



Issue 17

07 December 2022

Season 2022-23

# PARK LEGEND PETER BERRYMAN DIES

**Welcome to Parknews** All is overshadowed this week by the news of the passing of one of the major figures in the club's history in the form of **Peter Berryman**. Whether as player, selector, coach, Director of Rugby, Hon Secretary or President Peter gave his all to the club. A commercial lawyer by trade, Peter travelled the world for his work but always returned for his Saturdays at Rosslyn Park – indeed on one occasion legend has it that he billed his firm for a return trip on Concorde so that he could make a meeting at the club. In the amateur era his recruitment activities were a legend in the game. A combative scrum half, Peter played in Park's first ever match at the Rock back in the 1950s and was still working for the club over 60 years later. It is an amazing record of dedication. There is not time at present to produce a tribute anything like worthy of the man, but if any of his many friends would like to contribute memories, please send them in to [news@rosslynpark.co.uk](mailto:news@rosslynpark.co.uk) and we shall in due course publish a more fitting tribute to a wonderful servant.

We do not yet have full details of the funeral arrangements, but understand that the funeral will take place at Mortlake at 09:30 on Monday 19 December, followed by a service at the Rock.

On to more cheerful matters, and a great performance by Park on Saturday to re-ignite our promotion challenge. It wasn't just the win but the nature of it. End-to-end tries and not a chance conceded against a team that – the previous week – had taken runaway league-leaders Rams to the wire, losing by only 3 points. This week Rams lost their first match, and their air of invincibility, at home to Sale FC. The only slight downside there is that Sale, away, are this week's opponents!

Last season we had the better of the match up there only to lose to a try from the last play of the match. One player we shall have to cross swords with is our own former man, Nev Edwards, who has acquired folk hero status locally. Sale FC have made an impressive start to the season, having lost only 1 – as have Park. Sale's first two defeats came in consecutive weeks, a 27-26 reverse at Cinderford – in which they had a last-play penalty to take the win – coming after a 32-19 loss at then unbeaten Cambridge. Last Saturday brought a tremendous win – away to run away leaders, Rams. The Saturday before that they overcame a poor start to overhaul a 24-7 deficit at home to Darlington Mowden Park, scoring an unanswered 27 points including five tries to run out 34-31 winners. The match before that despite being reduced to 12 men for the final couple of minutes – they won 29-22 at Bishop's Stortford, following on from victories against Hull (34-7), Chinnor (37-18) and Esher (35-21). Before that they had wins against Taunton Titans (31-24), Plymouth Albion (27-24), Leeds Tykes (56-8) and at Birmingham Moseley (32-13) on the first day of the campaign.

It goes without saying that it would be great to get some vocal support up at Sale, where the kick off is 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.

All other matches involving our rugby teams were called off, so this is a shorter than usual Parknews, but we do have two victories to report on the



Benji Marfo stretches to score against Taunton Titans on Saturday [match photos by Isabelle Lovell]

Upcoming events  
Saturday 10 December

## Sale FC v Park

National 1

Away KO 2:30PM

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

## B XV v Fours

MMT Premier

Home KO 2:00PM

## Old Tiffinians v Nomads

Surrey Championship

Away KO TBA

Netball

## Park v Guildford

Surrey Premier A

Home (Roehampton Uni) 09:30

Next First XV home match  
Friday 16 December

## Park

v

## Esher

National 1

Home KO 8:00PM

for discounted advance match tickets + 2-for1 offer and pre-match dinner bookings ([Book tickets here](#))

netball courts with our two Kingston League sides both sitting atop their Leagues, unbeaten with 100% records this season.

This week the First XV are away to Sale and the Rangers are without a fixture, but we do have some live Rugby at the Rock, in the form of a very local Derby with our B XV at home to our Fours in the Middlesex Merit Premier, kicking off at 14:00. The Nomads visit Old Tiffians in the Surrey Championship. On the netball court, our Surrey League side have a Premier A home match against Guildford at Roehampton University starting at 09:30 and would very much appreciate your support.

## Park 52 Taunton 0 National 1



This was a comprehensive win against a team that had stretched the league leaders all the way the previous week. Park really turned on the champagne rugby in the backs and, whilst rarely truly competitive, it certainly created a spectacle of running rugby.

Park attacked from the start but it was 9 minutes before they got on the scoreboard, catching Taunton offside and hammering the penalty to touch at which point the forwards took over. A textbook driving maul saw hooker Jared Saunders get over with fly half Craig Holland converting for 7-0.



A rare Titans attack was snuffed out by a try-saving tackle from full-back Henry Robinson before Park scored again. The pack put pressure on the visiting scrum, winning a penalty that was kicked to touch, setting up the driving maul. This time it was prop Sam Garvey who touched down, Holland converting for 14-0 on 18 minutes.

Seven minutes later Park were in again, switching the ball wide on the right for winger Ben Howard to sprint in out wide. Holland converting for 21-0.

Prop Jake Buckingham looked to have scored for Park, only to see it ruled out to sounds of disbelief from the stands. Park promptly set up another telling maul, which was brought down but not before Saunders had peeled off the back to claim his second try, and the 4-try bonus point on 33 minutes. Holland's conversion attempt bounced off the post so the score remained 26-0.



Following some neat work by Matt Gordon, scrum half Seb Strang ran away with the line at his mercy only for the referee to miss the most blatant of trips. Justice was soon done however, via a neat try from winger Benji Marfo, converted by Holland for the interval score of 33-0.

Any thoughts of a Taunton comeback were stanchied when Park almost scored but for a knock on, then centre Matt Gordon stripped a Taunton defender of the ball, sending Holland away who passed wide for flanker Arthur Ellis to sprint in at speed with barely 5 minutes on the clock, taking the score to 38-0.

Strang made a great break to set his half back partner, Holland, up to gallop in on 53 minutes, converting his own effort to take the score to 45-0.

Park piled on the pressure in an impressive display of high-speed running rugby. Howard nearly went in but for a last breath knock on; Holland had a "try" ruled out for a double movement in placing the ball. Eventually, with 10 minutes remaining, Park won a penalty, Holland took a quick tap to Bradbury who sent a peach of a pass for Oli Robinson to glide over. Holland's conversion brought the final score of 52-0.

On this showing it would be far too early to write off Park's promotion chances just yet. A difficult match at Sale awaits next week.

**Park:** Henry Robinson; Ben Howard, Sam Aspland Robinson, Matt Gordon, Benji Marfo; Craig Holland; Seb Strang; Sam Garvey, Jared Saunders, Austin Hay; Jordan Martin, Gregor Gillanders; Harry Ledger, Arthur Ellis, Dan Laventure  
**Bench:** Charlie Piper, Jake Buckingham, Ollie Robinson, Luke Baldwin, Monty Bradbury.



### Club sides

*Will Thorogood writes:* Last weekend, in the end, only saw the 1's convincingly perform with a 52-0 win over Taunton Titans. Elsewhere within the Club, it was all rather disappointing, as no other fixtures were played. Basically, we, either, couldn't raise sufficient numbers to field sides, or the oppo couldn't. It seems that we are not alone with the "staffing issues", and surprisingly London Welsh Druids, last season's MMT Premier champions, pulled out, again, of their fixture on Friday lunchtime against the 4's. They

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obviously have problems, as do other clubs in Middlesex and Surrey. Too many cancellations. The Unions are aware of the problem and are trying to address the situation (Game on policy).

Despite this, a frantic and frenetic Friday afternoon was spent trying to find an alternative fixture for the 4's plus some available Nomads and B's, but to no avail. We pulled the plug on the search at 6 o'clock Friday evening, but sod's law, a potential game against Bec Old Boys came to light at 8 pm, but unfortunately players had been stood down by then, and basically it was too late to set the wheels back in motion to salvage a game.

I do feel the frustration for those players/skippers, team officers and club support areas, both our own and oppos', who had made themselves available, planning and grafting to get a team out and looking forward to a game, but were denied. However, some 4's did have a pre-1st XV game, run and kick about on Saturday lunchtime, followed by some beers, maybe in preparation for the "Big Match" this Saturday against the B's?! This should be a high tension, competitive match, with the B's seeking revenge for their defeat back in October?!

Even the Rangers were affected by the player availability problem, and had to concede their game against Richmond Vikings late on Friday evening.

What is the reason or cause for all these problems which seems to be upsetting the balance of the sport? Post-Covid hangover effects and its consequences have certainly had its influence on the dynamics and shape of the "grassroots game". It seems players are re-prioritising their Saturday afternoon commitments and finding other forms entertainment and activity. The usual work, skiing, weddings, World Cups, Autumn Internationals, travelling or Christmas shopping, but is there something else?! Who knows for sure? What is the answer?

Games for this weekend, 10/12/22, are meant to be as follows:  
B's v 4's Home MMT Premier ko 2pm.  
Nomads v Old Tiffinians 2's Away ko TBC Surrey Championship.

## **Netball**

### **Nonsuch 38**

### **Park Reds 45**

### **Kingston Div 5**

The final game of the first half of the season called for a top of the league clash. With an unbeaten streak behind them, the Reds were determined to finish with a final win before Christmas.

The game started strong with a completely faultless 15 minutes. The flow of play through court can only be described as clinical. Saskia Leppard (GK) and Simone Quick (GD) marked their territory in defence with a high number of turnovers, providing a platform for the mid court players, Jude Lewis (WD) Charlotte Stafford (C) and Millie Marsh (WA). The ball flowed smoothly into the shooters and as the 16-4 score at the end of quarter 1 highlights, Charli Hicks (GA) and Tash Eeles (GA) worked dynamically together and their shooting was as accurate as ever.

Due to the strong start, no changes were made for the Reds at the end of the first quarter.

This quarter saw Nonsuch come into their own and demonstrate why they are second in the league. Nonsuch adjusted their play and challenged the Red's slick start. However, despite the disruption to their play, the Reds stayed strong and finished the first half with a lead of 9.

Quarter 3 called for the introduction of super subs Hannah Gilbert (C) and Hayley Birks (WA) in Centre court. The effervescent Hannah Gilbert, cheered on by her junior fan club, brought the energy back into the Park play which was closely matched by Nonsuch. Lewis (WD), Gilbert (C) and Birks (WA) continued to force the tempo, providing opportunities for Eeles (GA) and Hicks (GS) in attack. The third quarter ended tightly contested with a score of

35-26 to Park.

Heading into the final quarter and with thoughts of the Park Christmas Social in front of mind, the girls began to stretch the lead on the scoreboard, with a flurry of unreturned goals. The defensive pairing of Leppard (GK) and Quick (GD) shut out the game effectively, giving Park a well deserved win of 45-38. This win keeps the girls top of the league going into Christmas.

It was difficult for the squad to decide on POM which is a testament to the high performance delivered by all 9 players on the court. However, three very deserved POMs were awarded, with Gilbert (C) and Eeles (GA) taking joint home POM and Hicks (GS) taking the away POM. Eeles (GA) provided a vital link between the centre court and attacking circle, and both Eeles (GA) and Hicks (GS) stayed strong against their defence throughout the game, with unbelievable shooting stats. A strong partnership has definitely formed between these two players this season. Gilbert (C) came on in Q3 and fully delivered the role of an 'impact player'. Her fresh legs meant that she was able to put pressure on in defence and drive the ball cleanly through to attack.

This season has been an exciting one, and the squad have come into their own over the last three matches. We are looking forward to seeing how they progress into the next half of the season.

## **Oxshott 41**

## **Park Blues 63**

### **Kingston Div 9**

Here we go, the final match for Blues 2022. The team are unbeaten with this last match to go, can they continue this winning streak...

Blues kicked off the match with determination and strength. Oxshott made Blues work for every intercept and every goal. With Oxshott goals on point the Blues defence had to step up quickly to minimise their chances and the team switching on and turning over balls to try and give Blues a lead. Q1 proved to be a tight first quarter, but Blues fought to keep 1 goal a head going into Q2.

Blues came into this 2nd quarter determined to widen the goal difference. We saw Charlie (WD) work to block out their shooters whilst defending her own player and we saw Izzy (WA) make some incredible moves to keep the ball in play and get it into the hands of our shooters. This quarter Blues started to pull away ending the quarter leading 29-25.

Q3 saw Blues take control of the game and start to widen that goal line. Charlotte (WD) made some strong turnovers, whilst Tash (C) was everywhere, switching effortlessly between attacking and defending and consistently doing accurate feeds into the shooters. Blues pull away at 46-32.

And here we go, our final quarter. Blues continue to bring the energy and the fight. Oxshott shooters continue to put pressure on the goal line but with Lydia (WD) blocking the shooters out and minimising their chances on goal, Gabs (GD) making some impressive intercepts of the shot being taken and Jess (GK) skilfully reading the circle play to prevent a number of possible shots we saw Blues pull away. Bels (GS) showing that a few scrapes on the netball court won't stop her after sinking every ball between plaster changes, Pip (GA) making movements to open space and create opportunities for shots and Kate (WA) doing some rapid feeds in Blues were able to continue to widen the score line.

The final whistle goes with Blues securing yet another win 63-41. Every single Blues team member played with such strength, motivation and gave team support on and off the court. Special mention to the Home POM Tash and Away POM Bels. Well done Blues, you go into 2023 undefeated!

This week our Surrey Prem A side have a home match against Guildford at 09:30 and would appreciate any support. As usual the match is being played at Froebel College, Roehampton University on the corner of Roehampton Lane and Clarence Lane.

## National 1

Rams remain 5 points clear at the top despite a 24-27 home defeat to our next opponents, Sale FC. Sale's win takes them second, 5 points behind Rams and two ahead of third club, Cambridge, who only managed a draw at Leeds 17-17 despite enjoying a 14 point lead at one stage. Park are a further two points back in fourth.

There is then a 7 point gap to Cinderford, who lost 33-15 at eighth place Darlington MP and now share fifth place with Bishops Stortford who beat Esher by 33-30. Plymouth Albion complete the top half of the table despite a 35-14 defeat at Moseley. Hull are still seeking their first win after a 29-15 home defeat by Chinnor.

**ROSSLYN PARK FC**  
*Christmas and New Year Raffle*  
THROUGH DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY  
SUPPORTING VARIOUS PROJECTS AT THE CLUB  
INCLUDING ROSSLYN PARK PLAYER CARDIAC SCREENING PROGRAMME  
TICKET £50 | ENTERS YOU INTO ALL THREE DRAWS  
Full list of prizes and terms and conditions at [www.rosslynpark.co.uk](http://www.rosslynpark.co.uk)

**PRIZES INCLUDE**

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- BMS - DATESFORD HAMPER WORTH £250
- SHOOTS - HAMPER AND GIFT VOUCHER
- PLANTATION SHUFFLES - £500 VOUCHER
- BEONE - COFFE MACHINE WORTH £500
- £2 MP TICKETS TO THE LONDON FOOTBALL FA
- MAXX MEDIA - £250 HAMPER VOUCHER
- MAXX MEDIA - £250 JOHN LEWIS VOUCHER
- ROSSLYN PARK KIT HAMPER

## Away travel

Our first away match in the New Year is a Friday night floodlit match at **Chinnor** on 06 December, kicking off at 8:00PM. The Club would like to run a coach / minibus for supporters as it is a bit touch-and-go to get back from the match by public transport. The price and precise mode of transport really depends upon the level of support. The club can't afford to do that at a loss, but so long as costs are covered would not be looking to profit from it. It would really help if anyone interested could register with Cori Poole in the club office ([Cori.Poole@rosslynpark.co.uk](mailto:Cori.Poole@rosslynpark.co.uk)) so we can assess the likely demand. We are aware anecdotally that there may be some who would prefer to get there under their own steam, but get a lift back. That's fine, but it will not be possible to discount a 'return only' fare.

If you want to go under your own steam regardless, then Haddenham & Thame Parkway is the stop to aim for, from London Marylebone. There is a pretty regular service, with some trains quicker than others so check the timetable. A cheap day return is probably the cheapest ticket. If you are thinking of making a day of it, Thame is quite an interesting market town with several decent (but expensive) pubs. There is a bus from the stop just outside the station that goes very close to the ground, though some buses only go to the Thame town centre (the ground is walkable from there). There is also a cab office next to the station, and if they have a cab free getting that to the ground is probably your best bet. If you are planning to get a train back to London then it is essential to have a cab booked.

After that our next away match is at **Bishops Stortford** on 21 January. For that match a Cheap Day return is again likely to be the cheapest ticket. The ground is just about walkable from the station or town centre if you are fit and raring to go, but most would probably opt for a cab. If you are looking to make a day of it, there are a few old pubs in town but if you're not a Wetherspoons person you are unlikely to find anything open before noon.

## Going, going, gone! Sponsor a Rosslyn park player

If you are looking for a unique way to advertise your business, or just want to show your love for your favourite squad member, sponsoring a Park player is a great way to support the club. This season, we have over half of our Men's 1st XV Squad sponsored, a club record! We are looking to increase this even further with our Player Sponsorship Auction. The auction will open at 10AM on Monday 14th November, and end at 12PM on Saturday 31st January. Bidding starts at £150 or you can buy now for £300.

Sponsorship Package Includes:

PA announcement when your player scores a try  
Company logo/name against profile on the matchday scoreboard  
Company logo/name against profile in matchday programme  
Company logo/name against profile player profile on Club website  
Click [here](#) to place your bid!

For any queries or for more information please contact [kenneth.moore@rosslynpark.co.uk](mailto:kenneth.moore@rosslynpark.co.uk)

**TICKET OFFER**  
**COMPLIMENTARY GUEST TICKETS**

**TAUNTON** SAT 3RD DEC 3PM  
**ESHER** FRI 16TH DEC 8PM

ADULTS £14.50 | CONCESSION £12 | U16s FREE  
COMPLIMENTARY MEMBER TICKETS + BUY ONE GET ONE FREE OFFER  
[www.rosslynpark.co.uk](http://www.rosslynpark.co.uk)  
Offer only available for online general admission tickets

## 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](mailto:kenneth.moore@rosslynpark.co.uk)

## 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>

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