



Issue 23

01 February 2023

Season 2022-23

5-TRY WIN TAKES PARK UP TO THIRD

Welcome to Parknews The 5-try, 5-point, win over **Darlington Mowden Park** on Saturday takes Park up to third place in National 1, moving ahead of Cambridge and within 7 points of the leaders, Sale FC, who have also played 18 matches. Cambridge are only a point behind, with two games in hand and Rams 5 points ahead, also with two in hand. But the last period of play on Saturday at least allows us to hope. In recent matches there has been a feeling that Park were not quite firing on all cylinders, but in coming back to win on Saturday they gave glimpses of the scintillating rugby that took them to the top of the table, unbeaten, earlier in the season. The players now have two weeks off to recharge their batteries and recover from injuries, then there are two vital away matches in February: on Saturday 18 we play **Rams** and the following Saturday we play **Cambridge**. If we could win both of those matches then we are very much back in contention. Please do come along to those two relatively local matches (there are some travel details later in this newsletter if you need them). With a small army of vocal support behind the team both matches are winnable.

Elsewhere around the club, the **Rangers** match against **Henley Hawks** unfortunately had to be called off. Will Thorogood has a comprehensive review of the clubsides matches further on but, in summary, on Friday evening the **Nomads** toppled **Battersea Ironsides** 29-17 and on Saturday the **Fours** beat **London Cornish** 27-10 while the **B XV** went down 71-5 at **London Welsh Druids**.

Last but certainly not least our netball section goes from strength to strength. Our two unbeaten Kingston League teams continued their march up the leagues, the **Blues** defeating **Wimbledon** by 59-36 and the **Reds** winning 55-16 against **Actonians**.

This Saturday we are not due to have any matches at the Rock, but the **Nomads** are away to **Tiffinians** in the Surrey Championship, kicking off at noon. If you'd like to go along and support them, the Tiffs' ground is at Summer Avenue, East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 9LU. Our two Kingston League netball sides are also away but would welcome support. The **Reds** are away to **Cumberland** at Hollyfield School, Surbiton Hill Road, Surbiton, KT6 4TU at 09:30. The **Blues** play **Thames Ditton** at Esher Sixth Form College, Weston Green Road, Thames Ditton, KT7 0JB at 11:30 (if driving enter via the Weston Avenue entrance, off Hampton Court Way, and exit by the same route).

Park 31 Darlington Mowden Park 21 National 1

As the Bard observed, all's well that ends well. And Park certainly ended well in a dramatic last 10 minutes that saw them return to the sort of form they had shown earlier in the season, but looked unlikely when they trailed 7-21 after half an hour.

Mowden had the better of the early play and, following a scrum for a Park knock-on, right wing Henry Hadfield got over for the visitors with only 5

Invincible: the Rosslyn Park Blues netball team, formed before the start of last season have never been beaten and extended their winning run on Saturday



Upcoming events
Saturday 04 February

Tiffinians v Nomads

Surrey Championship
Away KO 12:00PM

Netball

Cumberland A v Park Reds

Kingston Div 5
Away 09:30AM

Thames Ditton B v Park Blues

Kingston Div 9
Away 11:30AM

Next 1st XV home match
Saturday 04 March

Park

v

Birmingham Moseley

National 1
Home KO 3:00PM

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

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minutes on the clock. Fly half Matt Minogue increased the lead to 7-0 with the conversion.

Darlington probably looked the more positive side at this stage but on 14 minutes they conceded successive penalties that allowed Park fly half Craig Holland to kick his side deep into opposition territory. Park set up an irresistible maul for hooker Jared Saunders to plunge over and level the scores.



The boost for Park proved short-lived as the defence went missing in action, allowing Mowden flanker Yarei Fantini to score a soft try, albeit from a smart piece of play. Minogue was again successful from the tee to regain the lead at 14-7 on 15 minutes.

Things looked bad for Park when the defence that had looked impregnable the previous week coughed up a third try in 22 minutes when Park were pinged for not rolling away and flanker Joe Craggs coasted through the middle of it, untouched, with Minogue again on target for 21-7.

If things seemed they couldn't get worse for Park – they did. Full back Henry Robinson was, rather harshly, shown yellow after playing the ball while in an offside position. If the penalty was fair enough, ten minutes in the bin seemed disproportionate to the crime. Adversity, though, brought out the best in Park.

First Benji Marfo showed his pace up the left wing, kicking ahead but the ball sliding out of play before he could re-engage with it. But relief for Mowden was only temporary when a lineout led to a kick being floated out wide for Marfo to gather at pace and outstrip the defence to score. Holland added the two points to make it 21-14 on 32 minutes to bring Park back well into contention.

Park made a far better start to the second half and were soon on the scoreboard, winning a penalty at a scrum against the head. The ball was belted to touch and an effective drive saw Saunders bag his second try. However, Holland's wide conversion attempt narrowly missed leaving Park two points in arrears with 27 minutes remaining.

Mowden had a chance when Park were guilty of a high tackle and Mowden kicked to touch, but Park now had their tails up and stole the ball at the lineout. With things now tilting very much in the direction of the home side it was a blow to Mowden when Sam Kyle-Clay saw yellow for his troubles.

Holland was asked to kick the penalty to give Park the lead, but narrowly missed. Then his counterpart repeated that at the other end.

With less than 10 minutes left to play Park were in command but still needing to underline that where it really mattered - on the

scoreboard. They finally achieved that on 71 minutes with a superb passage of running, passing rugby that ended with hooker Charlie Piper sending centre Joe Luca Smith haring away down the right flank to score. The conversion was missed, but the try gave Park a 24-21 lead and the four-try bonus point.

The same pair combined again four minutes later (with an important contribution from lock Gregor Gillanders) to put the game beyond doubt, Holland's conversion bringing up the final result at 31-21.

Park now have two weeks off before successive away matches at Rams and Cambridge. The second half here should mean they can travel with the confidence that those matches are winnable.

Park: Robinson; Addams, Luca Smith, Gordon, Marfo; Holland; Baldwin; Warren, Saunders, Hay; Martin, Gillanders (C); Ledger, Ellis, Laventure.

Replacements: Piper, Garvey, Spencer, Lewis, Walker.

Away travel

We have two tough away matches coming up in February in the form of **Rams** on Saturday 18 and **Cambridge** the following Saturday, both of where your vocal support could make a big difference. In both cases a Cheap Day Return is usually the cheapest ticket, so no need to book early.

Rams ground is at Old Bath Road, Sonning, Berkshire RG4 6TQ. Reading is the station to head for, either from Paddington or there's a local service from Clapham Junction or Richmond (much slower but could be more convenient for some). There is a bus from near the station that runs close to the ground, but finding it is far from easy. Especially if there's more than one of you to share the fare it's best to get a cab, but it's a fair distance out of town and cost around £14 each way last time.

For Cambridge there is a service from Liverpool Street but the fast service from Kings Cross to Cambridge will be better for most. The ground is nearer the station than it is the town centre, and it's walkable across a fen though in February a cab from outside the station may be preferable. Our regulars tend to go into town and take a cab from there. If you invest in a taxi make sure the driver knows you want the ground in Grantchester Road or you could end up at the University ground. There's a decent clubhouse that does reasonable bar food, but the pre-match lunch is already sold out.

Clubsides

Will Thorogood reports: Plenty of Clubside action over the course of Friday night and Saturday afternoon. There is something about a Friday evening game which attracts players to perform. The floodlights, the atmosphere, the end of a frustrating and long working week and players wanting to vent their emotions before the weekend proper starts?

The Nomads had a full XV, with front row and back up props and hookers for their Surrey Championship encounter against league leaders Battersea Ironsides 3's. The Nomads wanted to make amends for a 14-43 loss back in October.



This, they duly and convincingly did. From the outset, there was a pace and determination about them. They knew it wouldn't be easy against a well organised and pacey Ironsides outfit. After the first five minutes, a fluent, and several phased movement, driving forward and swinging the ball side to side, over the gain line, lead to

a try out wide (Tanner Lightfoot). Ironsides quickly responded and bulldozed over from close range. 5-5 after ten minutes. This didn't put the Nomads off, who continued their spontaneous, Barbarian style of rugby keeping the pressure on. A quickness of mind, from a tap penalty, led to a cross kick out to the left wing who gratefully gathered this gift and cantered over unopposed (Tom Harris). 10-5. The momentum was with the Nomads. Ironsides, a bit stunned by our directness, could not halt yet another attack which led to a try under the posts. (Richard Spice). Converted. 17-5 at half time.

Ironsides did have their moments in the first half, but resolute Nomadic defence rebuffed their many attempts.

The beginning of the second half was all Ironsides pressure, and they were able to breach our lines twice, including a very nice solo break by their fly half, who glided over near the posts. 17 all. This had the Nomads worried, but our resolve wasn't going to be dampened. It was to and fro, attack and counter attack. The Nomads started to win the arm wrestle struggle, and created an incisive movement penetrating the Ironside midfield defence to score under the posts. (Eliot Wolgamot) 24-17. In a final act, in a flowing move, we swung the ball out wide to the right for a Nomad to dive over in the corner before the covering Ironside defence could thwart his landing and grounding. 29-17. (Nick Boswell). After this point, the game belonged to the Nomads. Man of the Match Tanner Lightfoot.

A happy bunch of bunnies! I left the club after some decent grub and a couple of beers, but I think the Nomads continued their celebrations long into the night, knowing them. Well played.

The 4's and Cornish 2's had a MMT Prem "cuddle" in Richmond Park on Saturday afternoon at 2pm. This game could have been played on the 4G at noon but Cornish refused this offer, as, I think, they wanted their advantage of playing on grass! As it happened, this was no real advantage to them.



Fours v London Cornish [photo by Will Thorogood]

I will not expound at length about this game. It was testy, tetchy and scrappy, full of mistakes from both sides. Not a classic. At half time the 4's lead 19 (3tries to 1)-5.

Second half started with a 4's penalty kick, 22-5, to which Cornish replied with a driving maul try down the narrow side. 22-10, and that's how it was for much of the second half but we had the last word (or, le dernier mot), as Pierre, our new French wing

debutante, flew over the goal line and grounded on the right. 27-10. That's how it remained.

Scorers: Webb, Waddle & Pierre (x2).

A win is a win, but this wasn't a pretty one. A nice spot of haggis in the clubhouse after.

Down at Old Deer Park, it was a case of Oh Dear, Park, for the B's against Druids! Not a good afternoon at the office. I know the score, but if you want to know, check the RFU website yourselves. Least said, soonest mended. We did score, though. The B's will be back to business in a couple of weeks. (11th Feb).

A good win with two late tries for the 1's against Darlington. 31-21. Rangers did not play.

It was nice to see Shirley Rollitt in the clubhouse, and Pippa.

Youth & Mini Rugby

Rugby Camps

The club is again teaming up with AA Elite Sports to run the popular half-term training camps at the Rock on Thursday 16 and Friday 17 February. There will be Premiership stars in attendance to pass on their expertise between 10:00AM and 3:00PM. The camps are aimed at ages 7 – 15. The camps cost £50 for one day or £95 for both days. You can book at <https://aaelite-sports.com/sports-camps/p/aa-elite-rugby-camps-february-16th-17th>

Netball

Park Blues. 59

Wimbledon C. 36

Kingston Div 9

Starting 7: GK- Jess, GD- Lydia, WD- Charlie, C- Maddie, WA- Kate, GA- Pip, GS- Bels

The 'Super Saturday' for Rosslyn Park kicked off at 9:30am; seeing Rosslyn Park Blues netball play Wimbledon C teams at home. The team are wanting to remain unbeaten and keep their winning streak



Maddies Dean (with the ball), Pip Medley (GA), Bels Ellis (GS)

for the season, especially with the fun day planned ahead for the whole club.

Q1. Blues kicked off their match with dedication and strength and the starting line up did not fail to disappoint with fantastic communication in both the attack and defensive ends. Charlie (WD) held her player high and helped with blocking the Wimbledon GA out of the shooting circle. Huge credit in this quarter goes to both Kate (WA) and Maddie (C) for controlling the game in the centre third, settling the score and to Pip (GA) for powering in those; what we like to call, 'long bombs' to end the first quarter 19-9 to Rosslyn Park.

Q2. Blues came into this quarter determined to widen the goal difference even more. Wimbledon came out fighting for this, especially double marking Bels (GS) to prevent as many of the overhead passes into the Shooting D. Izzy came on at WA proving her fitness level was no match to Wimbledon's WD and opened up the pockets well with fantastic communication to the attacking circle. Brontë also started the second quarter at GK with a focus on holding her attacking shooter as high as possible on the top of the circle making life difficult for the oppositions attacking circle to go anywhere near the goal post. With the team in full swing and communication working well the Blues ended the half 36-17 up.

Q3: This quarter saw Blues take complete control of the game and we all agreed this was due to the fantastic crowd that had come down to support us. We went back to the original starting line up for this, resting our impact players ready to come on in the final quarter. Jess (GK) kept the pressure up as normal and made life difficult for the opposition to score. End of third quarter 47-27 Blues lead.

Q4: Final quarter of the final time we will play Wimbledon in this division this season and the whole squad wanted to hit a target of 60 goals to help with goal difference on the table. With that in mind, every single player pushed it to their limits with Wimbledon really trying to throw everything at it in the final 15 minutes. Kate (GA) made fantastic movement around the circle to distract the Wimbledon defence from Bels (GS) holding under the post. Brontë (GK), Jess (GD) and Lydia (WD) all kept pressure on holding the Wimbledon attacking players high on the court, limiting their channels of play to be able to take a lot of calculated interceptions to turn over the ball. Tash (C) set the pace for this final quarter, and when Tash sets the pace, we all know that will be a quick one.

The final score of the game, Rosslyn Park Blues 59 - Wimbledon 36.

HOME POM: Pip (GA)

AWAY POM: Bels (GS)

Every single Blues team member played with such determination and strength. We especially thank the amazing support we were given for the opening match of Super Saturday and all definitely celebrated later on in the day. We won't say everything otherwise there would need to be a second match report written but it was safe to say there was a lot of "The Winner Takes It All" sung at the Mamma Mia brunch we enjoyed afterwards.

Park Reds Actonian B Kingston Div 9

Starting 7: GK Saskia Leppard, GD Lucy Paterson, WD Jude Lewis (C), C Hannah Gilbert, WA Hayley Birks, GA Milly Marsh, GS Charli Hicks

Subs: Emily Sarsfield-Power (VC), Simone Quick

Rosslyn Park Reds maintained their unbeaten status this Saturday with an overwhelming 55-16 win against Actonians B.

The Reds started the game steadily. The attacking play was controlled, and the defensive pressure was strong from the off. Paterson made her return to Court after some time out for injury recovery and slotted back in seamlessly, with Paterson and Leppard working well together and each making clean tips in the defensive circle. A number of held-ball turnovers in the mid-Court also demonstrated the strength of the Reds' through-Court defence and saw the team end the first 15 minutes slightly ahead with a 4 goal lead (10-6).



Quarter time saw VC Sarsfield-Power and Quick injected into the game at WD and GK, respectively, and their impact was swiftly felt – Quick picking up crucial rebounds in the defensive circle and Sarsfield-Power turning over ball with an impressive succession of tips in the centre-Court. Shooting partners Marsh and Hicks really settled into their rhythm, assisted by Gilbert and Birks, and fully capitalised on the opportunities created by the defensive unit. The Reds ended the first half with a more convincing lead of 10 (23-13).

Motivated by the growing lead, the Reds stepped on the gas in the second half. Captain Lewis re-entered the game at C, bringing a fresh energy to the attacking unit, and the team ultimately pulled ahead by a further 15 in the third quarter to enter the final quarter with a whopping 25 goal lead (41-16). The Reds are not the type to get complacent, though; the team pressed on and delivered as a united squad until the very end – conceding no goals in the final quarter to win the game 55-16 and deny the Actonians a point from this fixture. A great game to keep Rosslyn Park Reds at the top of the table.

Back in September, the opening game of the season saw the Reds produce a 42-33 win against Actonian Bs. The difference in score line in the second half of the season demonstrates the impressive development of this squad, who only continue to grow together.

Away POM: Simone Quick

Home POM: Simone Quick, Lucy Paterson, Milly Marsh & Emily Sarsfield-Power – highlighting the real team effort and display of skill throughout the Court leading to this epic win.

Walking Rugby

If you are over 55 and still hanker after playing, we have the answer. Regardless of your standard of play, fitness or gender why not turn up on Monday mornings 10:00-11:30 when you can participate in a social game of walking rugby. The first game took place this Monday and one former First XV member who took part reported that it was great fun. But you don't need to be anything like that standard to enjoy taking part. Great social atmosphere and refreshments

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afterwards. For more information, contact community@rosslynpark.co.uk or call 07821 650 912.

The Ripley Rowers

A noble band of former Park players calling themselves The Ripley Rowers reached the end of a week long charity row at the ground last Saturday. Each of them had completed a row the length of the Thames on a static rower. They were raising funds to help disadvantaged young people without support to be active and to help the fight against prostate cancer, which took Andy, and many others, from us. If you would like to help, you can donate [here](#).



Obolensky Dinner

A message from Tom Baigrie about this season's Obolensky Dinner: The 2023 Obolensky Dinner is now 8 weeks away on 8 March 2023 - and I am delighted to say that we are now 85% full so space is limited! To those of you who have responded already - thank you. To everyone else please do let us know if you can join us. We now have our speakers announced (Nick Mullins and Topsy Ojo) and as ever it promises to be a fantastic night. Please let us know ASAP (via Karen Richard (karen.richard@rosslynpark.co.uk)) if you would like to take a table or part thereof.

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.

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- 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.

A collage of images showing various sports teams and players. The images are arranged in a grid-like fashion. Text overlays are present on the collage:

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