



Issue 20

04 January 2023

Season 2022-23

HERE'S TO A SUCCESSFUL 2023 FOR ALL OUR TEAMS

Welcome to Parknews Apologies for the absence of a Parknews after the Esher match: the editor was prevented by illness from attending and so, with no other club activity to report, there was nothing really to say. However, there are highlights at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JM_mWjF1YSw if you have not already watched them. And we must start the New Year with another apology because the editor is now on holiday until the Friday immediately before the Hull match on 14 January. This is just a short edition to outline what is on around the club (and away from home) on the next two weekends. The next 'proper' Parknews will be in week commencing 16 January.



This weekend

Our next match is also the first of the New Year, a Friday night match away to **Chinnor** on 06 January kicking off at 8:00PM. That is always a tough fixture, made tougher last season when we put in possibly the worst 80 minutes of rugby we'd played for many a season, something we need to put right.. This has been far from Chinnor's best season, being only a few points above the relegation zone. That has led to their Director of Rugby, Richard Thorpe, standing down by mutual consent – and his replacement needs little introduction: former Rosslyn Park, Harlequins and England star Nick Easter. In the first half of the season Chinnor had only three wins: home to Birmingham Moseley, and away to Taunton and Hull. They also got a draw away to Cinderford. But one suspects with Nick Easter's arrival they will be at their best and fiercest, all out to impress in their first match under his control.

Unfortunately that Friday (and Saturday when Rangers are due to visit) have been announced as RMT strike days, so even if some services run it looks very unlikely that you'll be able to get a return train. **Please check before setting off** – we'd love to have your support, but don't want anyone to get stranded there. If you are driving, the address of the ground is Rectory Pavilion, Kingsey Road, Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 3JL. Basically the ground is on the outskirts of Thame, on the B4012. The ground entrance is actually on a roundabout and not entirely obvious so when you see the floodlights, slow down and be ready for a quick left turn (just make a circuit of the roundabout and try again if you miss it).

In the event that the strike is called off, then Haddenham & Thame Parkway (from London Marylebone) is the station to go to. 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.

The Rangers are due to be away to Chinnor on the Saturday (07 January) and the same caveats as above apply. You can support a Rosslyn Park side at home on the Saturday, however, with **NC Rosslyn Park** at home to **Weybridge Vandals** at 09:30 on 07 January at Roehampton Uni and the **B XV** are home to **London Cornish 2** in the Middlesex Merit Cup at 2:00PM. In the same competition the **Fours** visit either **London Welsh Druids** or **Chiswick 2s**. The **Nomads** are not currently due to play.

Saturday week

The following Saturday sees the Firsts at home in National 1 action against Hull. Hull are a decent real Rugby club, but promotion to National 1 has proved a bit more difficult than perhaps they anticipated. They kept faith

Upcoming events
Friday 06 January

Chinnor v Park

National 1
Away KO 8:00PM

Saturday 07 January

Chinnor 2 v Park Rangers

Halbro Raging Bull Div 1
Away KO TBA

B XV v London Cornish 2

MMT Cup
Home KO 2:00PM

L Welsh Druids or Chiswick v Fours

MMT Cup
Away KO TBA

Netball

NC Rosslyn Park v Weybridge Vandals

Surrey Premier A
Home (Roehampton Uni) 09:30

Next 1st XV home match
Saturday 14 January

Park v Hull

National 1
Home KO 3:00PM

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

with the team that got them promoted rather than spend money they didn't have chasing the dream, and all credit to them for that. We played them up at Hull early in the season and won relatively comfortably, but they are a lot better side than their league position suggests. Their pack is a pretty tight unit, their problem was in coping with the sheer pace of our play. Since then they have had some near misses and have clearly become more accustomed to the way the game is played at National One level: they will be waiting to pounce on any side that drops its guard.

We shall have a curtain raiser on the Saturday as other Park teams are also at home. It's most likely to be the Rangers local Dereby v Richmond Saxons in Division 1 of the Halboro Raging Bull competition, where our lads have been playing some spectacular Rugby and are still in with every chance of securing the league title. The Fours are at home to Streetonians in Middlesex Merit Premier and in the Surrey Championship the Nomads entertain Weybridge Vandals. The likelihood is that one of these matches will be on the 4G at 5:00PM and the other in Richmond Park. Keep an eye on the club's social media for precise kick off times and pitch allocations. Only the B XV have to travel, to Belsize Park in Middlesex Merit Premier.

Both of our unbeaten Kingston League netball teams have away matches: in Division 5 the Reds play away to Reigate, and in Division 9 the Blues travel to Ashford (Middlesex). The girls would love to have your support if you are in the area: the Reds match starts at 10:00 and takes place in Leatherhead, outdoors at Therfield School, Dilston Road, KT22 7NZ; the ~Blues start at 11:00 at Thomas Knyvett College, Stanwell Road, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3DU.

Away travel

After that our next away match is at **Bishops Stortford** on 21 January. At the moment that has not been declared a strike day, and for that match a Cheap Day return is again likely to be the cheapest ticket. The ground is just about walkable from Bishops Stortford station or town centre if you are fit and raring to go, but most would probably opt for a cab. It's not a particularly pleasant walk along main roads. 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.

David Rollitt

The club is saddened to learn of the recent passing of former England international Dave Rollitt, who – along with wife Shirley – was in recent years a frequent visitor to the Rock supporting Park. A Bristol legend who played 415 First XV matches for that club, including many seasons as skipper, Dave was a player well in advance of his time who was capped 11 times for England (the Barbarians recognized his creative talent, calling on his services no fewer than 16 times). He played 73 County matches for Gloucestershire, many of them as skipper, appearing in 6 county finals. As skipper at Bristol it was he who first introduced the concept of the team having a specialist coach, persuading the club to appoint Peter Colston. Together they shaped the highly successful Bristol side of the 1970s.

A ferocious tackler but with great vision and ball-handling skills, he was capped for England in every back row position. His fitness standards and attention to detail were famed in what was then a purely amateur sport - but there were those in the Rugby establishment who whispered of his dedication as being "a bit too professional". That almost certainly affected the ludicrously small number of caps he was awarded, given his prodigious talents.

A teacher by profession, Dave eventually moved to London to take up a position at St Pauls school and played his last two seasons with Richmond. Later, during some of Park's darkest hours, in Division 3 South, Dave kindly agreed to step in as effectively a stop gap Head Coach and typically gave his all to the task. His son, Eben, played for both Bristol and Rosslyn Park. Despite all of his many achievements in the game, in this little corner of South West London Dave Rollitt will inevitably be also fondly remembered as the father of Pippa. We offer our deepest condolences to the family and friends of one of the greats of English Rugby.

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

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.

