

PARK NEWS



The E-magazine for Rosslyn Park supporters 29th July 2009 - Issue 117

KAY DIES AT ONLY 39

In the early hours of last Friday morning Kay Pamplin Booker finally lost her long, brave fight for life at the tragically young age of 39. It rather puts into perspective the importance of the issues of the previous evening's AGM. Kay was one of the driving forces behind Ladies' Rugby at Rosslyn Park as the Slingbacks went from a twinkle in her eye to the heights of Premiership 2 (and transformed the Club's social life in the process). Kay was absolutely central to both, her efforts being recognised when she was made a Vice-President.

For such a gregarious, fun person life dealt her some hefty blows. She was struck down with a particularly nasty cancer, but if she never fully got rid of it she managed to live with it on her own terms. Even after a mastectomy she still pulled on the red & white hoops again, and married husband Mark. But she suffered another hammer blow when the cancer

reached her brain while on honeymoon in Singapore, and she had to be flown home. Again she fought back. Eventually, after in all some 6 years battling, the Grim Reaper eventually sneaked up again and got over her try-line – and tragically early in the game. But one can almost hear her throaty, full-faced laugh saying, "Yeah! But I nailed him with a few bloody good tackles first!" You did, Kay - and so much more.

In line with Kay's particular wishes, after a memorial service on Friday 7th August there will be "a good p*** up at Rosslyn Park". Details of Kay's funeral, and an obituary from the Slingbacks put together by Tracie Simpson, are on page 2.

Rather than flowers Kay asked that donations be made as follows...

Kay's page

<http://www.justgiving.com/kay-pamplinbooker>

Main sponsor announced

For the rest of us life must go on, and there is good news inasmuch as Club Chairman John Adair announced that the club had a new major sponsor in the form of Arena Events Group (AEG). He then read the following Press Release which had been agreed with AEG:

Arena Events Group (AEG), an events management company & Rosslyn Park FC have reached an agreement which will see AEG taking over as the Club's Principal Sponsor for the forthcoming season 2009-10 and the following 2 seasons, taking the club through the next 3 years. Arena Events will also become the main sponsor for the RP London Floodlit Sevens Tournament (F7's) also for the next 3 years. Arena Events is looking forward to working closely with Rosslyn Park to maximise the club's already thriving popularity to create a hub of rugby in South West London. The Managing Director of Arena Events commented; 'we are delighted to be sponsoring and supporting one of the oldest names in Rugby and look forward to being regular faces at the games'.

John Adair, Rosslyn Park Chairman has been impressed with the interest, commitment, expertise and /Continued Page 3



Saturday 15 August
Bedford Blues v 1st XV
(Away, friendly, KO TBA)

Saturday 22 August
Senior squad play 2 matches
Home v Reading Abbey
Home v Civil Service
KOs TBA

Activities for everyone - meet the players at a barbecue after the matches, plus disco / live music into the evening
Free admission

Saturday 29 August
Blackheath v 1st XV
Blackheath 2nd v 2nd XV
(Blackheath training ground, close to Eltham station KO TBA)

Saturday 5 September
1st XV v Clifton
Home, National 2 South
KO 3:00PM

Plus curtain raisers and other events
The Clubhouse is open from about 5:00PM Mondays and Wednesdays for training. Come along for a social drink and chat.

KAY PAMPLIN BOOKER

On Friday 24 July, the Slingbacks lost one of their longest serving and most loyal club members. Kay Pamplin Booker lost her long battle with cancer in the early hours of Friday morning at the age of just 39.

She was at her family home in Somerset with her family around her. As many of you will know, Kay had bravely been fighting cancer for some 6 years. Kay had fought the disease head on, never allowing it to stop her enjoying life and making the most out of the time she had. She will be sadly missed by all of us within the Slingbacks and undoubtedly by everyone who ever had the pleasure of meeting her.

Kay's zest for life was infectious and her single minded approach to everything she did was inspirational to us all. Kay's contribution and commitment to the Slingbacks cannot be measured in mere words. Indeed if it wasn't for her passion and drive, the Slingbacks may not exist today. Kay and her fellow rugby loving friend, Jane Seymour (nee Morton) were determined to set up a ladies team at Rosslyn Park, they tirelessly lobbied the committee with their plans but they needed money. They were fortunate enough to be introduced to past President George Sturgis at the Middlesex Sevens and George was so impressed with the girl's enthusiasm that he opened his wallet immediately and so, the Slingbacks were born. Whilst she moved away from London for periods of time to pursue her career, Kay's love of the team never faded. As if to prove that point, she arrived on tour in Canada in 2002 proudly displaying a fresh tattoo of the Slingbacks logo in a strategic position!!

Kay was indeed a keen tourist, only missing a couple of Slingbacks tours in the last 11 years. She always embraced the mad-

ness which came with touring and despite having recently received what would be her last invasive treatment in May this year, Kay still travelled to the Isle of Wight for the 'Fish at 50' Flip Flop tour and still took part. We will all treasure the memories of that weekend.



Kay's commitment to Rosslyn Park was honoured in 2004 when she was made a Vice President. Her love for the sport didn't end there however, she formed the sevens touring side, the Moody Cows, following a trip to the Dubai Sevens in 2003 and served on the RFUW Executive for many years, latterly as Commercial Director.

She was determined to travel to the World Cup in Australia in 2003, only coming back to have her treatment, which had been delayed so she could spend as much time away as possible. She also made it to the Lions tour in NZ in 2005, which proved to be a fateful trip. It was whilst enjoying the local hospitality in Invercargill that she bumped into Mark Pamplin, they had met before in Dubai and shared a love of life and rugby, it was a poignant day when the pair married the following year.

Kay finished work last year to concentrate on her treatment and enjoying the time she had left. She travelled lots

and fulfilled many of her remaining dreams in this short time. The last event she "ticked off" was to attend the Grand Prix at Silverstone last month. She packed in to her short life what many who live to be twice her age would never fit in.

She is an irreplaceable part of our lives but her spirit will live on within the Slingbacks and we will miss her dearly.

Kay's funeral will be held at the Yeovil Crematorium in Somerset Bunford Lane, **Yeovil**, Somerset BA20 2EJ. This will be followed by after match refreshments at 12.30pm in..

Castle Cary RFC
Brook House Field
Nr. Alhampton, Ditcheat
CASTLE CARY
Somerset
BA7 7PF

On the following Friday August 7th we will be celebrating Kay's life at 12pm in St Martins Church, Church Road, West Drayton, Middx, UB7 7PT

Followed by another post match party at 2pm at Rosslyn Park FC. Rather than flowers Kay's asked that donations be made as follows...

Kay's page

<http://www.justgiving.com/kay-pamplinbooker>

From front page....

potential opportunities that AEG will bring with them to RPF C 'Together we can really make a difference to all that we do here at Park both on match days and beyond that. Making this great club, even greater.'

Steve Kearns General Manager is relishing the opportunity to improve the Park brand even further 'Alongside AEG we can really start to move to club forward across all areas; match days, tournaments, additional events, parties, functions, everyday administration, the look and feel of the website, general communications, marketing and PR'.

Together we look forward to next season and beyond.

In reply to questions from the floor, John would not be drawn on the precise sums involved as it had been agreed with the sponsor that this aspect of the deal would be confidential. However, it was clear from the Chairman's replies to the subsequent debate that the cash sums are potentially only a small part of the deal. As their name suggests, AEG's expertise lies in staging events, some of which may be held at Rosslyn Park thus significantly boosting our bar and other receipts.

Beyond that, if all goes well, the sponsor may be in a position to upgrade the facilities at the Rock to an extent and quality that we simply could not contemplate funding ourselves. Like all such major partnerships, there will be an element of "suck it and see" while we get to know each other and explore what is and is not possible. But – fingers crossed – it looks like a giant stride forwards, especially at a time when commercial sponsors are like gold dust.

Sponsor wanted

The Slingbacks are actively seeking sponsorship for the coming season to help their drive back to Premiership status – anyone interested please contact Lucy Ross-Mackenzie (07912 855777) or Julia Daffy (07989 555464).

Mounts Bay fold

At Mounts Bay RFCs AGM at the Bath Inn, Penzance last week, it was unanimously decided that the club should fold. There were "No other avenues that could of been explored", according to Chairman Arthur Edwards, and there were simply not the finances there to prove to the RFU that the club could be sustained without support from Redruth RFC. It is sad when any club has to fold, especially for the die-hards who have continued through the bleakest of times. Our sympathies go out to all involved.

It's worth pointing out that when London Welsh were staring oblivion in the face, the RFU decided to "promote" Esher rather than leave the fully professional clubs a fixture short. However, at our level, they decided we should play a team short. This means Park – who were due to play at home to Mounts Bay on 19 September – have only one home fixture before October, with the consequent deficit in cashflow.

As it happens – because it is Mounts Bay rather than another club – the financial implications are far less serious. They bring next to no away support because of the distance, and the trip down there costs a small fortune because it involves an overnight stay for everyone and two coach drivers. So the money from the home gate plus bar receipts probably doesn't cover the cost of the away fixture!

The complete stupidity of the situation was brought home by a story about Esher, told to the editor by a normally reliable source. Whether it's true in every detail is impossible to check, but it illustrates the way money now rules. Apparently Esher's committee reckoned that being pitched back into the Championship would require them to spend £500,000 on the squad in order to survive. There was a feeling that they should sue the RFU for this amount, as it was essentially their actions that made the expenditure necessary. But an Esher official – no names, in case it gets him into trouble with the BBC – came up with a far better wheeze. He wanted to accept the promotion but not spend a penny on strengthening the squad. They'd get thrashed every week, but they'd still pocket their share of the Sky TV payment and – when relegated back to National 1 they'd qualify for a large "parachute payment" from the RFU. They could then greatly strengthen their squad – paid for by Rupert Murdoch and the RFU! If it's not true, it deserves to be.

Meet the players

On Saturday 22nd August we have two home "friendly" matches in which the whole squad is expected to take part. A barbecue is being organised for the afternoon with the specific purpose of inter-mingling between players and supporters. It will also give supporters an early taster for the brand of exciting rugby that Flo Rossigneaux and his coaches are

introducing this season. Also, while pre-season training continues on Mondays and Wednesdays the Clubhouse bar will be open from around 5:00PM and you're very welcome to pop in for a few beers with your fellow supporters while the lads are put through their paces. Training will revert to Tuesdays and Thursdays once the new season starts

Park v Clifton

Our friends at the RFU have conveniently staged a Twickenham double-header to clash with our first home match on 5th September, and the demise of Mounts Bay means we then have no home match until the following month. It is therefore absolutely crucial that we get a huge turnout for Clifton. We are sure that most discerning supporters will turn their backs on the high speed robotics of the Premiership and come down here to watch some real rugby. As an added incentive there will be a decent curtain raiser and entertainment for the whole family in a variety of forms. There will also be a lunchtime Masterclass in Social Anthropology, which will comprise a group of us watching through beer glasses everyone having fun outside and seeking to answer the eternal question: But if the bar is open why do they do it?

Club Match day costs 2009-10 Season

Commercial Manager Steve Keasrns writes: As you will be aware it has been agreed that the club will charge all entries to the ground on 1st XV match days from the upcoming season. The reason behind this is very simple, costs of 'doing business' have gone up and the allowance for clubs at our level and all other leagues around us have been slashed. To a point where from next season onwards we will receive very little if any support directly from the RFU. As a result the committee has made a plea to the membership for help and this is one of the ways of asking for that help.

The costs on match day will therefore be as follows:

£3 – Member
£10 – Non Member
£5 – Non member OAP's
£3 – Non Member U18
Free Admission – Member U18
£2 – Programme

There is the option that many people seem to be a little confused about which will work as follows:

If you pay £45 in advance (in addition to your regular membership payment) for the season (per adult member) you will receive a Gold Card/s, which will entitle you to entry to all home matches a free programme at every game and a complimentary meal at a designated match during the season - October 3rd 2009 vs Lydney. All we ask is that you produce your gold card on arrival and for your programme and that you book a week in advance for the pre-match lunch on the 3rd.

Membership + £45 per person = Gold Card Membership
Includes a free programme & 1 complimentary GC Holders lunch – 3rd October 2009 RPF C vs Lydney. + All of the other benefits already associated with being a member at Park

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS include:

- * Discounted entry to all home games (excluding the Floodlit Sevens)
 - * Option to apply for England Home International tickets (via ballot system)
 - * Regular newsletters and other mailings
 - * Option to receive weekly Park News e-letter & Park Life e-letter
 - * 10% discount on physio treatment at Richmond Physiotherapy
 - * 10% discount on purchases from Tony Swatland Butchers (East Sheen)
 - * 10% Discount 'Mates Rates' from Aussie Man & Van
 - * 5% discount for holidays booked through Explore Real Asia
 - * 10% of at St Marcus South African Foods (just opposite the entrance to the club)
 - * 10% Discount in UP & Running in Sheen
 - * 10-20% Discount on certain items in Trente Ice Cream Parlour and Coffee Shop in Mortlake
 - * 25% discount for all products and services from Andersen Sinclair (Interior designers)
 - * Various Family Offers from Nando's Restaurant in Putney & 10 local Pizza Express restaurants
- Full details of all benefits on the Rosslyn Park website:
www.rosslynpark.co.uk

Please post a simple request to the club addressed to the Membership Secretary with payment for £45 and your details will be updated accordingly. I hope that this clears up any misunderstandings and explains what's going to happen and why. If you have any queries or questions please drop me a line at: steve.kearns@rosslynpark.co.uk or give me a call.

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Coach wanted

The Slingbacks Head Coach, Mike Barnes, has had to step down due to work commitments. It is a blow to lose such an experienced coach but his forwards coach, Jay Judkins is hopefully staying on. This does leave a vacancy for a Coach (specialist backs coach to be precise) which the girls would like to fill as soon as possible. Any volunteers or suggestions to Lucy Ross-Mackenzie (07912 855777) or Julia Daffy (07989 555464).

The missing photo (1)



Last week's Parknews included a profile of lock Adam Jones, who joins from Cross Keys, but we had not yet got his photo. However, we cornered him at training last Wednesday with the result on the left. The only player profiled who is now still missing is scrum half Matt Chiltern. We'll get him this week - you might have a side-step, mate, but you can't avoid the Parknews camera for ever. Watch this space.

Fixtures for next season

We've given all the fixtures below for the Senior, Club and Ladies' teams, but these come with the obvious caveat that things do change. Even at 2nd XV level opponents can pull out at the 11th hour and destroy the best laid plans. So please treat these as for guidance only.

The 1st XV fixtures take into account the demise of Mounts Bay. There are a few minor changes to the 2nd XV Fixtures, whose League - along with the Hatters - has been "re-branded" following the collapse of Canterbury's European operations. They now play in the Rugby Tech League.

As previously reported, we are not running a Development XV this season, but expect to bring on some exciting talent in the 2nd XV as the season progresses.

Also, the list shows the Slingbacks hosting Welsh on Sun 27th. They've had an offer from Richmond though to play them and Welsh on Sat 26th at Richmond in 2 shortened round-robin type matches ahead of the Richmond v Rosslyn Park men's fixture. We're waiting to hear back from Welsh on whether they're up for that. If Welsh aren't keen we'll be honouring the fixture with them at home on the Sunday.

Coaching clinic

&

Kicking Masterclass

Steve Kearns will again be running the popular Coaching Clinic and Kicking Masterclass (which features tuition from Richard Mahony).

Kicking Masterclass – 25th Aug – 10am-3.45pm. £45 (inc Ball and Kicking Tee)

Coaching Clinic 26th- 28th Aug and 1st Sept – 10am -3pm short pres attached. All are welcome so drop me an email to sign up. £25 per day.

Visit www.rosslynpark.co.uk or speak to Kearnsy for full details

1st XV FIXTURES SEASON 2009- 2010

National 2 South	
Aug 15	A Bedford (P)
18	H Civil Service (P)
29	A Blackheath (P)
Sep 5	H Clifton
12	A Barnes
19	No fixture
26	A Richmond
Oct 3	H Lydney
10	A Barking
17	H Canterbury
24	A Dings Crusaders
31	H Ealing Trailfinders
Nov 7	A Bridgwater & Albion
14	H Shelford
21	No fixture
28	H Henley Hawks
Dec 5	A Worthing Raiders
12	H Southend
19	A Westcombe Park
Jan 2	H Barnes
9	No fixture
16	H Richmond
23	A Lydney
30	H Barking
Feb 6	No fixture
13	A Canterbury
20	H Dings Drusaders
27	A Ealing Trailfinders
Mar 6	H Bridgwater & Albion
13	A Shelford
20	No fixture
27	A HenleyHawks
Apr 3	H Worthing Raiders
10	A Southend
17	H Westcombe Park
24	A Clifton

(P) indicates Practice match

2nd FIXTURES SEASON 2009- 2010

RugbyTech League - Division 1	
Aug 18	H Reading Abbey (P)
29	A Blackheath (P)
Sep 5	A Chinnor (F)
12	A Staines (F)
19	A Glamorgan Wanderers (C1)
26	H Barking (C1)
Oct 3	H London Welsh (C1)
10	A Southend (C1)
17	A Richmond (C1)
24	A Esher (C1)
31	H Ealing (C1)
Nov 7	A Plymouth Albion (C1)
14	H Launceston (F)
21	H Henley (F)
28	H London Scottish (C1)
Dec 5	A Blackheath (C1)
12	TBA
19	A London Welsh (C1)
Jan 2	TBA
9	H Southend (C1)
16	H Richmond (C1)
23	H Esher (C1)
30	A Ealing (C1)
Feb 6	TBA
13	H Plymouth Albion (C1)
20	A Barking (C1)
27	A Launceston (F)
Mar 6	A London Scottish (C1)
13	H Blackheath (C1)
20	TBA
27	H Glamorgan Wanderers (C1)
Apr 3	No fixture (Easter)
10	
17	
24	

(C1) Indicates Canterbury League Div1match

(F) Indicates Friendly

(P) indicates Practice match

Slingbacks

Sep 5	H	Teddington (F)
12	A	Old Albanians (F)
27	H	London Welsh (F)
Oct 04	A	Aylesford
25	H	Thurrock
Nov 01	A	Harlequins
08	H	Blackheath
22	H	Romford & Gidea Pk
29	A	Wasps II
Jan 02	H	Wimbledon (F)
10	A	Thurrock
17	H	Harlequins
24	A	Blackheath
31	H	Old Albanians (F)
Feb 07	H	Reading (F)
14	H	Aylesford
21	A	Wimbledon (F)
Mar 07	A	Romford & Gidea Pk
14	H	Reading (F)
Mar 28	H	Wasps II

Slingbacks Too

Oct 04	A	Bracknell
25	H	Newbury
Nov 01	A	Farnborough
08	H	Hitchin
22	H	Tabard
29	A	Kilburn Cosmos
Jan 10	A	Newbury
17	H	Farnborough
24	A	Hitchin
Feb 14	H	Bracknell
Mar 07	A	Tabard
28	H	Kilburn Cosmos

Hatters

RugbyTech League Div 4		
05/09/2009	TRIAL	
12/09/2009	A	O.Wimbledon Ram A
19/09/2009	A	Kew Away
26/09/2009	A	London Scots Dev 2
03/10/2009	A	O.Hamptonians 1
10/10/2009	H	London Irish Ams
17/10/2009	A	Chobham
24/10/2009	H	Old Paulines?
31/10/2009	A	Staines
07/11/2009	H	London Cornish
14/11/2009	A	Ruislip
28/11/2009	H	Haywards Heath
05/12/2009	A	A Dorking 2
12/12/2009	A	London Irish Ams
19/12/2009	H	Cobham
09/01/2010	A	Old Paulines?
16/01/2010	H	Staines
23/01/2010	A	London Cornish
30/01/2010	H	Ruislip
13/02/2010	A	A Haywards Hth
20/02/2010	H	H L.Scots
06/03/2010	H	H Kew
27/03/2010	A	S&E 3
10/04/2010		TBA
17/04/2010	A	Kilburn XV

4th XV

Midlesex. Merit 1		
05/09/2009	TRIAL	
12/09/2009	H	O.Ampleforth
19/09/2009	H	Ham&Ful 2
26/09/2009	A	Back Baa Baas H
03/10/2009	H	Ealing Cougars
10/10/2009	H	London NZ 2
17/10/2009	H	Civil Service 2
24/10/2009	A	London Scots 4
31/10/2009	H	Ldn. Welsh Occ's
28/11/2009	A	Ham&Ful 2
05/12/2009	H	Black Baa Baas
12/12/2009	A	Ealing

19/12/2009	H	O.Priorians U23
09/01/2010	H	Merlin Int
16/01/2010	A	London NZ 2
23/01/2010	A	Civil Service 2
30/01/2010	H	London Scots 4
20/02/2010	A	Ldn. Welsh Occ's
06/03/2010	H	Merlin Int
27/03/2010		MMT semifinal
10/04/2010		final MMT
17/04/2010	H	Esher 4
24/04/2010		

B XV

Midlesex. Merit 2		
05/09/2009	TRIAL	
12/09/2009	A	Esher 5
19/09/2009	H	Chiswick 2
26/09/2009	A	B of Eng. 2
03/10/2009	H	Ham&Ful 3
10/10/2009	H	Imperial College
17/10/2009	H	Grasshoppers 2
24/10/2009	A	Imp. Med's 2
31/10/2009	H	Old Priorians
28/11/2009	A	Chiswick 2
05/12/2009	H	B of Eng. 2
12/12/2009	A	Ham&Ful 3
19/12/2009	A	L.Cornish 4
09/01/2010	H	Esher 5
16/01/2010	A	Imperial College
23/01/2010	A	Grasshoppers 2
30/01/2010	H	Imp. Med's 2
20/02/2010	A	Old Priorians
06/03/2010	A	O.Oundle 2
27/03/2010		MMT semifinal
10/04/2010		MMT final
17/04/2010	H	L.Cornish 4

Nomads

Midlesex. Merit 3		
05/09/2009	TRIAL	
12/09/2009	H	Esher 6
19/09/2009	H	Grasshoppers 3
26/09/2009	A	London Scots 5
03/10/2009	H	Ham&Ful 4
10/10/2009	A	Old Actonians 2
17/10/2009	A	Quins Am 2
24/10/2009	H	Old Hamptons 2
31/10/2009	A	Ealing 4
28/11/2009	A	Grasshoppers 3
05/12/2009	H	Lodon Scots 5
12/12/2009	A	Ham&Ful 4
19/12/2009		TBA
09/01/2010	A	Esher 6
16/01/2010	H	Old Actonians 2
23/01/2010	H	Quins Am 2
30/01/2010	A	Old Hamptons 2
20/02/2010	H	Ealing 4
06/03/2010	A	Chiswick 2
27/03/2010		MMT semifinal
10/04/2010		MMT final
17/04/2010	A	- Old Isleworth

Park Bench

Surrey Vets Div 1		
26/09/2009	H	Esher
03/10/2009	A	Richmond
17/10/2009	H	Farnboro
31/10/2009	A	Esher
07/11/2009	H	L.Welsh
14/11/2009	A	Farboro
05/12/2009	H	Barnes
09/01/2010	H	Ealing
23/01/2010	H	Richmond
13/02/2010	A	Ealing
06/03/2010	H	Weybridge
27/03/2010	A	L.Welsh
10/04/2010	A	Barnes
17/04/2010	A	Weybridge