

YELLOW CARDS DERAILED PARK'S EFFORT

Welcome to Parknews Saturday's defeat at Rams was a bitter disappointment. It all started so well, with Park dominating the early stages of both halves but Rams defence was superb and stood up to more-or-less anything Park could throw at it. Rams, by contrast, probably spent less time overall in the Park 22 but were lethal given half a chance. Not for the first time, Park conceded too many penalties while in good field positions. Two yellow cards in quick succession left Park with 13 men at a time they had dominated the play. Some will argue that most of the 50-50 decisions went against Park and, while it is easy to have some sympathy with that view, it hardly explains a defeat by six tries to one. With the other three teams in the top four winning, it will now require some freak results elsewhere for us to lift the title, being 20 points behind Rams with only seven matches remaining. However, there is still plenty to play for. It's easy to forget that National One is the top semi-professional league in the country, in which we are currently fourth. That in itself is quite an achievement, albeit not what we have been fighting for, and we could yet finish in the top 3 as we have yet to play both Cambridge and Sale who currently occupy second and third positions.

Things don't get any easier this week when we visit Cambridge, who are bang in form in second place after a 17-12 away win at Cinderford last Saturday. The margin of last Saturday's loss makes it easy to overlook the positives. Park dominated the match playing with utter commitment until successive yellow cards – neither clear-cut – reduced personnel to 13 men. Reproducing that form for 80 minutes on Saturday, but keeping everyone on the field, would give us every chance of toppling Cambridge. The 'Blood and Sand' have only been beaten three times this season (home and away to Rams, 27-33 and 26-29 respectively, and 26-29 at Birmingham Moseley). It's a big task, but we also have scores to settle: Cambridge won at the Park 22-24 earlier in the season, a last death penalty to Park shaving the post on the wrong side. Also, on our last two visits we have reserved our worst performances for this fixture and lost matches we should have won. This would be an excellent time to turn that round.

It goes almost without saying that it would be a boost to the players to get a large body of support there. **Please note that kick off is at 2:00PM.** The ground is Volac Park, Grantchester Road, Cambridge, CB3 9ED. If you are driving take the M11, J12, (A603) to Cambridge. Take 1st right into Grantchester Road (opp. Wolfson College). Ground 300m on right, just past the last house. By train, 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. On a fair afternoon it's a pleasant walk past the University botanical garden and across a fen (and, yes, there is a pub en route). For most, though 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 a decent pint and reasonable bar food. The formal pre-match lunch upstairs is already sold out, so if you're not with the presidential party you'll have to forego the company of Lord Jeffrey Archer, who is an avid supporter of many years standing.

Elsewhere around the club, the **Rangers** had an excellent victory over their **Rams** equivalents by 23-21 scoring two tries in the last two minutes! The **B's** had a good win over **Streetonians** at the Rock, 36-7, while the **4's** lost 43-37 at **London New Zealand** with the last play of the game. Hats off to the **Nomads** who won 15-13 at **Chobham 2's** with 14 men. More success on the **netball** court, where our two Kingston League teams remain top of their respective leagues. The **Reds** beat **Teddington Thunder** 44-27, while the **Blues** overcame **Focus B** by 44-22.



Cam Zeiss scores for Park at Rams [unless otherwise stated pics in this edition have been filched from the @rosslynpark Twitter stream]

Upcoming events
Saturday 18 February
Cambridge

v

Park

National 1
Away KO 2:00PM

Barnes 2

v

Park Rangers

Halbro Div 1
Away KO TBA

Netball

Claygate

v

NC Rosslyn Park

Surrey Premier A
Away start TBA



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Alas there is no rugby due at the Rock this weekend, but the **Rangers** are due to be playing very close by at Barnes in Division 1 of the Halbro competition. At the time of going to press we have no kick off time but do check on the website or on Twitter nearer the time. If you've not been to Barnes rugby before, the ground is just opposite the London Wetlands centre. On the netball court **NC Rosslyn Park** have an important match in Surrey Premier A away to **Wimbledon (Hampton)**.

Rams 31 Park 10 National 1



Park started this match like a team with a mission, playing with utter commitment and taking the game to their hoists, who had difficulty escaping their own half. Rams' first real escape came after 10 minutes when their powerful scrum won a penalty, but Park won the ball back and returned to the attack, exerting solid pressure in the Rams 22.

The home side presented a superbly organized defence. Park will feel they suffered from being on the wrong end of 50-50 decisions where the attacking side might normally get the benefit of any doubt. The hard fact, though, is that Park failed to turn their dominance into points. The best chance came when Charlie Walker engineered an attack up the right, but centre Will Glover was bundled into touch by a last ditch tackle.

Rams had a chance on 15 minutes when Park were penalized at a ruck. The penalty was hoofed to touch but Park managed to recapture the ball at the lineout. However, the complexion of the game began to change on 16 minutes when full-back Henry Robinson challenged for a ball in mid-air and the Rams player came off second best, to the noisy disapproval of the crowded stand. Another day, another referee, and it might have been called a 'rugby incident' and incurred nothing more than a penalty. The Park man was sent to the bin for 10 minutes.

Initially Park returned to the attack, but on 24 minutes Park were penalized when driving Rams off their own ball, this led to two further penalties, the second of which saw flanker Harry Ledger sent to join his teammate in the bin, vehemently protesting his innocence. Down to 13 men against the league-leaders Park defended bravely but a score looked inevitable, and it came on 29 minutes through Rams centre, and former Rosslyn Park man, Connor Hayhoe. Fly half Will Partington converted for 7-0.

Park refused to lie down and another concerted attack won a penalty roughly on the 22 in front of the posts. They opted to kick for goal and fly half Craig Holland stroked the ball over for 7-3 on 35 minutes, despite being a man down.

Their joy was short lived, when Rams set up an attack and, moving the ball quickly, managed to exploit their extra man releasing right wing Axel Kalling-Smith to score out wide for 12-3.

Having had to cover for missing personnel Park looked as if the half-time whistle could not come soon enough. Instead, with less than a minute to go they suffered a misfortune inasmuch as the ball squirted out of a melee in a random direction finding Hayhoe who reacted instantly and went over for his second try, converted by Partington for 19-3 at the interval.

Having had the better of the play in the first half, but emerging for the second period 16 points in arrears, Park's prospects looked bleak. But refreshed from the break Park gave it a good shot, taking the game to their hosts. They looked to be a tad unlucky when what looked like a deliberate knock on, on the home 22, brought only a scrum.

On 45 minutes Park won a penalty which Holland hammered to the 5 metre line. Rams collapsed the maul and had a prop yellow-carded for his troubles. Park set up another maul as a result and prop Cameron Zeiss got over the line, Holland converting for 19-10 on 47 minutes. Suddenly the impossible seemed possible.



It was not to be as Rams asserted and started to show why they are top of the league. Following a scrum they quickly worked the ball wide for winger Zach Clow to go in on 53 minutes, Partington's conversion stretching the lead to 26-10.

It was now Park's defence that had to withstand pressure. A kick to touch brought an attacking line-out. A clever 50 / 22 kick saw another, but Park managed to capture the ball and clear.

But the writing was on the wall. A penalty to touch on 78 minutes brought another line-out and number 8 Max Hayward broke from the lineout to make it 31-10.

Another fine 50 / 22 kick exerted pressure for centre Ellis Jones to go in, replacement Rowan Grundy converting for 38-10.

It just about summed up Park's afternoon when, in the last moments they forced their way into the Rams 5-metres, only for Hayhoe to hoof a massive clearance, gathered by Kalling-Smith to sprint in for the final score of 43-10

Park: Robinson; Walker, Glover, Gordon, Marfo; Holland; Baldwin; Garvey, Piper, Hay; Martin, Gillanders (C); Ledger, Ellis, Laventure. Replacements: Saunders, Buckingham, Spencer, Lewis, Smith.

Rams Titans 21 Park Rangers 23 Halbro Raging Bull Div 1

Unfortunately we do not have a report on the Rangers' match, which is a pity as it was a really entertaining nail-biter that Park won with two tries in the last two minutes. John Weatherall kindly supplied the accompanying photos. It was good to see so many Park supporters arrive early to support the Rangers.

Park Rangers: 1 Josh Rasor, 2 Ed Cockman, 3 Emmet Burne; 4 Benji Carr, 5 Will Burton; 6 Ben Russell, 7 Diego Costa, 8 Matt

Bolwell; 9 Seb Strang; 10 Jack Gash; 11 Timi Opolade, 12 ,Matty Edwards, 13 Theo Alexis 14 Josh Addams; 15 Max Trimble
Replacements: 16 Fergus Farrell, 17 Marco Castilleti, 18 Jordan Van Schalkwyk, 19 James Wade



Photo by John Weatherall



Clubsides

Will Thorogood reports: There was Clubside action over the weekend with our teams at home, in Metropolitan London and in the provinces.

The Killer B's, and their apiarists, enjoyed a buzz around their home hive on Saturday afternoon against Old Streetonians at the Rock in their MMT Prem match. In the early stages of this game, Streetonians effectively used their bee smokers (not my cigars) to passify the buzzing "B swarm", and showed that they, themselves, had some sting! However, after 20 minutes, the smoke effect dissipated with the strong breeze and our workers began to stretch their wings and stung Streetonians after 20 minutes of sparring. A disruptive scrum gave Streetonians untidy ball on which the B's dived and then flew over to score near the posts. 7-0. More foraging and searching for the nectar source gave the B's another try on the half hour, 12-0, but Streetonians had the last say of the half with a quick tap penalty resulting in an opportunistic try near the posts. This was right up their street(onian)!



Photo by Will Thorogood

12-7 at half time.

The second half became more of a one way flight path, not street, for the B's swarming around the field with good open play and flight involving both backs and forwards (workers and drones alike). The B's stung 4 more times in the second half with a variety of well worked tries and moves, and made honey! Streetonians played their part in this good contest, but were not able to make their own Royal Jelly in the second half. Final score-B's 36 Old Streetonians 7. The King Bees were a buzzing on Saturday night I'm afraid I don't have the names of the scorers of the day. I wonder how the game would have gone if we had been playing Wasps, Grasshoppers or even Hornets (Rochdale)?!

The 4's had a very close encounter at Twyford Lane, Acton, against L.New Zealand. We were pipped at the post 30-37 in, literally, the last play of the game, when the Kiwis scored a crucial winning try. Sounded like a real nail biter! No more details available.

The Nomads correctly trekked down to Chobham, not Cobham (that's another story, when the Hatters were due to play Chobham and went to Cobham, in error, a number of years ago)! In brief, the Nomads had to play with 14 men, again, as they had no front row (Competition regs, I'm afraid), but it made no difference to the Nomads. A close game, by all accounts, Nomads 15 Chobham 12, with tries from Howden, Kretschmar and Wishard. Well played, gents.

I understand Rangers had a close win against Rams 2's, 😊 but the 1's, unfortunately, found their 1's too strong for us

No scheduled Cludsides' games this weekend (25/2) The Merit Table league campaign recommences on Saturday 4/3 (Women in Sport Celebration Day at Club) as follows: B's v Hammersmith & Fulham 2's Away ko TBC MMT Prem; 4's v Belsize Park 2's Home ko 5pm 4G MMT Prem; Nomads v Reeds Weybridge 2's Home ko 2pm (game in Richmond Park). Surrey Championship. 1's v Birmingham Moseley Home ko 3pm; Rangers v Ampthill 2's Home ko and venue

Enjoy the 6 Nations.

Netball

Away travel

After this weekend we break new ground while visiting old friends in the form of Leeds Tykes, whom we visit on 11 March. They have moved from the palatial Headingley stadium to groundshare with West Park at the more homely Sycamores at Bramhope (Leeds LS16 9JR). Leeds is the station to book to, and get in quickly because there are few of the cheapest tickets left as we go to press. Investigations are continuing as to how to get from the station to the ground: if anyone out there has any local knowledge please do get in touch (news@rosslynpark.co.uk).

After that it's Taunton Titans away, which is a lovely trip. Normally the advice would be to get in now for the cheapest rail tickets, but that Saturday has been declared a strike day on the railways so you might want to exercise some caution. But if you want to risk it, Paddington is the station to book from, and it's a fair walk along the river to the ground so you might want to catch a cab.

Experimental Laws

There are some experimental laws in the Super Rugby competitions, most of which will not affect National One, even if more widely adopted, since they are designed to speed things up in the area of the TMO. (TMO interruptions will be restricted to serious clear and obvious dangerous play. Yellow Card TMO reviews will take place after sanctioned players leave the field rather than delay the match with several reviews. It would then be possible to upgrade the sanction to a 20min red card). There will be strict time limits enforced for kicks at goal, lineouts, scrums and rucks, using a stop clock that will be visible to spectators and viewers. One law that

might be more widely adopted is one trialled extensively across New Zealand in their community game. The non-putting in scrum half will have to remain in the middle of the scrum, and stay within 1m of it. Their existing other options – to their own back foot line, or to join their own backs 5m back – remain the same. There will also be a Golden point (in 10min extra time) for drawn matches to try to produce a winner.

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

Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s

It's time to book your leave for the biggest and best Rugby tournament in the world - the Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s. This year's tournament runs from Monday 20 March until Friday 24 March with more than 20 pitches having non-stop action from morning to late afternoon. This year's timetable is:

20 March: Early rounds of the boys U-18 vase plus the the whole of the girls' U-16s.

21 March: Final matches in boys U-18 vase, entire girls U-14s plus start of the boys U-14s.

22 March: Final matches in boys U-14s plus the start of the U-16s Colts.

23 March: Final matches in the Colts competition, the whole U-13 Prep schools tournament, the start of the flagship U-18 Cup plus the girls U-18 early rounds and the U-18 girls and the U-18 girls ACE competition (this is for the very top schools, where many of the players will be going on the play in the Premier 15s).

24 March: Under 18 Cup finals, grls U-18 finals plus U-13 Junior

boys and a new U-11 mixed gender tournament.

Many of the great and good of the Rugby world will be there rubbing shoulders with the crowds and you're bound to see some future international starts on the pitch. There are bars and food outlets plus trade stands. Amazingly the whole thing comes with free admission. If you really can't make it then the matches on the main pitch are all broadcast live on the tournament website.

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.
£1,500.00 + VAT
1 x Branded pitch board located on the 1st XV pitch (6m x 0.9m) for one year

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- Company name and logo on the main scoreboard
- PA announcements through the day and at lunch

MATCHDAY PROGRAMME ADVERT

£650.00 + VAT

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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](https://twitter.com/RPNoseyParker) on Twitter.