



Issue 14

16 November 2022

Season 2022-23

SIX-TRY WIN TAKES PARK UP TO THIRD

Welcome to Parknews After two home defeats in tight matches it was good to get back to winning ways last Saturday. It was far from a perfect performance, but then again we must be getting somewhere when you carp about a 6-try (40-12) win in a league as competitive as National 1 is this season. Fair play also to **Leeds Tykes**, who never for a moment dropped their heads. The 5 points gained take Park into third position, above Sale on points difference and now only a point behind second-placed Cambridge who lost in a dramatic last minute at Birmingham Moseley. All the teams have a rest day next weekend, but when we return to competitive action on Saturday week, the team face a long journey to Plymouth for what is always a tough fixture with a big attendance. Our next First XV home fixture is on Saturday 03 December when we play **Taunton Titans** – which is also the day of the Xmas Lunch. You can book for both events on the website now.

The **Rangers** had a good and entertaining win over **Blackheath 2s** to maintain our challenge in the Halbro Raging Bull Div 1. Unfortunately neither the **Bs** nor the **4s** could raise teams last weekend and so had to concede their matches in Middlesex Merit Premier. Better news of the **Nomads** who travelled up to Richmond Park to play **Chobham** in the Surrey Championship and came back to the Rock with a 26-17 win. On the **netball** court our **Surrey** league side suffered a 39-36 nail-biting defeat away to **Alpha** in a real thriller.

It's lean pickings Rugby-wise in the form of the adult teams this weekend, but an excellent opportunity to go along and support two of our brilliantly successful netball teams. Both the Reds and the Blues are at home, both top their respective leagues with 100% records and both matches finish in plenty of time to catch the Autumn Internationals on TV. Both matches are taking place at Roehampton University: Froebel College, the entrance is on Roehampton Lane, next to the corner with Clarence Lane. The 493 and 365 buses stop almost outside, or the 85, 170 or 430 stop nearby, and it's a short walk along Roehampton Lane. From the entrance just follow the internal road down parallel with Clarence Lane. Plenty of free parking. The Reds play Teddington at 09:30, followed by the Blues playing Elmbridge at 11:00.

Park 40 Leeds Tykes 12 National 1

After two narrow home defeats Park started confidently and were on the scoreboard after only three minutes. A good move led to fly half Monty Bradbury chipping over the defence and Charlie Walker outpaced the defence to grab the ball on the bounce and hare over in the corner. Bradbury nailed an excellent conversion for 7-0.

Park were looking good, but made a complete hash of a simple clearance that led to Leeds breaking away and prop Will Dennis got over by the posts before the home defence had really reacted. Venables added an easy conversion to tie up the scores on 8 had spotted minutes.

The home side won a penalty, belted to the corner, but conceded a penalty themselves when the score looked likely.

But they did not have to wait long before a fine move on the left created space in the middle for centre Will Glover to burst through at pace on 13 minutes. Bradbury's conversion restored Park's lead.

It was only five minutes before the lead was increased. From an attacking line-out scrum half Seb Strang made a good run, getting the ball away to Bradbury in the tackle, who set up prop Austin Hay to crash over. Bradbury converted for 21-7 on 18 minutes.

Things got even better for Park soon after when flanker Arthur Ellis combined well with Strang up the right for the latter to go over in the corner. Bradbury's extremely difficult conversion attempt narrowly missed but it brought the score to 26-7 with only 21 minutes on the clock.



Will Glover shows his pace to burst through the Leeds defence
[Photo @rosslynpark twitter]

Upcoming events Saturday 19 November Netball

Park Reds v Teddington

Kingston League Div 5

Home (Roehampton Uni) 09:30

Park Blues v Elmbridge

Kingston League Div 9

Home (Roehampton Uni) 11:00

Saturday 26 November

Plymouth Albion v Park

National 1

Home KO 3:00PM

Rangers v Worthing 2's

Halbro Raging Bull Lge

Home ko 3pm

B's v Hammersmith & Fulham 2's

MMT Premier

Home ko 1pm

4's v Belsize Park 2's

Away KO TBA

MMT Premier

Nomads v Reeds 2's

Away KO TBA

Surrey Championship

Next 1st XV home match

Saturday 03 December

Park v Taunton Titans

National 1

Home KO 3:00PM

for discounted advance match tickets + pre-match lunch bookings ([Book tickets here](#))

Still the pressure did not relent. Another penetrating run of 40 metres by Glover saw him unable to stop the ball from going forward



Charlie Walker about to score the first of his two tries

in the last-ditch tackle. Benji Marfo looked to have scored a great try up the left, but the touch judge had spotted an earlier forward pass.

If some criticism is due of Park's defence is due when they allowed Leeds flanker Grayson Maguire to burst through following a line-out, then even more should accrue to the officials for allowing the score to stand when it was clearly dropped just before it hit the ground independently of the scorer's hand. Venables' conversion made it 26-12 on 34 minutes.

Before the interval a loose pass was intercepted to almost gift Leeds a further try, but he referee blew for an earlier offence. The visitors almost did score on the stroke of half time but for a try-saving tackle by Walker.

Perhaps encouraged by this late flurry, Leeds made a far better fist of the second half albeit aided by Park's propensity to concede penalties— but it was still Park who troubled the scoreboard. On 47 minutes a good move saw the ball whisked across the field for Tom Stanton to score in the right corner, replacement fly half Craig Holland getting a fine conversion for 33-12.

Shortly afterwards Jordan Martin was dragged down just short of the line.

Leeds' hopes may have been raised with a penalty which saw Hay binned for not retreating, but Park's defence generally dealt with anything the opposition could throw at them.

The match was put beyond any shadow of doubt on 72 minutes when Walker was too fast for everyone and touched down on the right, Holland's conversion making it 40-12.

Holland nearly increased the score with a fine interception and kick ahead but a defender showed good pace to get to the ball first.

With two minutes remaining there was a serious injury that would clearly need long treatment before the player could be moved and both teams agreed that, with the score at 40-12, it was sensible to halt the match there and then.

Park: Henry Robinson; Charlie Walker, Will Glover, Matt Gordon, Benji Marfo; Monty Bradbury; Luke Baldwin; Sam Garvey, Billy Harding, Austin Hay; Jordan Martin, Gregor Gillanders; Harry Ledger, Arthur Ellis, Oli Robinson.

Bench: Charlie Piper, Jake Buckingham, Dylan Flashman, Jack Gash, Craig Holland.



Ben Howard scores for Rangers .
[Rangers photos by John Weatherall]

Rangers 39 Blackheath 2s 12 Friendly

Park soon took charge of this match and scored a neat try up the left, with lock Benji Carr showing a good turn of foot on the overlap to get over in the corner.

Playing the open, running rugby that has characterized their performances this season, the Rangers were beginning to run a competent Blackheath side ragged. A great move up the right faltered only when the final pass narrowly eluded Ben Howard's outstretched fingers at full tilt.

Park were soon in again, kicking a penalty to touch on the right and mauling over for hooker Ed Cockman to touch down for 10-0.

Great play up the left saw Ben Howard combine with Benji Carr to set up Carr's second try and 15-0.

On the half hour Park struck again with a neat rehearsed move from a 5 metre throw. Cockman threw low to the front, accepted the quick return and plunged over in the corner. All four of Park's tries had been scored within inches of the corner flag, giving little chance of fly half Olly Venni converting so the score remained at 20-0.

A rare Blackheath attack saw Venni, harshly yellow carded for a high tackle that was clearly unintentional (though referees have little discretion in this area). Park cleared the danger with a good run out of defence by full back Theo Alexis, eventually leading to a forward-dominated attack on the visitors' line. Prop Nick Lovell used his strength to get over and Ben Howard converted for the half-time score of 27-0.

Whatever Blackheath had in their half-time drinks seemed to work as they came out really fired up for the second half and took the game to Park. Looking lively, they scored up the left adding a good conversion for 27-7.

They looked like scoring again but for a flying last ditch tackle by Chris Stegman.

A degree of normality was restored by a superb run by flanker Alex McLean that sent in speedy sub Timi Olopade for a try. Howard's



conversion attempt hit the post so it was 32-7.

In a more competitive half, Blackheath hit back, scoring out a good try and converting for 32-12.

But Park had the last word with another really good move, Sam Aspland-Robinson combining at speed with Ben Howard who converted his own try for the final score of 39-12.

Park: *Theo Alexis; Chris Stegman, Sam Aspland-Robinson, James Keay, Ben Howard; Olly Venni; Dave Lewis; Josh Razor, Ed Cockman, Nick Lovell; Benji Carr, Will Burton; Brendan de Galludec, Alex McLean, Archie Hosking*
Bench: *Ed Cockman, Benji Carr, George Hamblin, Luc Smith, TimiOlopade.*

Away travel

For **Plymouth** on 26 November 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 to Plymouth and visit the waterside Barbican area and get a cab from there, though there is a frequent bus service if you walk from the 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. It's worth getting your match tickets in advance from the Albion website as they often get gates of over 1,000 – last time we played there the queue for tickets was over 10 minutes long even 15 minutes prior to kick off. There's a decent beer tent and food outlets so you might choose to get there early.

Our last away match of 2022 is at **Sale FC** on 10 December, kicking off at 14:30. The station to aim for is Manchester Piccadilly, from where the Altrincham tram will deliver you to the Brooklands stop which is close to the ground at Heywood Rd, Sale M33 3WB. Walk along Marsland Road and Heywood Road is a turning on right, about 300 metres from the tram stop. There are well-publicised problems on the Euston-Manchester line with cancellations meaning you need to get in very early to get a cheap ticket. Some services tend to get reinstated late on, but at grossly extortionate fares. You could get a return flight from Heathrow on BA for £114 return: the ground is not far from Manchester airport but even so, and with taxi booked, you might struggle to make the last return flight at 17:15.

National 1

Rams remain top on 50 points after a hard fought 26-14 win over **Plymouth**, who were winning 14-7 with 15 minutes remaining. **Cambridge** are now 7 points adrift after looking to have won with a last minute effort at **Birmingham Moseley**, but then Moseley snatched the win from the last play of the match with a penalty try. **Park** are on 42 points in third after Saturday's win over **Leeds Tykes**, overtaking **Sale** who won away 29-22 at **Bishops Stortford**. **Hull** surprisingly recorded their first non-defeat holding sixth place **Cinderford** to a 10-10 draw. **Esher** recorded their first win of the season by 41-33 at **Chinnor**. **Darlington Mowden Park** beat **Taunton** 40-13 in the other match.

Clubsides

Will Thorogood reports: Action from last weekend (12th November) was diminished because both the B's and 4's weren't able to raise sufficient numbers to play Old Streetonians and L.New Zealand Kiwis in their MMT Premier fixtures, so had to concede the games. I note that only one game was actually played in this league...a consequence of the Autumn Internationals and RLWC Semi Final, I think?! No excuses, when the Soccer World Cup starts, I hope!

Anyway, the 1's rekindled form continued with a respectable win 40-12 over Leeds Tykes. Jim Willerton (Hull born and bred) was in his element with all these Yorkshiremen and ladies (albeit from the West Riding) about the clubhouse. Eee by gum! Not much trouble at mill, though.

Rangers, too, had a solid win against Blackheath 2's at midday, eventually on the 4G. 39-12.
However, Match of the Day, Nomads v Chobham 2's, Surrey Championship, was set in the idyllic setting of Richmond Park. The



Will Thorogood grabbed this photo of Nomads v Chobham with the setting sun in Richmond Park

sun was shining, the sky was blue, no Arctic gales blasting from over the summit of Sawyers Hill. A beautiful day, and not a bad game either.

The game kicked off a little late because of late player arrivals, but once started the game was going to be keenly contested. Chobham, more muscular and direct, the Nomads, more fleet of foot and with flair battled it out, ebb and flow! Early in the game, Chobham drove and mauled over the line to score, 0-5, but there was a quick riposte from the Nomads who swung the ball wide, for Wolgamot to scorch down the right wing and touch down for well worked unconverted try. 5-5. Chobham upped their gears and scored a couple of unanswered tries, so at half time, Nomads 5 Chobham 17.

Acting skipper, Ted Hewins, must have given an inspirational and motivational half time talk, and the Nomads went into the second half with a new vigour and tenacity. Always nip and tuck, Chobham continued to compete but were hindered by a growing list of injuries, and their numbers dwindled, even after their reserves had replaced their casualties. The Nomads took advantage of the situation, and scored three unanswered tries, (from Richard Spice, Michael Howden and Ant Tennick), 12-17, 19-17 to 26-17 despite Chobham's valiant efforts to bridge the gaps and catch up.

There were a number of stoppages, so by the time referee, Stephen Luke, blew for full time, the sun had dipped behind the hill, the twilight zone approached and temperature had noticeably dropped. Would we get out of the Park before the gates shut and the deer cull began?! A satisfying 26-17 win for the Nomads, however, as they consolidate their position in the top half of the league. I don't think the Nomads are particularly concerned as to whether they are 4th, 5th or 8th, so long as they play and enjoy a good game, and win more than they lose with an esprit de corps

Thanks to Charlotte covering as physio who put in a good shift, Lord Weatherall who sorted posts and protectors and Susy who fed us well. Unsung heroes and heroines! Thanks to the players and ref, too. I feel sorry for Vincente?, the Nomads new Chilean find, who pulled up with a hamstring injury during the pre-match warm-up, so he wasn't able to play. (Dangerous pastime, warming up, you know!) Frustrating for him and the team. He'll be back.

Saturday week's matches:

Rangers v Worthing 2's Home ko 3pm

B's v Hammersmith & Fulham 2's Home ko 1pm MMT Premier

4's v Belsize Park 2's Away MMT Premier

Nomads v Reeds 2's Away Surrey Championship

Netball

We have two important home matches this weekend, involving our Kingston League sides who both top their respective leagues defending 100% records this season. The matches will take place at the Roehampton Uni courts which are located at Froebel College on Roehampton Lane, entrance almost next to Clarence Lane. The Reds play Teddington at 09:30, while the Reds take on Elmbridge at 11:00.

Alpha A: 49

Rosslyn Park (Surrey squad): 46

Surrey Premier A

Starting 7: GS Tara Ellis, GA Fran Bennett, WA Hannah McNally, C Molly Armes, WD Claire Shapland, GD Abby Mahal, GK Hannah

Wallis

Subs: Beth Hunt and Kate Waskett

This weekend's match saw a nail biting finish to a closely contested game against Alpha, with high energy and plenty of support for the away team giving the game a great atmosphere!

The first quarter was back and forth as both teams warmed into the match, going goal for goal, with some excellent shooting from both sides but also some strong defence from Abby and Hannah at the back. Starting as the game went on, the quarter closed at 11 all.

With some changes on court going into Q2, Claire moved to C, Molly to WD, and Beth coming on for Fran at GA. Alpha started out strong, getting a few early turnovers to pull ahead, but a strong fight in the midfield, with Molly, Claire, and Hannah M working well together and scoring some crucial turnovers, allowed us to close the gap, while Abby and Hannah continued the tough fight at the back. The score was a close 25-21 to Alpha going into the half-time break.

With Abby and Hannah switching positions in defence, Fran at WA, Kate at WD and Molly back to C, the team came out fighting to start Q3, but Alpha had found their rhythm. Facing a rough contest in the midfield, Kate and Molly were working hard but Alpha seemed to have the momentum behind them, and 50/50 calls and small errors saw the defence under a lot of pressure and Alpha started to extend their lead. However a late burst from Fran, Beth and Tara with some incredible passes and some stellar shooting saw us keep the deficit to just 4 goals (38-33) going in to the last quarter!

After some stern words from the team captains (and Nigel the sausage dog), and Tara postponing Twickenham plans to help secure the win (thank you!), we came out swinging (mostly figuratively) and the start of the final quarter was the Park show, as Abby and Hannah at the back smothered their attack, and the hard working midcourt securing vital ball for Beth and Tara up front who had found the rhythm and were sinking goals from all over.

After Alpha scored just one goal, taking their tally to 39, Park scored an impressive 7 unanswered goals to draw ahead by one with just 10 minutes to play! The crowd (of boyfriends and Nigel) was as invested as the rest of the team and heart rates were high across the board! Alpha regrouped and the teams were going goal for goal until Alpha had a crucial call at the back line go their way and they pulled the gap to 3 goals. They managed to hold the lead, despite Park's best efforts scoring a goal in the dying seconds to make the final 49-46.

The score line doesn't do the team's guts and mettle justice. In what was one of the most impressive fight backs I've ever seen, everyone deserves to be proud of their efforts!

POM went to Tara, for an impressive effort up front scoring some incredible shots. However an honorary mention should go to Hannah and Abby at the back, for an intense (again, mostly figurative) fight against Alpha's attack.

Welcome visitor

It was a great pleasure to Bump into former Park fly-half Brad Moorar, over from New Zealand on Saturday, along with another ex-Park man Charlie Nicholl (Brad is the one in the middle who hasn't aged in the accompanying photo). Whether to be grateful to Bob Evans for pointing out that Brad last put on a Park shirt almost exactly 20 years ago, thus making the editor feel ancient, is another matter! But Bob did have a note of the team at home to Camberley on 25/11/2000: Maddock; Casado, Brady, Thompson, Hartigan; Moorar, Campbell; Fennell, Codo, Cano; Gibson, Hayes; Strong, Boardman, McDonald. Replacements: Hankey, Cooke, Ritchie. (Chris Ritchie didn't get on!).

It's also interesting to note that of the other clubs in our league that season only Park remain at Level 3. Nottingham have been promoted to the Championship – all the others are currently at a lower level: Wharfedale, Newbury, Preston Grasshoppers, Rugby, Kendall, Harrogate, Bracknell, West Hartlepool, Camberley, Esher,

Rogues Gallery: Steve Kearns, Andy Ray, Brad Moorar, Alex Milward and Matt Dowse enjoy a beer [photo: Pippa Rollitt]



Fylde and Lydney.

That was the season that we played so well against Newcastle Falcons in the cup competition, who had Jonny Wilkinson on the bench before he became a World Cup hero. A story about that day that can now be told given the passage of time. Park were still essentially an amateur club at the time. When they arrived a Falcons executive – who shall remain nameless – said that they would like to have their share of the gate money before we kicked off. It was politely pointed out that this was pretty much impossible as people would still be paying to get in after the match had started. The Newcastle Chairman intervened to ask with some incredulity whether we were truly still an amateur club. When this was confirmed he said to keep all the gate money.

It was a tradition in those less politically correct days that our women's team – the legendary Slingbacks – would after the match nominate the opposition player they considered had the nicest legs and he was required to drink a pint in the Clubhouse against one of the girls, first empty glass wins. The Newcastle player lost, and the *Observer* pointed out on the following Sunday that this incident showed that the full-time pros no longer mastered the basics of the sport. The late and lamented Inga Tuigamala, who was in the Falcons squad that day, said his visit to the Rock had reminded him why he took up and loved the sport. Ah – those amateur days!

Christmas Raffle

We will be having another Christmas Raffle this year to help with various projects around the club including Cardiac Screening for playing members and would invite any members if they would like to contribute a prize or prizes, we would be most grateful. This is also a great to support the club and to have your business recognised and highlighted to the wider club.

Xmas Lunch

While on the subject of food and hospitality, please note that the Xmas Lunch this year will take place earlier than usual on 03 December at the Taunton match. This is because the match immediately before Christmas against Esher is a Friday night match and there would be insufficient time for most people. Make a note in your diary now!

A personal view

Is the editor the only one whose enjoyment of the rugby is compromised by the constant interruption of loud music? I think not given that after yet another blast of the racket over the loudspeakers last Saturday our announcer said, "this is beyond my control". Presumably that was because those around him in the stand (our paying customers) were complaining. If I wanted to attend a pop concert that is what I would do, but on Saturday afternoon I choose Rugby.

We do need to attract a younger audience if the club are to have a future. But does anyone really go to a rugby match because every interruption to play is filled with loud music? Because there are certainly some who will stay away precisely because of it. It also sends a subliminal message that the rugby is not exciting and

entertaining enough on its own, which is certainly not the case - least of all this season!

There is a further consideration. As we improve our facilities we shall need to get planning permission for some items. Are we more or less likely to get the co-operation of our neighbours (and the Roehampton Club?) if we bombard them with staccato bursts of loud music on Saturday afternoons?

I've no objection to music at a moderate volume before and after the match and at half time, but for 80 minutes in between could we not be left in peace to enjoy the rugby?

Ed: These columns are, of course, open to anyone, particularly if someone would like to state the opposite case.

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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
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- Social media announcement of your sponsorship

Cost: £450 + VAT per player

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- Presentation of Man of the Match
- A5 full-page advert to be featured in match day programme
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- PA announcements through the day and at lunch

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- Company name and logo on Club website
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Twitter: <http://bit.ly/2PqDIQy>

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

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

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