



Issue 27

08 March 2023

Season 2022-23

PARK ARE BACK TO WINNING WAYS

Welcome to Parknews The Firsts returned to winning ways in a tense encounter with a fired-up Birmingham Moseley on Saturday. The visitors had come oh so close to toppling the league-leaders, Rams, the previous weekend and were clearly 'up' for claiming a scalp and full of confidence this time. The match itself was perhaps not a classic, but what it might have lacked in quality – not helped by innumerable delays and interruptions in play – it more than made up for in tension as Park were made to fight every inch of the way to claim a hard-fought victory. The game ended three tries each and fly half Craig Holland converting all three for Park accounted for the difference in points. Unfortunately the lack of a bonus point meant that the two top sides – Rams and Cambridge – stretched their lead over us by a further point. Now 18 points behind the second club and with only five games left, three of them away, it would take a miraculous set of results for us to catch them. The third club, Sale, are 16 points ahead but they also failed to collect a bonus point on Saturday against the bottom club, Hull, and have yet to visit the Rock: were they to endure a couple of defeats before then we could be playing them for a potential third place. Snapping at our heels, five points behind, are Bishops Stortford. And one place behind them are our next home opponents, Plymouth Albion. There's still plenty to play for in this season.

Elsewhere, our top-of-the table Kingston League teams both played on the netball courts in the morning. The **Park Reds** won 54-31 against **Fetcham**, and remain top of the table, followed by the **Blues** coming back from an early 5-1 deficit to beat local rivals **Putney** by 62-37 to remain unbeaten. The **B XV** lost a closer match than the score suggests away to **Hammersmith & Fulham** 18-5. A very entertaining game between the **Fours** and **Belsize Park** ended 35-26 in favour of Park. The **Nomads** had to forfeit their match away to **Reeds Weybridge** due to insufficient players.

This Saturday the First XV have to miss their beauty sleep for the long journey to Leeds Tykes for an **early kick-off at 1:30PM**. While Leeds are in danger of relegation, and we beat them 40-12 at the Rock early in the season, they were in the same predicament when we visited them last season. We won – just – but were mightily relieved to hear the final whistle! Their league position disguises the fact that many of their matches could have gone either way – they have lost by 7 points or less in nine matches and drew with Cambridge and Birmingham Moseley, and recently led for a long time at fifth-placed Bishops Stortford before finally going down 17-14. They are very much a team to be respected and will be giving everything to avoid the drop. It would of course be an immense help to have some solid vocal support there.

In visiting Leeds Tykes we are breaking new ground: 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. It's a fair distance from Leeds station to Bramhope, so a cab may be expensive if there aren't a few of you to club together. Bus X84 from Leeds bus station takes 29 minutes, leaving at 03 and 33 past the hour and passes close to the ground. The bus station is a 0.7 mile walk from the rail station according to Google maps. This information was taken from the internet and given in good faith, but do check things for yourself. And remember it's a 1:30 kick-off

If you can't make it to Leeds we have some Rugby entertainment for you at home with a noon kick-off for the **B XV** against **London Cornish**. It's free admission, the clubhouse will be open and you can watch the 6-nations on the TV afterwards. Those of you who were impressed by the **netball** demonstration before last Saturday's match can watch the real thing on Saturday morning when **NC Rosslyn Park** take on **Alpha** in an important



Photo from @rosslynpark Twitter feed

Upcoming events
Saturday 04 March

Leeds Tykes v Park

National 1
Away KO 1:30PM

Blackheath v Park Rangers

Halbro Div 1
Away KO TBA

B XV v London Cornish

Middx Merit Prem
Home KO 12:00PM

HAC v Fours

Middx Merit Prem
Away KO 1:00PM

KCS v Nomads

Surrey Championship
Away KO TBA

Netball

Rosslyn Park v Alpha

Surrey League Prem A
Home 09:30

Next 1st XV home match
Saturday 04 March

Park v Plymouth Alb.

National 1
Home KO 3:00PM

Reduced Admission tickets plus pre-match

Surrey Premier A match at Roehampton Uni (Froebel College, corner of Roehampton Lane and Clarence Lane). Away from home, the **Rangers** are due to visit **Blackheath 2** in the Halbro league, while the **Fours** travel to the City to play **HAC** at their Moorgate HQ. The **Nomads** are due away to **KCS**, but that may be moved to a later date.

Park 21

Birmingham Moseley 19

National 1

It was a long, cold afternoon as Park battled to overcome old rivals Moseley in a stop-start match that was nevertheless a real nail-biter from beginning to end.

Park had the first real chance when Moseley were penalized at the scrum and then sinned again to allow fly half Craig Holland to kick his side deep into opposition territory. The visiting defence was equal to the danger, but at this stage Park looked the better side in a fairly even contest.

A largely midfield battle took a turn at the end of the first quarter when Matt Bolwell cleared out from a ruck in the Moseley half and the referee showed him the yellow card.

Moseley strove hard to make their extra man count. They gained a penalty for a high tackle, the another penalty allowed them to kick to the corner but Park managed to steal the ball on the lineout.

However, another penalty on 26 minutes was Park's undoing when it led to visiting winger Aquile Smith being set up to use all his speed and evasive skills to defy three tacklers and score in the corner for 5-0.

Park countered, and a mighty kick from Holland took them close to the line. That move was stopped for a knock-on but a powerful shove sent the Moseley pack sideways and Park got the put-in. The visitors' defence were eventually able to resist.

However, they were unable to stop Park five minutes before half time. A great move saw the ball spread wide where replacement Luc Smith, playing at full-back with Henry Robinson moving to the wing, came on to the ball at pace and sprinted away to score. Holland added a conversion for Park to take the lead, possibly slightly against the run of play.

Things went back Moseley's way when scrum half Dave Lewis stopped a break illegally. There were plenty of other defenders around: if the penalty was fair enough the yellow card he received looked a tad harsh for a first offence. From the penalty Moseley set up a maul and drove over against Park's reduced numbers, Ryan Roach claiming the try. Fly half Dan Lewis added a conversion for a 12-7 lead at half-time.

Roach turned villain early in the second half for illegally stopping a good Park move (the card looked equally harsh as the one just before the interval, so consistency was established). Park set up a maul 10 metres out and Moseley's resistance was excellent but eventually futile as Park rubbed over for hooker Charlie Piper to touch down.

Holland converted for a 14-12 lead.

Park returned to the attack, courtesy of the Holland boot. Moseley resisted well but were undone by conceding two successive penalties, taken as taps, and flanker Matt Bolwell got over the line, Holland converting for 21-12 on 50 minutes.

To their credit Moseley raised their game and forced Park to resist.

On 62 minutes it looked as if Park had come undone when attacking in Moseley territory and conceded an interception. The interceptor was a huge forward, who looked relieved when the whistle went as the prospect of running the length of the field opened up before him. The referee had been playing an advantage to Park.

However, four minutes later Park were caught out, losing the ball in contact and replacement Jack English got over for 21-17. When

Lewis' conversion bisected the posts Moseley were within a penalty of the lead at 21-19.

Although vulnerable with only a 2 point lead going into the last 10 minutes, Park kept their heads. A great kick from replacement scrum half Luke Baldwin sent Moseley back to their 22. Charlie Piper produced a good turnover. On their second half performance Park deserved the win, but all credit to Moseley for making them fight every inch of the way for it.

Park: Robinson; Addams, Alexis, Gordon, Trimble; Holland; Lewis; Buckingham, Piper, Garvey; Spencer, Gillanders: Bolwell, Ellis, Laventure

Bench: Rasor, Burns, Ledger, Baldwin, Smith.

ED: Apologies for lack of match photos

Clubsides

Will Thorogood reports: The Nomads were due to play Reeds Weybridge 2's on Friday evening, but because of late player dropouts on Thursday/Friday morning (only 11 players available), they had to concede the game as a walkover. However, some Nomads were able to get a game on Saturday evening, helping out and augmenting the 4's ranks against Belsize Park 2's. A big thankyou. Your contributions were certainly appreciated, in a thriller against a strong, 2nd placed, Belsize Park side. To that game, shortly...

Rangers did not play, unfortunately, their game against Ampthill 2's.

The B's had a trip down the road, and across "The Water" to Hurlingham Park to face top placed Hammersmith and Fulham 2's in their MMT Premier encounter. From what I have been told, it sounded like a close encounter for much of the game, but the B's were finally pipped 18-5. The lads were greatly disappointed at the outcome.

The 4's, a nice cosmopolitan blend of Aussie, South African, French and British on the day, worked a little miracle and surprise following the 1's close win against Birmingham Moseley. Pity that not more of the crowd for that game didn't stay on to watch the 4's rather than retiring to the bar, as they missed a thriller!

Photo by Will Thorogood



Pardon the cliches, John, but this was a "game of two halves"...! The first period basically saw Belsize one way traffic and dominance, although we did make our own attacking forays but with no success! So at half time, 4's 0 Belsize 19 (3 tries), the thought was, oh no, "not more of the same"?!

Not a bit of it. No time for "hair dryer" team talks, as there was a very quick turnaround, but the team knew what they had to do. A transformation and a blitz of fast, open rugby football just took the wind from Belsize's sails. Shellshocked they were, on the receiving end of 5 second half IV's tries, with Pete Hynes, on excellent kicking form, converting them all.

Belsize were getting worried when the margin was soon 14-19, but they did manage, briefly, to extend their lead to 14-26. This just added fuel to the 4's fire, as they responded, accelerated past that scoreline, and overtook (almost at F1 pace) Belsize. 28-26. No pitstops, in this game. One score either way, as time was ticking, would determine the winner. With literally the last play of the game, the 4's, from a penalty, kicked to the corner to take a lineout from which we pounced and charged over through a gap as wide as the



Maddie Dean, Kate Hughes & Izzy Murphy on the attack for Park Blues against Putney on Saturday morning

parting of the Red Sea. So that was it, breathing space, and no time for Belsize Park to reply.

Park 4's 35 Belsize Park 2's 26. Well played, and thanks to all who contributed, including Chris Jones, stalwart physio. Scorers: Tries Chow, Spice, Pierre and "The Bayonne Express" (x 2). Hynes, 5 conversions. Thanks to Mark Dockery who ably refereed the game which was played in good spirit but with a great deal of physicality. Some happy bunnies (lapins) in the bar afterwards.

Netball

On Saturday morning **NC Rosslyn Park** Surrey – effectively our First team -take on **Alpha** in an important Surrey Premier A match at Roehampton Uni (Froebel College, corner of Roehampton Lane and Clarence Lane). Alpha are currently 7 points behind Park but suffered a points deduction for playing an unregistered player in their 65-28 win over Oxshott. The match starts at 09:30 and, for the uninitiated comprises four 15 minute quarters, so plenty of time afterwards to accommodate the afternoon's rugby. It's great entertainment – please do make an effort to get along and support the Park girls.

Park Reds 54 Fetcham Hawks 31 Kingston Div 5

Starting 7: GK Charlotte Stafford, GD Simone Quick, WD Lucy Paterson, C Hannah Gilbert, WA Hayley Birks, GA Tash Eeles, GS Charli Hicks

Subs: Emily Sarsfield-Power (VC), Milly Marsh

Rosslyn Park Reds secured another convincing win (54-31) on Saturday against Fetcham Hawks.



Hannah Gilbert (Reds)

The Reds came out focused and controlled. The attacking unit worked cohesively and demonstrated great patience and calm. Gilbert and Birks balanced well to facilitate smooth passages of play through to goal which were largely unimpeded by the Fetcham defence, while shooting duo Eeles and Hicks dominated their space in the circle and shot confidently with impressive accuracy. Moreover, tight through-Court defence resulted in a number of held-ball turnovers and forced errors from the opposition. As Fetcham struggled to find their rhythm, the Reds capitalised and broke away to end the first quarter 19-8 up.

Fetcham returned to Court in the second quarter with a fresh

energy; their attacking unit began to click, and the defensive pressure increased. The Reds managed, however, to maintain their 11-goal lead and head into the second half 29-18 up, where the momentum quickly shifted back in their favour.

At the attacking end Marsh entered the game at GA and immediately sank a number of long-range shots, bringing back to the shooting circle the confident energy of the first quarter. Meanwhile Paterson's move into C brought a renewed control and a stronger defensive presence. At the other end of the Court, Sarsfield-Power (VC) disrupted Fetcham's attack in the mid-Court while Quick was hot on the rebounds, ensuring the Reds could capitalise on every opportunity to increase their lead. The biggest shift for the Reds, though, surely came when Stafford made a series of clean intercepts in quick succession – intercepts which likely earned Stafford both Home and Away POM. The Reds took this momentum shift and ran with it, increasing the lead from 9 to 19 to go into the final quarter 42-23.

The Reds maintained their energy and composure to the final whistle, chipping away at the goal difference to ultimately secure the 54-31 win. A great game was had by all, and Fetcham proved to be a pleasant opposition - as they were back in November when the Reds produced a 49-37 win against the side. Yet again, the difference in score line in the second half of the season is indicative of how much the squad has progressed throughout the season. Away POM: Charlotte Stafford
Home POM: Charlotte Stafford

Park Blues 62 Putney. 37 Kingston Div 9

Starting 7: GK Bronte, GD Gabs, WD, C – Maddie, WA, Izzy, GA Kate, GS Pip

The match for RPNC Blues kicked off at 11am; seeing Blues play Putney at home. This was a big match for the Blues with Putney second in the table. The team remain undefeated with only three matches left in the season.

Q1. Blues had the toughest opening to a game in their history of a team seeing us go down 1-6 within the first five minutes. With this being said, Blues gathered themselves, reset and our defensive circle proved to switch the momentum of the game with some fantastic interceptions from Bronte and Gabs. End of Q1, 12-12.

Q2. This quarter saw a change in the line up with Kate moving to WA, Pip moving to GA, Jess coming on at GD and Bels moving into GS. Putney's defence was challenged with Kate (WA) and Maddie (C) providing quick balls into the shooting circle. Pip created space with fantastic drives into the circle with Bels drawing the defence higher in the circle to provide space for Pip to position herself under the post. End of Q2, 32 - 19 to RPNC.

Q3. Blues went in with a focus of pushing their opposition to the max in this quarter. Blues know that this is the time to drive, create space and focus on clean netball throughout the 15 minutes. The centre court saw Lydia move into the centre position and really change the game. Fantastic defence saw Putney only score 8 goals in 15 minutes whilst Kate, manipulating the outside of the attacking circle, helped the shooters create an even bigger lead. End of Q3, 48 - 26 to RPNC Blues.

Q4. With our opposition running out of time, we knew that they would come out fighting to minimise the goal difference of the game. Blues went in with a goal of at least hitting 60 goals in the match and with defensive Putney players doubling up on Bels, Pip rose to the challenge of creating scoring opportunities for the team.

Final score of the game: 62 - 37 to Rosslyn Park Blues. RPNC Blues now go into their final two games with a huge momentum of aiming for a second year of staying undefeated. Everyone in the team deserves this win for playing right up until the final whistle and coming off the court knowing that they've not only played well themselves but we've dominated as a team! Player of the match: Lydia



Away travel

After this weekend it's Taunton Titans away on April 01, 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. If you are driving the address and postcode for the ground is Veritas Park Hyde Lane, Bathpool, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 8BU

Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s - correction

There are a few amendments we need to make to the announcement in the last Parknews, and thanks to Tony Lawrence for the corrections. Tony, along with wife Lynn, is one of the stalwart volunteers who keeps the tournament on the road, and is the expert on it' playing statistics, which are staggering. During the week 2120 matches will be played on 22 pitches, plus two reserve pitches, all more-or-less adjacent to the Robin Hood roundabout on the A3 (by the big Asda store). This year there are 1006 school teams with squads of 12 competing, comprising some 12,000 players – and there are several more teams waiting in the wings, hoping someone will drop out! In addition to schools from the home nations there are two schools from Dubai, two from Belgium plus teams from Sweden and Netherlands. Unfortunately the Mugwana school from Uganda have had to pull out, but additionally we have teams from Shawnigan Lake in Canada, St Kevin's College in Australia and Nelson College in New Zealand.

So it's now less than two weeks to the start of the biggest, best and most prestigious junior Rugby tournament in the world, the Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s. The attention of the great and good of the rugby world will be focussed on our club. Yet many of our own members and supporters seem unaware of it – that cannot be right! Do yourself a favour: book your leave now and come along and enjoy a feast of sport. This year's tournament runs from Monday 20 March until Friday 24 March.

Many of the great and good of the Rugby world will be there, many of them having played in the tournament themselves as youngsters, rubbing shoulders with the crowds and you're bound to see some future international starts on the pitch. That's one reason there will be Premiership talent scouts and coaches among the crowds. There are bars and food outlets plus trade stands. Amazingly the whole thing comes with free admission (though there is a charge for parking). The site is easily accessible by public transport: the 85 (Putney Bridge – Kingston) and 265 Putney – Tolworth, via Rosslyn Park) buses stop outside. If you really can't make it then the matches on the main pitch are all broadcast live on the tournament

website at <https://www.national7s.co.uk/Competition.asp?TID=Rosslyn-Sevens&TSID=6867>

This year's timetable is:

20 March: Early rounds of the boys U-18 vase plus 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 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 final stages, both boys and girls, plus U-13 Junior boys and a new U-11 mixed gender tournament.

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