

PARKNEWS



The E-magazine for Rosslyn Park supporters Thursday 23rd September 2009 - Issue 123

CHANGES AT THE TOP

Club Chairman, John Adair, has written to Members announcing changes in Personnel, and in the way the Club's Management is organised. In summary, the changes address head-on the problems of thriving in an increasingly competitive and commercial environment whilst remaining a Members' Club. John would have liked to ensure that Members were told before everybody else but, especially with the present problems in the postal service, this Parknews will be published before the letters arrive, but these will be more detailed.

John says that, "Shaun Justice has been appointed Managing Director, reporting directly to the Chairman. His responsibilities will now cover all day-to-day commercial and operational aspects of Rosslyn Park, including the development of Rugby at the Club at all levels. John said, "Shaun has clearly demonstrated that he can deliver results on the pitch. Now, with his excellent management skills and his desire for the Club to succeed, Shaun will be responsible for building a team that will deliver that day-to-day platform and service that our members expect".

Change of Structure

There is also a substantial change in the structure of our day-to-day management. The existing structure dates from a Club being run entirely by volunteers, many of whom would form a Committee with sub-Committees co-ordinating various areas of activity. However, we are now effectively a substantial small business and the way we operate needs to reflect that, competing in a challenging market-place whilst providing a level of service that our members and other "customers" have a right to expect.

As the Chairman puts it, "The Club must take responsibility for its own destiny and ensure that it can fund and provide that platform both now and in the future as it succeeds and grows. Further sponsorship and investment will only come if the Club is seen to drive and control its own commercial well-being".

To meet those challenges, the Club has formed a "Commercial Advisory Board" to ensure that it does indeed control its own



Shaun Justice: now Managing Director of Rosslyn Park FC

financial destiny and can finance the platform that Shaun and his team will need. This Board is responsible for ensuring that the Club is as commercial as it can be in everything that it does from rugby, to events, to investments and sponsorship.

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John Adair: "The Club must take responsibility for it's own destiny"

Saturday 26 September
Richmond v 1st XV

National 2 South
Away, KO 3:00PM

2nd XV v Blackheath 2nd
The Shield Division 1
Home, KO 1:00PM

London Scottish v Hatters
The Shield, Division 4
Away KO 3:00PM

Black Baa Baas v 4th XV
Middlesex Merit Table 1
Away, Richmond Park, KO 3:00 PM

Bank of England v B XV
Middlesex Merit Table 2
Away, KO 3:00 PM

London Scottish v Nomads
Middlesex Merit Table 3
Away, KO 3:00 PM

Sunday 27 September
Slingbacks v London Welsh
Home, Friendly, KO2:30PM

The Clubhouse is open from about 5:00PM for training on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Come along for a drink and catch up with the latest gossip.

2s WIN IN CARDIFF

Glamorgan Wanderers 2nd 10

Rosslyn Park 2nd 40

RugbyTech Shield 1

By Robert Boulwood

Conditions were bright, sunny and warm in Cardiff as Park took on a side that has always proven to be strong in the Shield (formerly the Canterbury Shield). Park played good, barn storming, inter-linking rugby throughout the match, with Adam Gates scoring just four minutes in, the conversion missed by Dylan Pugh.

Dylan Pugh added a penalty to the score seven minutes later, 0:8. Other scorers were; 20 mins: Alex Cadwallader (Try); 22 minutes: Dylan Pugh (Penalty); 29 minutes: Paul Unsel (Try). With a penalty for Glamorgan, the half time score stood at Glamorgan 3: Rosslyn Park 21.

The second half saw Alex Cadwallader scoring his second try after two minutes, converted by Pugh. Ten minutes later and Glamorgan scored their one, deserved, try of the match. The score now 10: 28.

Roy Turner scored twice, seventy minutes in with a conversion by Dylan Pugh, then after seventy-six minutes a try from a cross kick to make the final score Glamorgan Wanderers 2s 10 Rosslyn Park 2s 40.

This Saturday the 2s take on Blackheath 2s in a friendly at the Rock, kick off at 1pm so that coaches and spectators can travel to Richmond to watch the 1st XV.

Andy Ripley

If there's one query that we get more than any other, it is, "how is Andy Ripley doing?" As it happens, the Chairman had a long chat with him this week, and Rips was chuffed that people are thinking about him – he is in the middle of a serious programme of chemotherapy and apart from feeling tired, he says that he is well and in good form. John has invited him to lunch at the Lydney game on 3rd October: Rips is hoping to make it, but has a chemo session booked shortly before that and so may leave it until the Canterbury match on 17th October if he's feeling a bit woosy. We're sure everyone reading Parknews - and indeed the whole world of Rugby Union - will be wishing Andy all the best and beaming positive thoughts in his direction.

Congratulations

Congratulations are due to Shaun Justice who chalked up a winning match of his own last weekend. He proposed to girlfriend Jo and she replied in the affirmative. On behalf of the whole Club we wish them every happiness for their future together.

Can you offer a lift?

Long time Park supporter Simon Woods has had the misfortune to break both his feet and is currently pretty well immobile. He'd love to hear from any Park supporter in north London who might be able to offer him a lift to home matches until he's up and around. Any offers to news@rosslynpark.co.uk and we'll pass them on.

BEER FESTIVAL 10 OCTOBER

50p off your first pint with this flyer

The Rosslyn Park Slingbacks Present...



Parktoberfest

The Second Annual Rosslyn Park Beer Festival

Come along for a day of fine ales, fruity ciders and live music and let the Slingback women help you find the perfect pint to tantalise your taste buds.

Rugby, beer and music - What more could you ask for?

Saturday 10th October 2009

Doors open midday

Location: Rosslyn Park Rugby Club,
Priority Lane,
Upper Richmond Road,
Richampton, London, SW15 5JH

Nearest Train Station: Barnes
Nearest Tube Station: East Putney
Bus 337 from Clapham Junction or Richmond

www.rosslynpark.co.uk

Brewing over with excitement

The second annual Rosslyn Park Beer Festival, "Parktoberfest", looks set to be even bigger than last year. With live music from bluesy rock band The Grizzlies timed to kick off just when the beer has started to get those feet a-tapping and a DJ to finish off the evening's entertainment, the Slingback's are pulling out all the stops. This year also sees a choice of ciders added to the festival mix and with the Park women on hand to provide taster information we really should be able to find the perfect beverage for you.

So, how about celebrating a Park victory with a pint of Bateman's "Good Honest Ale" or maybe challenge your mates to try Triple FFF's "Pressed Rat and Warthog"? Or, why not just come on down to see what other tasty surprises the Slingback ladies have in store.

Admission is free and the beer will be flowing from 12pm to 11pm.

Parktoberfest:

Saturday 10th October

Rugby, beer and music – what more could you ask for?

BRIGHT START FOR NOMADS

Nomads 62

Grasshoppers 3rd (+Hatters!!) 5

Middlesex Merit Table 3

by Guy House

This sat was our first league game of the season, and given that we all spent our Friday evenings at home carbo-loading and taking an early kip, the team looked surprising perky at 1.55pm on the Saturday. Our preparations were typically nomadic and were it not for a ten minute reprieve by a rather casual (but equally good) referee, our warm up would have been limited to the plentiful 3 1/2 minutes we'd allocated ourselves. To highlight the referee's laissez-faire attitude towards the game, his response to my question of "Would you like to speak to the front row?", consisted of the following: "No it's fine, they look like they've played a few games before, look at his face (points at Dochers)..."

As it turned out, the ten minutes (300%) extra warm up suited us, as we came flying out of the blocks against what we had thought would be a well drilled team (even if they had turned up with 14 men). This assumption turned out to me a grave misunderstanding and it was with some beautiful free flowing attacks that we soon found ourselves in double figures. Although the conditions were perfect for running rugby, the front five spent the first half toying with opposition scrum like a Flaming Escargot to three underage Maltese Ladies / Girls/ Children... The same can't be said for their fly half, who had a penchant for said escargot and keenly handed him his very own portion of smash pie. This didn't slow us down, in fact we pushed harder and surprisingly we found running up the hill less difficult than usual, notching up points for fun and at one point scoring from the kick off with 5 passes and 0 tackles. Seeing the Grasshoppers line up for the kick off before the conversion had been taken was more than a satisfying sight, but one which we weren't to see repeated as the half time whistle soon came along.

At the turn the tide was definitely in our favour, as we were to play downhill and with the oppo taking two Hatters on board, they couldn't have dangled us a larger carrot! However they had also suffered in the front row and we had little choice but to accept uncontested scrums. This seemed to really benefit the Grasshoppers as for the first time in over 50 minutes they had their first clean ball. With this came a slight period of slack defence and laziness, something that we are all keen to stamp out, and their only five points of the game as their only playmaker took a quick tap penalty and dodged over the line. At 41 - 5 this only brought more determination, and although a number of knocks had been suffered we pushed on and ran over three more great tries, including a delicious rolling maul and the backs continued to rip through their defence for fun. The final whistle came, with 62 - 5 the final score.

As far as man of the match is concerned, this week was particularly tough, with no stand out plays/f\$ckups to mention. The pack's early domination should not be forgotten, as 62 - 5 could easily have been worse had they kept scrummaging. And it is also hard to forget the searing pace and skill that the backline showed to notch up the points. With that in mind we have two, one from either department: Josh for his continued aerial dominance in the line out as well as being part of a brutal front five; and Nobes for some brilliant link up play and runs that could have merited more than 1 try on any other day.

All in all great game guys, the call out for next weeks away game in Richmond against London Scottish.

Team: Dale, Wooney, Teddy/Bill, Moff, Josh, Ploppy, Paul, Matt Mck, Matt T, House, Dochers, Lloyd, Jules, Ed, Nobes, Cookie.

Score: 62 - 5

Tries: Matt T, Nobes, Lloyd, Jules, House x 2, Matt Mck x 2, Bracken x 2; **Cons:** House x 6.

The previous weekend, the Nomads warmed up with a Friendly match against Esher....

Nomads 60

Esher VI 22

Friendly

by Guy House

This season started in typical Nomads fashion with some quality pre-season training, followed by a well organised, and lengthy, pre match warm-up routine and a rampaging win...

Given the change in leadership, these match reports are also likely to have a change in tack, with more reference to notable cock-ups/acts of brilliance, than reference to each individual. This is largely down to Lapin spending half of the game with his head snuggled between pounds of soft flesh and the fact that I'm clearly not old enough to have a developed dorsolateral prefrontal cortex; hence my cognitive functions, particularly short term memory, are vastly sub-par.

On that point it is worth noting the first two 'acts of brilliance' came from the VC and Gaffer himself. The game was kicked off with in spectacularly poor fashion, and after a few phases House was put through a gap with little to do other than ground the ball. Instead he found it necessary to 'Do a Kobe Bryant' and slam-dunk (drop) the ball rather than accept the early 5 point advantage. This mistake was to look all the more costly as we soon found ourselves 10-12 down and scrapping for possession against a team with vastly more training time under their belts. Having brought ourselves back into contention thanks to some ferocious tackling by the forwards, and slick/unselfish handling in the backs, our captain found himself in the unlikely situation of having only 20 metres of vacant space between himself and the try line. Having, only moments before, spoken about the need to pass before the tackle in order to prevent hitting the hard ground, Lapin decided not to take heed of his own advice and in trying to fend off a chasing opponent, fell and dislocated his elbow. Cracking stuff.

With the short rest that followed came a welcome dash of aqua, and a chance for us to breath, compose ourselves and up our game. With the thought of Lapin now actually able to lick his elbow, we pulled together and ex skipper Bracken got on the score sheet for what was to be the first of a well deserved hat-trick. Moments later Steve made a cracking break from inside centre and with only the full back to beat decided to chip and go. The decision was fine, the execution on the other hand resembled Anne Widdecombe attempting the Can-Can!

At half time we were thankful the next 40 minutes were to be downhill, and it was not before too long that our quality really started to show with some great breaks from the backs, preceded by some excellent scrapping in the loose. At one point (this is on video) Eoin ran 50 yards before thinking that running like a banana would in some way shake off the defence. Instead it confuse everyone, including himself, and he opted to pass to a marked man than pass to any one of a plethora of open supporting players. This, however, was over shadowed a strong contender for try of the season. With the ball shipped out in our own 22, Danny and Murray took it upon themselves to single handily destroy 5 opposition defenders in no less than 3 yards of space. Quality work.

With the ground as tough as it was to play on, many of us were never going to be in the right frame of mind to tackle low. However a big pat on the back must go to all of the forwards who toughed it out and came away with the cuts galore as it was always going to suit the running game. Matt put in a particularly resolute performance, and new boys Murray and Danny (who somehow managed not to score??!) showed great technical ability throughout. Man of the match could go to stalwarts Bracken or the Mighty Moff, for numerous tries and tackles respectively, but given the awful touch finding pass by Ed, Moff nicks it! Cheers also for the support, nice to see Alan's found a running position that suits him ;)

Overall a great start to the season, aside from Lapin's knock, see you all next Saturday..

Team: Dale, Gyte, Bill, Moff, Josh, Lapin, Matt Mck, Michiel, Nobes, House, Steve, Martin, Eoin, Danny, Murray, Teddy, Ed.

Tries: Martin, House, Eoin, 2 x Murray, 2 x Nobes, 3 x Bracken. Con-

From front page...

Joining Shaun, Pete Curry (Club Treasurer) and John Adair (Chairman) on this Board are three other members. Firstly, Simon Tindall, who after a long and successful career in Publishing, has been the principal sponsor for the Club in the last few seasons and without whose generosity we simply would not be playing the level of rugby that we play today. Simon has been a life-long supporter of Park with his Grandfather playing for the Club in the mid 1880's. Secondly, Donnie Masters. Donnie has been heavily involved in the Club over the last five years and in particular in the development and coaching of our very successful Minis division. Donnie brings to the table a wealth of commercial experience after 25 years in the film business where he owns his own production company, Serious Pictures. And finally, Jim Turley. Jim, like Donnie, has been very involved in the development and coaching of our Minis for a number of years. Jim has over 20 years experience in the City and was a Managing Director on the Investment Banking Board at Deutsche Bank. Initially, Jim will also be helping Shaun with his new responsibilities.

It should be emphasised that Rosslyn Park remains a Members' Club, and there is no proposal to change that. The elected Committee remains in overall charge of our affairs. But to be successful in a very competitive environment we cannot leave the operational decision making within the Club to a structure dependent upon Committee meetings. We cannot pay people to do a professional job, only to have a sub-committee second guessing them. This is a radical departure for Rosslyn Park, and doubtless people will wish to take some time to digest the news, but – as always – the columns of Parknews are open to anyone who wishes to comment.

Last weekend's Matches

The 2nd XV had a great League win away to Glamorgan Wanderers last Saturday: Robert Boulwood's brief match report is on Page 2.

Will Thorogood reports mixed success for the Club sides on Saturday. "A win for the Nomads (62-5) against G'hoppers 3's, in hot and humid conditions in Richmond Park. A one-sided affair, with the Nomads showing their form from last season. G'hoppers did make a better fist of it in the second half. A draw for the 4's, on the main pitch (12-12) against H&F 2's. I did not see the game, but H&F scored a try in the last minutes of the game to equalize. An old and repeated story. I'm told that it should have been our game, but for a couple of missed penalties! A loss, in Richmond Park (same meteorological conditions as the Nomads on the next pitch) for the B's against Chiswick 2's (19-56). A good competitive match, with the B's trailing only 19-14 at half time. I think the B's lack of match practice/fitness and Chiswick's better cohesiveness (they train), was the difference. Nick Jones is, however, optimistic about the B's campaign with the squad they have. Thanks to the physios for their help. Their presence is always reassuring!"

Unfortunately, the Bench and Hatters ended up not playing. Thanks to those Hatters who helped out the B's, and Grasshoppers.

This Weekend

The 1st XV face a tough test on Saturday when they visit Richmond at the Athletic Ground. The players will certainly need no reminding that this is one of only four League fixtures we lost last year. Richmond started their campaign with two really difficult fixtures: away to Dings (where they pocketed a bonus point in a narrow defeat) and at home to Ealing. Last Saturday saw them pile up five tries in a 44-3 away demolition of Bridgwater & Albion. Having picked up a couple of bonus points, something Park have thus far failed to do, Richmond are only 2 points adrift of us.

It goes without saying that your vocal support would be much appreciated, so do please come along to cheer the lads. The 2nd XV are playing Blackheath at home,

kicking off at 1:00PM so you can take in most of that match first should you wish.

Park are currently on of only three unbeaten sides in our division, Barking and Ealing being the others and those two sides clash at Barking this weekend.

These notes are obviously being drawn up before Thursday evening's training session, but Park will definitely be without prop Steve Millard who broke his arm in the Barnes match and will be out for a few weeks as a result.

On Sunday, the Slingbacks would be really grateful for your support when they have a home Local Derby against London Welsh.

Gridiron Football comes to Park

The annual American Football extravaganza at Wembley Stadium takes place on 24th October when Tampa Bay take on New England. The day before - while Park are playing at Dings Crusaders - our own ground will stage a "warm up" match with the British American Football League putting out a team against the Danish national side. Please be assured that the issues of potential damage to the pitch and removing the pitch markings afterwards have been addressed! Advance apologies to anyone inconvenienced by this, but the hire fee involved makes this a real "no brainer" for the club. More details to follow.

The Scrum

Andy Rowley and Sara Orchard present "The Scrum" tonight at 9pm on 94.9FM when they will be looking ahead to a host of London derbies. Esher first team manager David Page joins the team in the studio to look ahead to their local battle against London Scottish, a game National One leaders Esher are hoping will be a sell out. There is a massive game in the Guinness Premiership as table topping London Wasps go to in-form London Irish who have run in eleven tries in their last two games. We look ahead to that game with the help of Mike Catt and Tom Vardell. Barking lead the way in National Two South and face a big test against unbeaten Ealing while there is another local affair in South West London as Richmond welcome Rosslyn Park. Can't listen live or missed an episode, why not Listen Again at The Scrum webpage:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/london/content/articles/2006/09/01/rugby_night_feature.shtml

Or download the new London Rugby Union podcast from Friday morning at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/lru>

National 2 South

	P	Home			Away			F	A	Bonus			Pts
		W	D	L	W	D	L			Diff	Try	Loss	
Barking	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	108	32	76	2	0	14
Clifton	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	79	63	16	2	1	11
Ealing	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	82	35	47	2	0	10
Dings Crusaders	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	65	66	-1	2	0	10
Canterbury	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	69	81	-12	1	0	9
Rosslyn Park	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	48	27	21	0	0	8
Westcombe Park	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	52	50	2	0	0	8
Southend	3	1	0	0	0	1	1	61	53	8	0	1	7
Richmond	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	83	64	19	1	1	6
Worthing	3	1	0	1	0	0	1	57	63	-6	0	2	6
Henley	3	1	0	1	0	0	1	65	75	-10	1	0	5
Barnes	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	43	64	-21	0	0	4
Lydney	3	0	0	1	0	0	2	60	99	-39	0	2	2
Shelford	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	42	91	-49	0	0	2
Bridgwater & Albion	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	16	67	-51	0	0	0

This weekend's matches:

Barking	v	Ealing
Barnes	v	Worthing
Canterbury	v	Dings Crusaders
Clifton	v	Southend
Lydney	v	Bridgwater & Albion
Richmond	v	Rosslyn Park
Shelford	v	Westcombe Park
Henley	not playing	

