairclough said: "Rugby has to hit the reset button. There is no option but to drastically reduce the number of impacts a player receives over their career and take extreme caution with the management of players who do suffer brain injuries.

"Critically the seminal paper also concludes that the younger the brain, the more susceptible it is to injury, so we need the brain to be more mature before contact rugby. We need everyone to understand that this is not just about players being knocked out, it's also about dramatically reducing the number of sub-concussions players experience which causes the brain to collide with the inside of the skull.

"Delaying contact until 16 is not a decision we took lightly, but it's become clear youngsters have been playing a sport under rules designed for adults. That means we must learn the lessons and evolve to ensure we protect young brains and lessen the number of impacts across their lifetime."

The headline proposals of the report are:

- Ban on full contact rugby until player's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Major overhaul of elite concussion protocols

- Injury substitutions only
- Mandated contact training limit with fines/points deductions for non-compliance
- Tackle to be executed below nipple line onl

### Keep in touch

There will be some events going on at the club throughout the close season, so to keep in touch check regularly for Parknews on the website and subscribe to the club's social media channels:

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

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

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

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

You can also receive a tweet immediately Parknews appears on the website by following [@RPNoseyParker](#) on Twitter.

*Don't forget - this coming Saturday*

**Rosslyn Park  
v  
Ealing Trailfinders  
Kick off 3:00PM**

*Admission free  
Curtain Raiser at noon  
Park Rangers v Brunel University*



**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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