



Issue 08

28 September 2022

Season 2022-23

10-TRY AWAY WIN TAKES PARK TO TOP

Welcome to Parknews. Saturday's 10-try away win at Hull sent Park to the top of the National 1 table, but as we know only too well it's who is top of the table at the end of the season that counts. Hull proved to be a decent friendly club, and their team – outclassed on the day – never gave up. It wasn't quite the pushover the final score might suggest. Hull made it quite clear that they are not going to spend money they don't have just to stay in this division, a lesson that some premiership clubs might benefit from learning. Their team played with unquenchable spirit but – like many promoted clubs – simply found the pace of the game in the higher league too difficult to cope with. They may well survive and, indeed, prosper once they find their feet.

Elsewhere around the club, Josh Addams came off the bench to score a hat-trick of tries to help the **Rangers** to a 57-12 win away to **Richmond** in the Raging Bull Div 1 and The **Fours** had an impressive 35-28 win over **London Welsh Druids**.

Park will not be resting on their laurels with a match against **Bishops Stortford** coming this weekend – and it's in front of our most critical audience of the season as it's the day of the former players' lunch! The 'old boys' will doubtless get vocally behind the new crop, but after they've downed a few pints the present side will face a hopeless task in being able to match their accounts of derring-do from the games of yesteryear. Apart from the important league match, Park old and new will meet as it is **Minis & Youth Day**, as well as the Former Players' Lunch and to top it all off, our annual **Oktoberfest**. To get things off to a flying start, there's 25% off drinks between noon and 2:00PM. There's a four course pre-match meal available at £40 for Members (£46 for non-members, including entry to the ground). In respect of the annual **Former Players' Lunch** we are really keen to reach out to any former players who may have lost contact with the club, so if you know any such persons please do alert them. On the pitch, before the main match we have a curtain-raiser at noon with our own **Nomads** taking on **Tiffinians** in the Surrey Championship and at 5:00PM the **Rangers** will play **Bishops Stortford 2s**.

Before that, on **Friday night** we have a Local Derby all of our own with a



Seb Strang runs in to score for Park against Hull last Saturday [Match photos by Marian Parker]



NEXT HOME MATCH

ROSSLYN PARK

VS BISHOP'S STORTFORD SAT 1ST OCT | 3PM | THE ROCK

FORMER PLAYERS LUNCH
MINIS & YOUTH DAY | DRINKS SPECIAL 12-2PM
BURGER KITCHEN | POST-MATCH: OKTOBERFEST

TICKETS FROM £12, U16S GO FREE
BUY TICKETS NOW!
WWW.ROSSLYNPARK.CO.UK

Upcoming events
Friday 30 September
'B' XV v Fours
Middlesex Merit Premier
Home KO 7:45PM
Free admission - bar open

Saturday 01 October
Curtain raiser
Nomads v Old Tiffinians
Surrey Championship
Home KO 12:00PM

Park v Bishops Stortford
National 1
Home KO 3:00PM
Discounted admission tickets and lunch bookings available on the website now

Rangers v B Stortford 2
Raging Bull Div 1
KO 5:00PM

Plus Former Players' Lunch and Oktoberfest

Netball
Actonians B v Park Reds
Kingston League Div 5
Away 09:30AM

Wimbledon (Hampton) v Park Blues
Kingston League Div 9
Away 11:30AM

Middlesex Merit Premier clash between the 'B' XV and the **Fours**, kicking off at 7:45PM. It's free admission so everyone is welcome to come down and enjoy a few beers while being entertained. There are two netball matches scheduled on Saturday morning: at 09:30 the **Rossllyn Park Reds** are away to **Actonians B** at Osterley Sports Centre in Wood Lane, Isleworth, and at 11:30 the **Rossllyn Park Blues** play away to **Wimbledon (Hampton)** at Graneney School, Welham Road, SW17 9BU.

Saturday's National 1 match

It's always a pleasure to welcome a real traditional rugby club for Saturday's National 1 match, and Bishops Stortford are certainly that. They do not have a rich backer and live within their means which, as we know ourselves, is a really difficult task nowadays with nearly all the RFU's resources diverted to keeping the Premiership clubs afloat - not entirely successfully it seems. Their clubhouse at Silver Leys always affords a friendly welcome and we hope their supporters will feel the same about their visit to the Rock. They have made a pretty good start to the season considering they have already had to play two of the teams who are favourites for the title in the form of Cambridge and Rams among their first four matches.

They started with a 44-20 win over Hull before going down a very respectable 30-36 to Cambridge (and picking up two bonus points in the process). They then had an impressive 25-24 away win at Darlington Mowden Park, despite losing 17-0 at one stage, and brought back a 4-try bonus along with the result. They ran in 15 tries in those first three matches. Last week was their first significant reversal losing by 10-40 to Rams, who were simply excellent on the day. Like ourselves Stortford favour an attacking style and can launch a telling attack from pretty much anywhere on the field, so we shall need to remain alert in what should be a thoroughly entertaining match.

Hull 19 Park 66 National 1

Park played at a pace Hull simply could not cope with and won comfortably. Ball-in-hand, Hull did not look a bad side and certainly never gave up the fight, but when Park had possession they were simply different class. But the win came at a cost with Fred Hoskins, who dominated the lineout all afternoon, incurring what looked like a serious knee injury in the closing minutes.

Hull showed a positive attitude from the start and were determined to attack. Park's defence were up to anything the home side could throw at them, but may have been a tad fortunate in the fourth minute when a promising Hull move foundered with a wide pass going astray.

When Park cornered possession they were lethal. On 10 minutes a high-speed inter-passing move up the left saw winger Charlie Walker eventually canter in for 5-0.

Although the wide conversion attempt was narrowly missed by fly half Craig Holland, only four minutes later he made a telling run and then put away winger Ben Howard to score. This time the conversion was spot on for 12-0.

Hull were still competing hard, but Park were tackling well, a notable bone-shaker from Arthur Ellis made even spectators wince. Park made it three tries in 10 minutes when flanker Oli Robinson got the ball at the back of a ruck, spotted a big gap and ran through to score. Holland's conversion made it 19-0 on 19 minutes.

With 10 minutes to the interval Hull enjoyed a period of pressure. Park defended it well but a grubber kick through was seized by winger Mike Adlard whose try was converted for 19-7.

Any suggestion of a home comeback was snuffed out six minutes later when wingers Howard and Walker combined at pace for the latter to go in at the corner for 24-7 and bring up the 4-try bonus point.

Park were not yet finished for the half, conjuring a superb try in a move started by centre Matt Gordon picking up the ball well inside



his own half. The ball passed apace through several hands and ended with Fred Hoskins touching down from a pick-and-go to bring up 31-7 with Holland's conversion.

Only four minutes into the second half Park were in again, a super piece of play up the right touchline by scrum half Jack Gash put skipper Dan Laventure in to score, Holland again nailing a less than straightforward conversion for 38-7.

Another four minutes passed before Park caught Hull again, this time a quick tap sent in Charlie Walker for his hat-trick, Holland converting for 45-7 on 52 minutes.

Park must have felt the referee was showing sympathy for their opponents when he pinged them three times for alleged high tackles: the first decision was debatable, the next two just blatantly wrong. A Hull penalty was kicked to touch and a move from the lineout, clearly from the training pitch, saw flanker Sione Afu get over, fly half Joe Carlisle adding the extras for 45-14.

But that served only to re-ignite Park and, following a lineout, replacement scrum half Seb Strang sniped a try, Holland's kick making it 52-14 on 66 minutes.

Three minutes later Oli Robinson was taken out, resulting in a penalty to the corner and replacement Matt Bolwell dotting down, converted by Holland made it 59-14.



That looked like opening the floodgates, but Hull never stopped trying and were rewarded with a brilliant run out of defence that left Park standing, all except for Holland who sprinted back to successfully stop the player, but not the score when the ball was moved wide for Turaga to make it 59-19 on 72 minutes.

Park were back on the attack for the final minutes, and from the last play Holland was taken out by a 'tackle without arms' which led to a scuffle and – after a long debate between all three match officials – saw a yellow card issued. A kick to the corner saw replacement hooker Billy Harding get on the end of the drive to touch down. Holland's conversion brought the final whistle at 66-19.

Park: Joe Luca Smith; Charlie Walker, Nick Scott, Matt Gordon, Ben Howard; Craig Holland; Jack Gash; Ali Wade, Jared Saunders, Carl Zeiss; Henry Spencer, Fred Hopkins; Matt Bolwell, Arthur Ellis, Dan Laventure

Bench: Billy Harding, Sam Garvey, Oli Robinson, Matt Bolwell, Seb Strang, Will Glover.

Richmond Saxons 12 Park Rangers 57 Raging Bull Div 1

We have no report on the Rangers game last Saturday, but clearly a decent performance to put over 50 points on Richmond. The quality of the team is such that it would almost certainly keep its end up in National 1 – even the bench comprises players who could easily slot into the First XV. The try scoring sequence for Park was Martin (converted), Piper, Austin (con), Marfo (con) Addams (con), Hosking, Addams (con), Trimble, Addams (con).

Park: Theo Alexis; Alex Goble, Quinten Koster, Henry Cheeseman, Benji Marfo; Harry Leonard; James Brookes; Jake Buckingham, Charlie Piper, Austin Hay; Dylan Flashman, Will Burton; Jordan Martin, Harry Ledger, Archie Hosking
Bench: Taine Wagstaff, Josh Rasor, Brendan de Gaulle, Ben Kirby, Max Trimble, Josh Addams, Chris Stegman

National 1

There are still four teams on a maximum 20 points and now 7 points clear of the fifth club: in order of goal difference they are **Rosslyn Park, Rams, Sale FC, and Cambridge**, but that cannot last because this coming Saturday Cambridge are home to Sale FC. Our 66-19 win at **Hull** leaves our hosts bottom of the table on 2 points, still searching for their first win. The only other club yet to gain a win are, surprisingly, **Esher**, who ceded **Leeds Tykes** their first win of the season, 24-26 at Hershaw. **Rams** topped up their points difference with a 40-10 away win at **Bishops Stortford**, the home team unable to cope with Rams' powerful pack. **Sale FC** faced stern opposition at home to **Taunton Titans**, having at one stage been 0-17 down before winning 31-24. **Cambridge** also had a close shave away to **Darlington Mowden Park**, winning 31-32; Mowden are fifth on 13 points. **Cinderford** complete the top half of the table on 11 points after a sensational comeback at home to **Plymouth Albion**. The visitors were 21-0 up, but ended up losing by 41-28 and are a place behind in seventh. **Chinnor** finally broke their duck with a 38-21 win over **Birmingham Moseley**.

This weekend's fixtures: Birmingham Moseley v Hull, Cambridge v Sale FC, Leeds v Chinnor, Plymouth Albion v Esher, Rams v Darlington Mowden Park, Rosslyn Park v Bishops Stortford, Taunton Titans v Cinderford.

Club sides

The 1's winning ways continued up int 'ull, 66-19, and the Rangers had a satisfying win down at the Athletic Ground against Richmond Saxons. 57-12. Well played. The B's (v Habs 2's) scheduled for last Saturday at 1pm was cancelled, unfortunately, as Habs could not raise a side. Frustrating, but at least the B's get the league points. Also, the Nomads' Surrey Championship game down at Cobham, against their 2's, was postponed to the 18th March because of the league's commencement deferral because of the "hard grounds" and the drought. Hard to believe, now, as it chucks it down outside, as I tap away here now!



Our indefatigable columnist Will Thorogood helps the Fours celebrate victory over London Welsh Druids [Photo: John Weatherall]

After these little disappointments, however, there was a game at the

Rock on Saturday afternoon. The 4's faced an always strong, well drilled and serious London Welsh Druids (MMT Premier Champions 2021-22). Possibly a daunting proposition, particularly after last week's result against HAC? None of it, as it turned out! With a different mindset, and a few team changes due to injury and player unavailability, plus hurt pride, the 4's burst onto the playing scene with a new lease of life. Although uncontested scrums had to be played (thank you, Druids, for being so accommodating), the game started out at 100 mph! The 4's shocked and stunned the Druids with fast, open, running rugby. The 4's settled any jitters with an early penalty conversion (3-0), and then the floodgates opened with four first half tries, created both out wide and through the middle. Scorers included Eliot (on debut), "Tom the Dutch", Ethan, and "Billy Whizz", also on debut. There was no first half reply from Welsh. 25-0 at half time. It would have been more, but for our failed conversion attempts rate (only 1 out of 4).

A different tenacious Welsh stepped out onto the 4G in the second half. The Druids clawed their way back bit by bit, as the 4's took their feet off the accelerator, and the Welsh started to breathe down our necks with two converted tries. A bit of a scare, but the 4's relieved some of the pressure with two more tries (one again from Ethan), and the second from an unidentified Parkman. As the 4's tired, the Welsh, in a final flurry, scored two more late goals (14 points), and got to within one score, but the referee's watch was on our side. The final whistle was sounded, to a sigh of relief and a few team hugs amongst the 4's. Phew! A good, exciting and competitive game. 4's 35 L. Welsh 28.

Thanks to all who played and helped out, and particularly, thanks must go to Pippa Rollit (fresh back from her cycling holiday in France and Italy) who covered the game as physio. In her very professional and caring manner, she had to deal with several potentially serious injuries on both sides. Her healing hands and attention did the job!

Games for this Friday and Saturday are as follows.
Friday, 30/9: 4's v B's Home ko 7.45pm. 4G MMT Premier. (The most local of derbies)

Saturday, 1/10: Nomads v Old Tiffinians 2's Home ko 12pm TBC. It is hoped they will agree to a midday start on the 4G? If not, 3pm in Richmond Park. 1's v Bishops Stortford Home ko 3pm. 2's v Bishops Stortford 2's ko 5pm

Netball

This weekend sees both the **Park Reds** and **Park Blues** playing away from home. First up are the Reds, away to **Actonians B** at 09:30, being played at Osterley Sports and Athletics Centre, 120 Wood Lane, Isleworth, TW7 5FI. The Blues have an 11:30 start against **Wimbledon (Hampton) C** at Graveney School, Welham Road, SW17 9BU. Both teams would love to have your support if you are in the area. Both matches are being played on indoor courts.

Women Players wanted

There is a fantastic opportunity for women players, and potential players, to join Rosslyn Park, one 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 or tel: [07759 775060](tel:07759775060)

Away travel

We have only one away match in October, but it's a long-distance one to **Darlington Mowden Park** and it's worth getting the cheapest advance tickets. Darlington station is the one to book to, and it's a fair old walk to the ground, as our 'regulars' know only too well from when their booked taxi failed to materialise. If you want to go direct to the ground, use the opposite exit to the one into town and turn right then just follow your nose. There's a reasonably frequent bus service from the far side of the road. The address is The Northern Echo Arena, Neasham Road, Darlington, Durham, DL2 1DL. Entrance to the ground is through the clubhouse (the Cross Bar) which fronts onto the car park – so don't go searching for open turnstiles. Our regulars usually go into town before the game (Bar Twenty 2 is a favourite, which does a decent lunch with a good selection of ales) and get a cab from there. If you're tempted by that do book your cab early as they can become difficult to come by. There is rumour of a bus from the market square to the ground, but the only time we tried it didn't turn up.

We have two away matches in November. **Birmingham Moseley** (05 November) and **Plymouth Albion** (26 November) it is definitely worth looking out for the cheaper advance tickets coming on sale. Moseley is an awkward one to get to by public transport because the traffic is usually horrendous and the cab fare from anywhere near Birmingham New Street station ends up being about £15 each way with diversions and waiting time. An alternative is to book through to Yardley Wood station, which is usually the same fare and less than a mile to the ground, but if you do that bear in mind that you'll need to make the short inter-change to Moor Street station when you get to New Street, and that the walk from Yardley Wood station to the ground is relentlessly uphill! The Moseley ground is at Billesley Common, Yardley Wood Road, Billesley, Birmingham, B13 0HN.

For Plymouth, if you can nail the through trains, then Devonport station is nearer the ground than is Plymouth; given that it's a long trip anyway, our regulars usually get a very early train and visit the waterside Barbican area and get a cab from there, though there is a frequent bus service if you walk from Plymouth station up to the roundabout and from there take the wide pedestrianised road through to Royal Parade. The address of the ground is Brickfields Recreation Ground, 25 Damerel Close, Plymouth, PL1 4NE.

Expensive lift

It's important to know the address of the ground if you're thinking of taking a cab, as two of our intrepid away supporters found in Hull last Saturday. The Hull ground is about three miles from the old town, so they booked a cab to the Hull Rugby ground. They ended up at Hull Rugby League ground, which was clearly the wrong one, so the cabbie took them to the other one – which turned out to be Hull Kingston Rovers! Only after that did they locate the proper ground, arriving 17 minutes after kick off and a taxi fare of £35 to pay.

International tickets

A reminder that Members can now apply for tickets to England's home matches at Twickenham this Autumn. Below are links to the International Ticket ballot application forms, a separate application form must be completed and signed for each game. Please note the application process, **which is carried out by post**, will close on **Monday 10th October 2022**, and applications received after this date will not be processed. You must be a **member of Rosslyn Park FC** in order to be **eligible** for tickets.

Please also read the RFU Ticket Distribution guidelines carefully and please abide by them otherwise unfortunately it will be the Club that suffers. Closing date for applications: **Monday 10th October 2022**

[Download the Argentina Ticket Application form here](#)
[Download the New Zealand Ticket Application form here](#)
[Download the South Africa Ticket Application form here](#)
[Download The RFU Guidelines for Ticket Applications here](#)

Can you help?

The club is really grateful to our sponsors, and would urge everyone

to support them as they have supported us. If you, your business or anyone you know might be interested in joining in with sponsoring Rosslyn Park, then Kenny Moore would be delighted to talk with you. Kenny can be contacted at the Club Office (020 8876 1879) or e-mail kenneth.moore@rosslynpark.co.uk

PLAYER SPONSORSHIP

A great opportunity to be linked with a Rosslyn Park player and to follow his progress throughout the season.

- PA announcement when your player scores a try
 - Company logo/name against player profile on the match-day scoreboard
 - Company logo/name against player profile in match-day programme
 - 10 tickets for a 1st XV home game of your choice
 - 6 entry tickets to London Floodlit 7s 2023
 - Social media announcement of your sponsorship
- Cost: £450 + VAT per player

PITCH BOARDS

Great for a local business to promote awareness and been seen throughout the year by all that use the club, and exposure through our live streaming of select games.

£1,500.00 + VAT

1 x Branded pitch board located on the 1st XV pitch (6m x 0.9m) for one year

MATCHDAY BALL SPONSORSHIP

£150.00 + VAT

- Company name and logo on Club website
- Company name mentioned as official game Match Ball Sponsor for the day on PA announcements.

MATCH DAY SPONSORSHIP

£1,500.00 + VAT

- 10 x Tickets to a 1st XV home game of your choice
- Lunch for 10 people at a 1st XV home game of choice
- Company name and logo against player profile on Club website
- Presentation of Man of the Match
- A5 full-page advert to be featured in match day programme
- Company name and logo on the main scoreboard
- PA announcements through the day and at lunch

MATCHDAY PROGRAMME ADVERT

£650.00 + VAT

- Company name and logo on Club website
- A5 full-page advert to be featured in a total of 13 Men's 1st XV programmes at home game

Keep in touch

There is always something going on at Rosslyn Park - 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.

