



Issue 31

19 April 2023

Season 2022-23

## PARK IN BATTLE FOR FOURTH POSITION

**Welcome to Parknews** It was disappointing to end the home season with a 19-33 defeat by Sale, having said which overall the final score did slightly exaggerate the difference between the two sides. Sale arrived with everything to play for as potential champions and had subsidised a supporters' bus (and issued it's occupants with Sale flags to form a 'guard of honour' when their team took the field. Park certainly did not look as if they had nothing to play for and fought to the end, but errors at crucial moments took their toll. In fact there is still much to play for as Park are in something of a dogfight to secure a creditable finish to the season in fourth place. We are currently level with Plymouth Albion on 28 points and 5 points ahead of Cinderford, whom we play away next Saturday. – though we have a game in hand over both. Clearly Cinderford will be up for a 5 point win to give themselves a chance were we to lose without gaining a point from that match or at Leeds Tykes in our final match. If we were to finish level, we would have identical wins, draws and losses and it would come down to points difference – ours is 92 and Cinderford's 49 so it would need a couple of hefty defeats for them to overtake us. Plymouth are a different proposition, having a positive points difference of 104, so we need to better their points differential in their final match – that is against Championship favourites Cambridge at home, this coming Saturday where they expect to have not far short of a 2000 gate roaring them on. So we need 6 points from our remaining two matches to be sure of fourth place.

We may have beaten Cinderford 46-26 in our first match of the season at the Rock, but they are a different prospect altogether at their own Beavis Memorial Ground. They have only lost one home match all season – 12-17 to Cambridge. They beat Rams 37-17, Sale 27-26 and Plymouth 41-28. Please do come along and support your team. The ground is The Beavis Memorial Ground, Dockham Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire, GL14 2AQ. By public transport, the train from Paddington to Gloucester is the one to go for, followed by a 30-35 minute bus ride (unless you can afford upwards of £40 for a cab). The bus station at Gloucester is diagonally opposite to the rail station to the right, but allow 10 minutes to get there and locate the correct bay for the bus. According to the timetable on the internet buses leave at 25 and 55 past the hour on Saturdays, but on one occasion ours was running 25 minutes late so don't leave it too late. The bus stops right by the ground, next to the co-op supermarket. Take an important note that the return journey can be a problem: there's a bus that leaves at around the time the match is due to end (check the bus stop timetable when you arrive for the precise minute) but if there is added time you either leave before the end or miss it! If you miss that one the next bus is an hour later and is not due to reach Gloucester until 18:25, so bear that in mind when booking your return train ticket. If you are looking for sustenance, we've yet to find a decent hostelry in Cinderford, though the clubhouse does food and a decent pint. Our regulars tend to get an early train and stroll into Gloucester for a couple of pints before catching the bus.

If you want your Rugby fix at the Rock this weekend then we have some - of the 13-a-side variety. On Sunday afternoon the London Broncos are playing Dewsbury in the fifth round of the Rugby League Betfred Challenge Cup, kicking off at 3:00PM. Admission is £15 but it's free for Under-16s accompanied by an adult.

The final match of the season is away to Leeds Tykes, who are already relegated but will not want to drop from National One without leaving something to remember them by. If we cannot get a result at Cinderford it could still be a vital match. Your support would be greatly valued. 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



Park men to the end, Henry Robinson and Jack Gash celebrate a Park try, each playing their last home match before retirement [all photos in this Parknews are taken from the @Rosslynpark Twitter stream]

**Upcoming events**  
**Last 1st XV home match**  
**Saturday 22 April**

### Cinderford v Park

**National 1**  
**Away KO 3:00PM**

**Sunday 23 April**  
**Rugby League**

### London Broncos v Dewsbury

**Betfred Challenge Cup - 5th round**  
**The Rock KO 3:00PM**  
**Admission £15 (U-16 free if accompanied by an adult)**

**Saturday 29 April**

### Leeds Tykes v Park

**National 1**  
**Away KO 3:00PM**

**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](http://WWW.LONDONFLOODLIT7S.COM)**

**Under 16s go FREE**  
**Mens and Womens tournaments**  
**Bars, catering and music**

homely Sycamores at Bramhope (Leeds LS16 9JR). Leeds is the station to book to, and get in quickly for the cheapest tickets remaining. 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 appears to be 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.

## Rosslyn Park 19

### Sale 33

#### National 1

Park were closer to Sale in terms of overall play than the bare result suggests, but errors presented Sale with at least two of their tries.

The first 15 minutes were pretty tight, but with Park creating perhaps the better chances. A good attack saw Park pressing close to the Sale line only to be undone by a forward pass. A good tactical kick from full-back Henry Robinson took his side to within 10 metres of the line. But all the good work was undone by a simple defensive blunder. Sale cleared with a neat 50-20 for a throw deep in the Park 22 and the defence were clearly unprepared for the quick throw that put centre Ferguson Mulchrone through to score completely unmolested. Fly half Tom Curtis missed a difficult conversion but it was 5-0 to Sale on 15 minutes.

It was clear from early on that the home scrum was under pressure, but Park were still more than holding their own in open play. Hooker Charlie Piper put in a terrific tackle to halt a Sale attack in its tracks. Then his pick-and-go set up a terrific Park move that might have been the try of the season but for a forward pass as the line beckoned. Winger Max Trimble nearly scored with a neat chip over the defence but could not quite get to the ball before a defender in the in-goal area. On 32 minutes Park put in a good attack through the forwards, again pressing close to the line and when the ball was passed back to Robinson he skipped in for the try, converted by fly half Luc Smith for 7-5 to Park on 32 minutes.

However, Sale restored their lead only 5 minutes later when Park knocked on in their own 22 and Sale's James Harper caught out the defence, running from there to score, converted by Curtis for a 12-7 lead at the interval.

It took only 5 minutes of the second half for Park to equalise with a great individual try by centre Joe Luca Smith, receiving the ball around half way he sprinted past several defenders to score wide of the posts. Smith went very close with a difficult conversion but the score remained 12-12.

Luca Smith nearly grabbed his second for Park from a good move, only for a cruel bounce to elude his outstretched hands.



Park were under severe pressure at a series of scrums near the Park line, leading to penalties and scrum resets. It probably changed the game when eventually prop Cameron Zeiss earned the referee's disapproval to make it once too many and was sent to the bin on 61 minutes. Park's depleted numbers defended well, though former Park favourite Nev Edwards looked to have scored for Sale but it was ruled out for a forward pass. But on 65 minutes, following a scrum, replacement Mark Tebbutt got over the line, converted by Curtis for 19-12.

Park certainly didn't take it lying down. Trimble very nearly got over for Park, but Sale began to get the upper hand and again their forwards put pressure on the Park line to be awarded a Penalty Try, perhaps a little harshly, for 26-12 on 72 minutes.

Three minutes later the visitors put the match beyond doubt, kicking to the corner and the mauling over for Oli Longmore to claim the try, converted for 33-12.

Park carried on battling in what was now a lost cause and were rewarded for their efforts when a high tackle from Sale led to a pick-up-and-go from which skipper Dan Laventure got over, Smith adding the conversion for the final score of 33-19.

*Park: Robinson; Addams, Luca Smith, Gordon, Trimble; Smith; Gash; Burns, Piper, Zeiss; Martin, Burton; Ledger, Ellis, Laventure. Bench: Hay, Bolwell, Spencer. Strang, Marfo.*

### Promotion and Relegation.

Things have been thrown slightly into confusion by rumours, probably untrue so we won't make things worse by giving any details here! But there are fears that a club who would be expected to take part in the Championship next season may be unable to do so. Assuming that does not happen, there is a tight battle at the top of the table with **Rams** on 109 points, **Sale** on 108 and **Cambridge**,

with a game in hand over the other two. Rams play away to Esher and Sale at home to Moseley in their final matches away to Plymouth Albion and home to Moseley. Tight, but it's Cambridge's to lose. At the bottom of the Championship table **Richmond** are 4 points ahead of **London Scottish** with two matches remaining, but one scenario if the division ends up a team short would be that no one is relegated.

At the other end of the table, **Hull** and **Leeds Tykes** are definitely relegated, with **Esher** and **Taunton** fighting to avoid the other place. Esher are currently a point ahead of Taunton. This Saturday both sides are at home: Esher to Rams and Taunton to Leeds Tykes. It's just possible when the dust settles on the Championship farrago that only two clubs may be relegated. There will definitely be three clubs promoted: **Blackheath**, **Leicester Lions** and **Sedgeley Park**. The Leicester side will be new opponents at First XV level, and we should perhaps mention that they have no connection with the other club in that city.





## Trevor Leydon (1975-2023)

*It was with sadness that we learned of Trevor's untimely passing over Easter weekend, aged just 48. Richard Baker (aka "Off") writes:*

I had to ask of late "when did Big Trev join Rosslyn Park IVs?" and no-one quite knew. He was just always there. Playing, coaching, socialising. All the while invisibly binding us together. Such men are foundational. Trev was the best of them.

A IVs man through and through, he was happy to pull on any shirt 1 through 5. Later on, he became a referee, selflessly giving his time where it was needed most. His bellowing Irish tones and sympathetic smile ensured his decisions were rarely questioned. His enthusiastic coaching of the Minis was a Sunday staple. Many of those youngsters progressed to cement the Park teams of the future - one hopes with his indomitable spirit imprinted upon them.

It would be easy to wax lyrical about his sporting prowess. But that would miss the essence of the man. Rugby was his conduit. Through it, he helped cement the core values we all know our sport epitomises. A gentle giant of a man. Always a big hug, a listening ear, pints offered and pints taken. His caring, generous nature and selfless support of all who knew him were perhaps the most endearing facets of his wonderful character. It's how we will always remember him.

We shall miss him.

## Hail and farewell

Two long-serving Park men left the Rosslyn Park pitch for the last time on Saturday to standing ovations. Jack Gash and Henry Robinson are both great club men, as well as great players, who retire at the end of this season. And we certainly hope that they will regularly visit the Rock on numerous future occasions. Before then there are two matches and rumour has it that if Jack Gash plays in both, the Leeds match will rack up 200 League appearances.

## Netball

We have 3 Rosslyn Park Netball Club members running the London Marathon for fantastic causes. Firstly the wonderful Brontë...

"I'm wanting to raise vital funds for life-changing mental health treatment for veterans. Combat Stress is a charity close to my heart as it's a charity that my Dad cared a lot about. Combat Stress help former servicemen and women deal with issues like trauma, anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Today, they provide support to veterans from every service and every conflict." Please support Brontë by donating below:

<https://events.combatstress.org.uk/fundraisers/BronteJackson>

Secondly we have the fabulous Pip Medley...

This is her first marathon and Pip is running for Macmillan Cancer Support and for all the people in our lives and the lives of others that have been affected by cancer (which is sadly way way too many).

Let's give Pip some extra motivation and donate via the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pipmedley>

And last but by no means least, we have the legend that is Bert running for Make A Wish UK!

Make-A-Wish® UK creates life-changing wishes that revive the childhood that critical illness takes away, bringing light and joy at the darkest of times for a child and their loved ones. But right now, there are 60,000 children in the UK living with a critical condition, and they don't have the resources to be that light for everyone. Your generous support will help them step closer to achieving their vision: to grant a wish to every eligible child. Together, we have the power to light up the darkness.

Show your support and donate here:

[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hannah-gilbert17?utm\\_source=copyLink&utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=hannah-gilbert17&utm\\_campaign=pfp-share&utm\\_term=e73b8c7f57884182926c61877607b935](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hannah-gilbert17?utm_source=copyLink&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=hannah-gilbert17&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=e73b8c7f57884182926c61877607b935)

## Congratulations

Congratulations are due to Don Shelley, Vice President and a regular supporter both home and away, on being selected as scorer for the England v Australia Ashes Test at Lord's. It's a great honour within the County Cricket scorers' community. Don normally scores for Middlesex CCC. He was made a Vice-President partly for his services on the former Bar Committee, and has kept his eye in ever since, but denies ever quaffing the odd pint whist scoring.

## Days of yore

The fact of Park staging Rugby League at the Rock brought brings back for we of a certain age memories of the great Martin Offiah plying his trade for Park, leaving defenders in his wake. It may seem unbelievable nowadays, but after Martin had swapped the red and white hoops of Rosslyn Park for those of Wigan he once came back to Park to see his old mates only to be told by a senior club official that because of his association with Rugby League he was unwelcome!

## 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](mailto: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.