



Issue 16

30 November 2022

Season 2022-23

PARK MISS OUT IN BATTLE WITH THE ELEMENTS

Welcome to Parknews It was really disappointing to lose last Saturday, but there was a degree of mitigation in that the conditions in which the game at Plymouth was played were really diabolical: it had been raining since the day before and a strong wind was blowing slanting rain along the sodden pitch. It looked to be a choice not of what length stud to use, but whether to wear boots or flippers. It's all very well to quote that old canard that it's the same for both sides, but while Albion took to the conditions like – almost literally! – ducks to water, Park really didn't seem to quite have the game to suit the circumstances, hard as they tried. We made too many errors, but before being too critical you needed to see what the players were striving to cope with. We did have every chance of winning in the second half but just could not force the issue against a side, reduced to 14 men, who were fired up and giving everything and more with fervent support roaring them on. It is a big let down – not least to the players - to lose further ground on the leaders. It was a match we could and should have won, and we really did make far too many errors but you could not fault the effort the team put in after a long coach trip. All we can really do is regather and make a welcome return to the 4G this weekend when we take on Taunton Titans. We're not even half way through the season yet.



Park on the attack during the second half at Plymouth last Saturday

It was not a good day on the Rugby field for any of our teams. The **Rangers** lost 45-48 to the last kick of the match against **Worthing**. Among the club sides, the **Fours** and **Nomads** had to cancel because of lack of players. Some of those who were available turned out for the **B XV** against **Hammersmith & Fulham**, but still could not field a complete front row which led to a 14 point 'penalty' and a 20-47 loss. No respite on the netball courts where Park lost to Wimbledon 57-45.

This weekend sees us entertain **Taunton Titans**, who currently lie tenth in the league but nearly caused the upset of the season last Saturday when they came within a whisker of inflicting Rams' first defeat of the season. They lost by 24-27, spending the last minutes of the game camped on the Rams line but unable to force what would have been the winning score. Clearly they are going to be a hard nut to crack, but it is also clearly a 'must win' game for Park to re-light our title challenge. Your vocal support to pick up the team after the disappointment at Plymouth would be really appreciated. There is a curtain raiser at noon with the Nomads playing Cobham in the Surrey Championship (at the time these notes were written, we had not heard whether Cobham have agreed to the early kick off – if not the match will move to the afternoon in Richmond Park).

Away from the Rock, the **Rangers** have an important League match away to **Richmond Vikings**, The **B XV** visit **Old Haberdashers** and the **Fours** go to **London Welsh Druids**. Two of our netball teams are away: the **Reds** to **Nonsuch** at 09:30 and the **Blues** to **Oxshott** at 11:15.

Plymouth Albion 13

Park 10

National 1

Park started the match playing up a slight incline against a strong wind blowing slanting rain into their faces. An early scrum saw Park penalized on half way and Plymouth immediately opted to go for the posts. Fly half Tom Putt belted the ball towards the posts and the wind did the rest for 3-0 on only four minutes, with Park having had virtually no possession.

Upcoming events
Saturday 03 December
Nomads v Cobham
 Surrey Championship
 Home KO 12:00 (TBC)

Park

v

Taunton Titans

National 1
Home KO 3:00PM
 for discounted advance match tickets + Xmas lunch bookings ([Book tickets here](#))

Richmond Vikings v Rangers

Halbro Raging Bull 1
 Away KO TBC

Old Haberdashers v B's

MMT Premier
 Away KO TBA

London Welsh Druids v Fours

MMT Premier
 Away KO TBA

Netball

Nonsuch v Reds

Kingston Div 5
 Away 09:30

Oxshott v Blues

Kingston Div 9
 Away 11:15



That changed with Park gaining ground as the home side incurred successive penalties, the final one being close enough to the posts for fly half Monty Bradbury's kick to defy the wind and pass between the posts for 3-3 on 7 minutes.

It was really Rugby's version of trench warfare after that, both sides slopping through the mud with great commitment but for little gain. Park could only rarely escape their own half but defended so well, and with such commitment, that the hosts could not take advantage of their possession.

The tackling from both sides was superb and the fact that much of the match was a midfield slog was not in any way a reflection on the efforts being made. While effectively pinned back, Park handled what came at them. But our kicks tended to miss touch and come back with interest on the wind or else were charged down and Park could not find a way to get the ball out to their speedy wingers in any space at all. There were many handling errors on both sides with the slippery ball and tight defensive lines.

Plymouth attempted – but missed – a long range penalty, but their best chance seemed to have passed them by when Park lost Arthur Ellis to a yellow card on 16 minutes, when his intervention at the breakdown was adjudged a 'professional foul' but the 14 remaining defended superbly to leave the hosts scoreless for the ten minutes.

The pendulum swung Park's way on 29 minutes when Plymouth flanker George Mills appeared to deliberately throw himself onto a prone Park player off the ball, starting a round of 'handbags' and after consultation with a nearby touch judge was shown a red card.

Park conceded a further penalty two minutes later that allowed Putt to increase the lead to 6-3, but Park – even when not having much possession – looked the more likely to score. Indeed it looked as if they had scored when Matt Gordon plunged over in the left corner only for the referee to rule that an earlier pass had been forward.



One that got away - Matt Gordon's fine effort was disallowed for an earlier forward pass



Dan Laventure scores for Park

Despite being a man down Plymouth exerted a period of pressure near the end of the half when a good clearance floated on the wind to become a telling 50 / 22, from which they set up a strong maul and Gregor Gillanders was carded. As the clock wound down and went into the red Plymouth ratcheted up the pressure on the Park line. It felt as if play would be allowed to continue until Albion scored and when front row man Rukhadze plunged over we were well into the fifth minute of additional time. Putt's conversion brought the interval at 13-3.

The weather got even worse for the second period, but with a strong wind and driving rain at their backs, against 14 men, few would have bet against Park bridging the ten point gap. Indeed with a near monopoly of territory and attacking possession they could and should have done.

Restored to full complement on ten minutes it took Park only five minutes to grab a try. Pressure on Plymouth's left flank saw skipper Dan Laventure spot an opportunity to come onto the ball at speed and his momentum took him across the line in the corner. Monty Bradbury's touchline kick, swerving in the wind was as good a conversion as you are ever likely to see.

With 25 minutes to go a win looked very much on the cards, but urged on by a vociferous support Plymouth defended with everything they had and Park made any number of understandable, but frustrating, errors as they strove to get a score.

As the clock ran down to added time Park got their best chance when pressure won them a penalty that was within Bradbury's range to secure a draw. Bravely Park kicked to gain a 5 metre lineout, but they lost the ball and, to a deafening roar Plymouth won a scrum and played out the last seconds before hoofing the ball over the stand to claim the win.

From Park's perspective a really frustrating afternoon.

Park: Joe Luca Smith; Charlie Walker, Sam Aspland Robinson, Matt Gordon, Benji Marfo; Monty Bradbury; Luke Baldwin; Sam Garvey, Charlie Piper, Austin Hay; Jordan Martin, Gregor Gillanders; Harry Ledger, Arthur Ellis, Dan Laventure
Bench: Jared Ssunders Jake Buckingham, Dylan Ollie Robinson, Seb Strang, Craig Holland.

Rangers Worthing 2s

Halbro Raging Bull 1

Sorry, but we have no formal report on the Rangers' match, but they lost to Worthing by 45-48 thanks to a last-minute penalty in a really exciting match. Winger Chris Stegman bagged a hat-trick of tries, Billy Harding got two and Alex McLean and Billy Harding one each.



Rangers photos by John Weatherall

Action from Rangers v Worthing



Luc Smith converted six of the seven tries.

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.

Club sides

This last weekend was, results-wise, a disappointing one. No W's, I am afraid. The Firsts' trip down to Devon resulted in a 13-10 loss for them. It sounds like a close run affair!?

Rangers were pipped in the last minute by Worthing 2's with a well converted penalty kick. In a tense encounter, they'd score/we'd score scenario, and with minutes to go, the scoreline stood at 45 all. However, Worthing nicked the honours (or share of) from us with that kick. Rangers 45 Worthing 48!

Again, the Clubsides' diary was decimated by "Autumn-Internationalitis", where both the 4's and Nomads were unable to field full sides (only 7 and 10 available) in their respective league games. However, some 4's and Nomads were good enough to help the B's in their MMT Premier league encounter against Hammersmith & Fulham 2's at the Rock. Thank you. Having said that, there was a dearth of front row players (if only I was 10 or 20 years younger!), and the B's had to pay the penalty (League regulations).

If a team starts a game without a recognised front row, they either have to play the whole game with 14 players, or with a 14 points starting deficit, but with 15 players. We chose the latter, so that players weren't denied a game, and there was a more even parity



Action from Bs v H&F
[Photo Will Thorogood]

between the sides on the field. Scrums being uncontested. With players having to play out of position and with new faces and combinations, we were a little disjointed in our play, fluency and discipline. However, there was a determination and grit amongst our warriors, against a well drilled Hammersmith team. Hammers quickly took advantage of the situation with a well worked try, then a fortuitous ricochet bouncing ball to which they were first to touch down (0-14) We responded well, though, and showed our pace

outside and scored a couple of good tries (I'm afraid I don't have scorers' names). H&F broadened their advantage with another try, and at half time the score was B's 10 H&F 21(35).

The second half was more of an even contest where the try counts were 2 apiece. Again, I don't know who our "points' men" were. Sorry. So, on the field, the final score was B's 20 H&F 2's 33. For "red tape" purposes, 20-47. Thanks to Ollie and Ozzie for your off field, behind the scenes work, in cobbling a side together and getting the game played. Thanks to the other skippers and their lieutenants for all the work you do, although it can be very frustrating, at times. Let's hope that there's no "Football World Cupitis" this week!?

1's v Taunton Home ko 3pm

Rangers v Richmond Vikings Away ko TBA

B's v Old Habs 2's Away ko TBA

4's v L.Welsh Druids Away ko TBA

Nomads v Cobham 2's Home ko 12pm?

Netball

Both of our Kingston League teams are away this weekend, defending unbeaten records in their various leagues. The Reds are away to Nonsuch at 09:30 at the Malden Wanderers Cricket Club, 20 Cambridge Avenue, KT3 4LE. The Blues play Oxshott at Oxshott Village Sports Club, Steels Lane, Oxshott, KT22 0RF

Away travel

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. If you walk on along Marsland Road for just a few more yards there's a reasonable pub that does food. 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, but there were a few remaining as these notes went to press. Some services tend to get reinstated late on, but at grossly extortionate fares so do get in quickly. 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.

Doddie Weir

Like everyone in Rugby, we are devastated at the sad passing of Doddie Weir. Doddie played against Park for Newcastle Falcons in that legendary cup tie of more than 20 years ago. He was a giant of the game in every sense, but after the match he was just an ordinary Rugby man like everyone else. A great player and an even better human being.

National 1

Rams are now 7 points clear at the top of the table, but showed their first signs of vulnerability on Saturday when our opponents this Saturday, Taunton, were camped on their line at the end of the



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WE NEED YOU! ROSSLYN PARK IS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST OUR SENIOR MEN'S SQUAD ON MATCHDAYS
 CONTACT CORI.POOLE@ROSSLYNPARK.CO.UK TO FIND OUT MORE



match, but Rams held out at 27-24. Cambridge remain second, but only managed a home win over Chinnor, hovering a place above relegation, by 31-27. The Chinnor D o R left by mutual consent earlier. Sale – our first away opponents in the New Year – are a point behind in third after beating Darlington Mowden Park (eighth) by 34-29. Park are four points further back in fourth after our loss at Plymouth, who are seventh. Cinderford are two points behind us in fifth following a 24-22 win over Bishops Stortford, a place and two points behind them in sixth. Moseley and Leeds drew 21-21 and Esher completed their second successive win with a 34-0 thumping of Hull, now ten points below the safety zone and still searching for their first win.

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, which include news, reports and match video highlights:

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.

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OUR REMIT IS TO DELIVER THE BEST POSSIBLE PRODUCT

OUR INTENT IS FUNDAMENTALLY ENGRAINED IN OUR PROCESS

LET'S PLAY!



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