



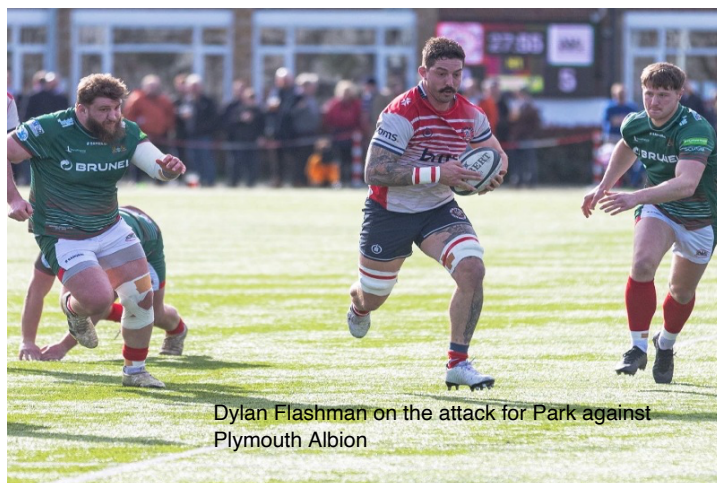
Issue 29

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Season 2022-23

PARK EDGE HOME IN A REAL THRILLER

Welcome to Parknews Last Saturday's match against **Plymouth Albion** was a real thriller, about as far from a meaningless end of season game as you can get. It might have been a nightmare to watch for the defensive coaches, but from a supporter's point of view it was an enthralling encounter that swung both ways with some good attacking rugby from both sides. Albion arrived buoyed up from the previous Saturday, becoming only the third side to defeat Rams this season and they stretched Park all the way. Park started with a strong wind at their backs, but Albion played pragmatic Rugby, backed up by a strong maul that saw their hooker Harry Wilkinson grab a hat trick of tries. They were soon 12-0 up, Park fought back reaching the interval at 17-17, but that left a tough task playing the second period into a strong wind. Park played some glorious running rugby, but Plymouth did not relent and took the lead with a penalty with 12 minutes to go. Park reached into the top drawer and two super tries saw a hard-earned victory.



Dylan Flashman on the attack for Park against Plymouth Albion

Elsewhere around the club, our **Surrey Premier A** netball team went down a lot more narrowly than the 33-49 score suggests to runaway league leader **Wimbledon** in a very entertaining match at Roehampton University. **Nomads** drew 29-29 with **KCS**. A special mention for **Rosslyn Park Under 11s**, who took their place in the National Schools 7s and vanquished all their opponents

Last week saw the glorious spectacle of the **Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s**, with a record entry and large crowds. The pitches were in pretty good condition considering they were in constant use over 5 days, but some of the spectator paths between the main sites and around the main pitch were a bit like the Somme! A brilliant job was done – as always – by the stalwart team of volunteers.

In its early years the tournament was known as the Public Schools Sevens, before it was opened to all. But there must have been a feeling of déjà vu among the long-term supporters as the Roll of Honour was gradually compiled. Harrow won both the Cup and the Under-16 Colts competitions, Rugby won the Under-18s vase while Eton took the Under-14 Boys. Younger than that overall winners were not competed for in compliance with RFU rules, but England take a note for the future – the Welsh schools did very well! In the girls' competitions, Harpurly won the ACE (for the elite schools). They may be joined in that competition next year by the Under-18 girls winners, Cardinal Newman. The Under-16s title went to Kingsbridge and the Under-14s to Hill House. There was a new mixed Under-11s tournament for which no winner was declared but it was greatly enjoyed.

This weekend we visit Taunton Titans, who are in a precarious position towards the bottom of the table. Last season Park won away there after a bit of a see saw match in which Taunton, newly promoted, looked overawed in the first half but came back strongly in the second. They must have hoped to consolidate their position in their second season in National One, but results have not gone their way. They have recorded home and away wins over Esher and Hull, and an away win at Leeds Tykes – all fellow strugglers – and a home win over Darlington Mowden Park. Earlier in the season they were defeated by 52-0 at the Rock. However, there have been some doughty performances in defeat, losing by only 24-31 away to Sale and 27-24 at home to Rams. They will be pulling out the stops in the fight to avoid relegation.

Taunton Titans away is a lovely trip to a decent club with good facilities a friendly atmosphere and a fair and knowledgeable crowd. Normally the advice would be to get the cheapest rail tickets, but that Saturday has been declared a strike day on the railways so – unless industrial action is called off before then - you might want to exercise some caution. It would be great

Upcoming events

Saturday 01 April

Taunton Titans v Park

National One

Away KO 3:00PM

Netball

Park Reds v Nonsuch

Kingston League Div 9

Home (roehampton Uni) 09:30

Park Blues v Oxshott

Kingston League Div 9

Home 11:00

Rugby League Challenge Cup

London Broncos v Doncaster

KO 3:00PM -admission £10 adults

Next 1st XV home match

Saturday 15 April

Park v Sale

National 1

Home KO 3:00PM

Reduced Admission tickets plus pre-match lunch bookings on the website now

Thursday 25 May

London Floodlit 7s

Gates open 4:00PM Final at 10:20PM

Admission £12.50 Advance tickets £10.00 from

WWW.LONDONFLOODLIT7S.COM

Under 16s go FREE

Mens and Womens tournaments

Bars, catering and music

to see and hear a lot of you there, but do check everything if you're going by public transport – we'd hate to hear of supporters being stranded! 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.**

The Clubsides' seasons are almost over and there are no matches this weekend, but we can highly recommend looking in on our Kingston League netball teams, both of whom are at home at Roehampton University. The Reds face Nonsuch at 09:30, followed by the Blues taking on Oxshott at 11:00. Back at the Rock, we do have Rugby at 3:00PM of the Rugby League variety when London Broncos take on Doncaster in Round 4 of the Rugby League Challenge Cup. Admission is £10, with Under-16s going free.

Park 41 Plymouth Albion 32

National 1

Park started strongly, a clever kick from fly half Craig Holland forced Plymouth to run the ball out in their own 22, but Park lost the ball at the lineout. Play swung to the other end and Park conceded a penalty. They successfully defended a maul, but conceded a scrum which was wheeled and the resulting scrum saw Albion flanker Angus Hodges touch down. The conversion went wide on the wind, but the visitors were 5-0 up with only 8 minutes on the clock.

Park came back with a strong attack, pressing in the opposition 22 but Plymouth eventually sent them back with a stunning 50-22 into the wind and, following the lineout, mauled over for hooker Harry Wilkinson to claim the try. Fly half Conner Eastgate converted for 12-0 on 17 minutes.

If things looked dark for Park they soon came back. A smart break from scrum half Jack Gash, whose performance said, "Remember me?" in capital letters, saw him slip a neat pass out to winger Benji Marfo, who needed no invitation to sprint in. Holland added a conversion to cut the lead to 12-7 on 21 minutes.

But the game swung back the other way only 6 minutes later when another maul saw Wilkinson on the end of another maul for 17-7 to Albion on 27 minutes.

Park were far from done for, Gash again providing the inspiration, following a scrum on 32 minutes. Plymouth were penalised at the set-piece and the scrum half reacted instinctively to take a quick tap and set up Henry Robinson on a super run to score on 32 minutes for 17-12.

Just before the end of a thrilling first half winger Josh Addams conjured the try of the match to send the teams into the interval level at 17-17. Wide on the left he looked to have no option, but put in a neat grubber kick that looked set to go dead. But he used his electrifying pace to outstrip the defence and dive on the ball before it got near the dead-ball line.

Despite the comeback, Park looked to have a lot to do in the second half, playing into the teeth of a strong chilling wind. That looked an even stiffer task when, with only 4 minutes on the clock, Plymouth scored a strange try when Park seemed to simply stop playing – presumably thinking they had heard a referee's whistle or something – and Jon Daw simply grabbed the ball and placed it over the line. Eastgate converted for 24-17.

It only took the home side two minutes to respond, powerful centre Matt Gordon defying tacklers as he burst through the middle to score. Holland's conversion again tied up the scores at 24-24.

Plymouth were not prepared to lie down, and were back in front at 29-24, courtesy of another maul and a hat-trick for Wilkinson.

Gash again took matters in hand only six minutes later when Plymouth knocked on in the tackle and from the scrum he scored a real snipers try, Holland converting to put Park ahead for the first time: 31-29 on 57 minutes.



Chairman Adam Tyrer presents the Player of the Match award to Jack Gash

Things looked to have turned Park's way when Plymouth number 8 and skipper Herbie Stuppel stopped an attack at the cost of a yellow card. Instead it was Plymouth who struck when Park conceded a penalty against the run of play and Eastgate put his side back in the lead at 32-31 with only 12 minutes to play.

Plymouth players began to go down injured and looked very tired.

Park put together a scintillating attack but the ball was spilled forward as the line approached. Another attack brought a scrum, Park pushing the visitors back at pace, gaining a penalty and opting to reset the scrum. Skipper Dan Laventure fired a pass out wide from the back of the scrum and winger Josh Addams did the rest for his second try and 36-32 with 6 minutes remaining.

It was now all Park and Albion lock Jake Clemson was sent to the bin for delaying play when a try looked inevitable. It came soon enough through a super piece of sniping by replacement scrum half Seb Strang to stretch the lead to the final score of 41-32, robbing Albion of the losing bonus point. It would be a hard judge indeed who said they didn't deserve it.

Park: Robinson; Addams, Alexis, Gordon, Marfo; Holland; Gash; Buckingham, Piper, Zeiss; Flashman, Burton; Bolwell, Ledger.
Bench: Ellis, Raser, Martin, Strang, Smith.

Old Programme

Before Saturday's match one of the Plymouth people at Saturday's match gave our President, Nick Goddard, a copy of the programme of the first match between the two sides after Plymouth merged with Devonport to form Plymouth Albion. It is from 1922 and cost one penny (in old money)!

Ton Up

Congratulations to Arthur Ellis on his one hundredth First XV appearance last Saturday. Since joining Park Arthur has proved to be a real club man who never gives less than 100% on the field. If we ever needed someone to make a last ditch tackle to save the club, Arthur would be your man. And watch out Charlie Piper et al, Arthur has been heard to say that he is the best hooker in the club!



Clubsides

Will Thorogood reports: I'm afraid I wasn't around at the weekend to

show my support, but I understand the 1's had a high scoring encounter against Plymouth Albion, 41-32! The Nomads had a short trip down the A3 to KCS where they had an even closer encounter, a 29-All draw (5 tries apiece). Ted Hewins, skipper, briefly describes the match, below, but is awaiting details of our scorers:

" A good game as it always seems to be with KCS. We scored three quick tries in the first 20 minutes with the use of a strong wind behind us. The second half saw us defend our 22 for the remainder of the game. We defended our line in the last play of the game to hold on for a draw, with some great counter rucking from Richard Spice and our forward pack. Our unbeaten run against KCS continues. Two Nomads in Tommy J and John King (JK) had their last games for the club on Saturday (both will be shortly moving abroad). Both have been involved for many seasons and will be very much missed by the team".

Netball

Park (Surrey) 33

Wimbledon 49

Surrey Premiership A

Q1: 6-11

Q2: 17-22

Q3: 26-32

Q4: 33-49

GK- Hannah Wallis (VC), GD- Charlotte Miller, WD- Charlotte Stafford, C- Mollie Armes, WA- Hannah McNally, GA- Francesca Bennett, GS- Bella Ellis



Park attack unit working to keep the ball safe

pland (Capt); Milly Marsh

The Surrey team faced an unbeaten Wimbledon team who were already through to County playoffs. We knew it was going to be a tough game but also knew that we matched up against them well from previous encounters.

With various absences this weekend, Surrey were lucky to tap into the depth of the club squad with players from with Kingston teams stepping up, including a Surrey debut for Bella Ellis starting at GS. In new combinations, Surrey found it tricky to settle in attack but unusually both teams found it difficult to convert their own centre passes. Surrey down 11-6 at the first break.

Addressing centre pass conversion in the break, Park were steadier in the second quarter and really rattled Wimbledon, forcing them to make long ball errors in blustery conditions. Park went into the half time break down 17-22.



Hannah McNally (WA) feeding the ball over a strong defensive wall to player of the match Francesca Bennett (GS)



Rosslyn Park Player of the Match Francesca Bennett (GA)

w player/coach, Claire Shapland take the court at WD and Milly Marsh take the court as GA. A frustrated Wimbledon, used to winning by large margins and scoring with ease, also made numerous changes. Another strong quarter with intense through-court defence saw Park get within 3 goals at one stage but the quarter ended 26-32. Still no inroads into Wimbledon's first quarter lead but holding strong.

Unfortunately early errors in the final quarter allowed Wimbledon to get their heads up, scoring a run of 6 goals early on. Park were unable to recover from this and ended the game with a 33-49 loss. A highly contested match, with the end scoreline not reflecting how close the game was for three quarters, Park should be really proud to keep an unbeaten team to their lowest "goals for" score all season.

Player of the match: Francesca Bennett

Away travel

After this weekend and the home match against Sale, it's another trip west, this time to Cinderford on 22 April, and it's not too early to book the cheapest train tickets. We'll give more details nearer the time, but Gloucester is the station to book to. From there it's a scenic bus journey of around 35 minutes to where the bus stops only yards from the ground. Be warned that the main bus back to Gloucester leaves around the time of the final whistle and it's usually an hour to the next one so do factor that in when booking your return journey. A taxi is upwards on £40.

The final Saturday of the League season, 29 April, sees the First XV make the long journey to Leeds Tykes for the re-arranged match, postponed from earlier in the season. Despite some very good performances, inconsistency has seen them spending most of the season anchored to the wrong end of the table with only Hull above them and 14 points behind Taunton with only four matches to play, this looks to be our last chance to visit for at least two seasons!. 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 for the cheapest tickets left. 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 in Leeds 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.

Bound down under

Prop Josh Raser is in his last season at the Rock as he is off to Australia. We're not sure exactly where he is going to be based but there is a large Rosslyn Park diaspora in those parts that he can link up with.



Please Support Keiran

Keiran Power is running in the Kew Half Marathon this Sunday to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. You can donate and read why Keiran is supporting the charity at https://www.gofundme.com/f/powers-running-for-macmillan-nurses?utm_campaign=m_pd+share-sheet&utm_content=undefined&utm_medium=copy_link_all&utm_source=customer&utm_term=undefined

Statue Appeal

Playing Plymouth last Saturday provides a good excuse to support a good cause and to tell the story of a Plymouth man, one of the most remarkable players ever to play the sport. Jimmy Peters was born in 1879, the year Rosslyn Park were founded. He was born into poverty in Salford, of a Jamaican father who trained lions for the circus. When Jimmy was still very young his father was mauled to death by them. His mother could not cope so, still a young child, he joined the circus as a bareback horse rider. At the age of 11 he stood on a horse's back while it cantered and he fell and broke his arm and so his circus career ended.

He eventually moved to Bristol where he found work but nothing certain is known of him until he emerged as a talented fly half with Dings Crusaders. It is assumed that he must have played Rugby League in his native Lancashire before heading south. He moved onwards and upwards to join Bristol for the 1900-91 season, but was driven out when racism reared its ugly head - a committee member resigned in protest at the selection of a black man to play for the club. So he moved on to Plymouth, getting a job in the dockyard and joining Plymouth rugby club where he was made welcome and his talent really blossomed.

So good was he, that in 1906 he became the first black man ever to represent England, against Scotland, his shrewd passing creating two tries. He scored a try of his own in the next match against France and was a shoo-in as a selection for the Devon County team to play against the South African touring side. However, again racism spoiled his chances when the South Africans objected to playing against a black man. The Devon RFU capitulated and he was omitted from the team. Then the RFU did the same, shamefully ducking out of controversy by dropping him from the England team to play the Springboks - and he was never to represent his country again (indeed no black player did until Chris Oti in 1988).

He still turned out for Plymouth, but his career with them ended when a further tragedy saw him lose three fingers in a dockyard accident.

A determined man, even then he was not beaten down and managed to still play the game. There was a team playing Rugby League in Plymouth at the time and he joined them. Unfortunately he was found to be being paid (as were the rest of the team) and he and the club were banned by the RFU - the formal split in the codes

over broken-time payments had yet to happen. He decided to return to the north where he played in the Rugby League for Barrow and then St Helens until he retired in 1913.

Not much after that is known of Jimmy Peters, who died in 1954. But his name and story will be revived in 2026 when - as part of their One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations - Plymouth Albion hope to erect a statue at their ground in memory of one of their greatest players. They hope afterwards to work with the local council to move it to a prominent position in the centre of town. It is an expensive project and they have opened a public subscription at www.gofundme.com/f/jimmy-peters-statue if anyone would like to contribute.

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.