

PARKNEWS



The E-magazine for Rosslyn Park supporters Wednesday 21st October 2009 - Issue 127

9-TRY PARK ARE SUPERB

Welcome to another Parknews. What a difference a week makes! Following a poor display at Barking the question was whether Park could bounce back or if the defeat would dent their confidence. They answered with a scintillating display of committed, attacking rugby that left no doubt as to their desire to challenge for the title. It was the stuff to bring the crowds flocking back to the Rock.

But in the same way that defeat at Barking was not carried into Saturday's match with Canterbury, this superb display will count for nothing in Bristol next Saturday when Park kick off against Dings Crusaders. Dings are a formidable proposition on their own sloping pitch and with passionate west country support behind them. Only another performance of absolute intensity will be enough to set things up for yet another major home game when Ealing come visiting on Saturday week.

It goes without saying that your vocal support at Dings would be very much appreciated by the players. The nearest station to the ground is Filton Abbey Wood (local service from Bristol Temple Meads) but if you don't fancy changing trains then Bristol Parkway is nearer than Temple Meads. If you're travelling by car it's Landseer Avenue, Lockleaze, BS7 9YS. Take the M4 and M32, leaving the latter for the B4058 (Stapleton Road) at Junction 2. At the following roundabout it's the third exit (Muller Road) and then right into Downend Road, left into Dovercourt Road, right into Lockleaze Road onto Constable Road and finally left into Landseer Avenue. If you look at a local map, there are several ways to achieve the last mile or so, but beware of one-way streets.

The next generation playing at The Rock this Saturday 2.00pm & 3.00pm kick offs

A chance to watch what currently constitutes 'work in progress' on the Rosslyn Park youth production line this Saturday at the Rock as both our successful U14 teams are playing against teams from the renowned Irish & Munster rugby factory, **Presentation Brothers College** (alumni include, amongst others Kiernan, Stringer, O'Gara & Horgan)
Continued back page....



Marc Sweeney leads another Park assault on the Canterbury line [Photo David Whittam]

Saturday 17th October
Dings Crusaders v 1st XV
National 2 South
Away, KO 3:00PM

Esher 2nd v 2nd XV
RugbyTech Div 1
Away, KO 1:00PM

London Scottish 4th v 4th XV
Middlesex Merit Table 1
Away, Kick off 3:00PM

Imperial Medics 2nd v B XV
Middlesex Merit Table 2
Away, KO 3:00PM

Nomads v Old Hamptonians 2nd
Middlesex Merit Table 3
Richmond Park, KO 3:00PM

Sunday 18th October
Slingbacks v Thurrock
Championship 2
Home: KO 2:30PM

Slingbacks Too v Newbury
League, Richmond Park, KO: TBA

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.

Saturday 31st October
Could this Local Derby also be a promotion decider?

Rosslyn Park
v
Ealing
National League 2 South
Kick off 3:00PM

PARK ANSWER QUESTIONS

Rosslyn Park 70
Canterbury 19
National 2 South



James Strong slices through the defence to score [David Whittam]

If the performance at Bark-ing the previous Saturday had raised a few searching questions about Rosslyn Park's title credentials, then this 9-try demolition of Canterbury - a place above Park before the match - surely answered them. Playing with almost relentless intensity, had they not presented the visitors with two soft late tries towards the end then the victory would have been even more emphatic.

Park started in top gear and simply tore the visitors to shreds with both power and panache. Two early scrummages saw the visiting pack shunted rapidly backwards. A penalty was soon conceded for fly half

Ross Laidlaw to kick his team into an early lead.

Some superb rugby, from out of their own half, brought Park close to the try-line. Having forced a scrumage they tried to peel off; that was thwarted but Laidlaw put through a shrewd grubber kick and Billy O'Driscoll pounced on the ball to score. Laidlaw's conversion made it 10-0 after only 6 minutes.

Consistent pressure drew a penalty to allow the fly half to stretch the lead to 13-0. A good attack up the left by Chris Simmons was only stopped at the cost of another penalty. This was kicked to the corner where the pack drove on for Chris Ritchie to use his immense power to score, Laidlaw's boot stretching the lead to 20-0.

Still throwing everything at the Kent side, Adam Jones looked like setting up a score, but for a last ditch tackle which saw him pass forward when over the line. From the 5 metre scrum his fellow lock, Howard Quigley, forced his way over, Laidlaw adding the extras for 27-0 after only 28 minutes.

Irrepressible Park were straight back and a penalty out wide saw visiting centre Robinson dispatched to the sin bin. This was the cue for speedy winger James Strong to bag a brace of tries in two minutes. The first came after consistent pressure, the winger popping up in the centre to run a superb line to score a try that also delivered a bonus point. The second was even better, some outstanding quick handling from the forwards sent him sprinting from half way. Two conversions from Laidlaw - the second an absolute peach from the touchline - made it 41-0.

Canterbury served notice that they had not surrendered all hope with their first venture into the home 22 just before the half time whistle. But a scoring rate above a point a

minute was a fair reflection of the home side's domination of every aspect of the game.

Park started the second half where they left off, with a massive maul, followed by a drive by Nick Huggett, but the move was undone by a knock on. The visitors showed they could play when allowed to, replying with a good forward drive of their own for replacement Goode to go over for 41-5 after 52 minutes.

On as a replacement, Jon Underwood's first touch was to catch the ball at the back of a lineout and launch a devastating charge at the Canterbury defence. Under pressure the defence knocked on, deliberately in the view of the referee, and so Dylan Pugh - on for Laidlaw - opened his account with 3 points for 44-5 after 56 minutes.

A mazy run by Ollie Lyndsey-Hague, making his debut in place of James Strong, led to some good work on the opposite wing where Simmons sent in Sweeney for a well-worked try, Pugh's conversion bringing up the half century at 51-5.

Park now seemed to be scoring at will: Adam Gates turned up on the right wing to bulldoze through three defenders and put down the ball out wide, giving Dylan Pugh a chance to demonstrate his kicking prowess with a great conversion for 58-5 after 66 minutes. Canterbury tried desperately to come back and restore some pride, but Park wrestled away possession and this time it was lock Jones who powered over to make it 63-5.

The visitors never gave up and when Park played fast and loose - with slightly too much emphasis on the loose - full back Faulkner spotted a gap and went for it, leaving a simple conversion for Gibson to make it 63-12.

But that only sent the home side into overdrive with a superb move down the left and, as the ball was passed inside, Mark Lock came on to it and powered over, Pugh's conversion taking the score to 70-12.

However, the visitors had the last say with further loose defence letting Canterbury centre Thomas skip round behind the posts for 70-19 after Gibson's simple conversion, the last kick of the match.

It is almost frightening to think that Park could even improve upon this performance. When they started to really throw the ball around they were looser defensively than they would like, and in their anxiety to secure possession they conceded far too many penalties for technical offences, though seldom within kicking range. However, with the bonus point system favouring try-scoring above all round excellence, this scintillating, high-intensity style will bring back the crowds and may well deliver the title - even if the occasional defensive lapse causes purists the odd shake of the head along the way.

Park: Simmons; Strong (Lindsey-Hague), Sweeney, O'Driscoll, Swords; Laidlaw (Pugh); Barr; Huggett, Ritchie (Lahiff), Collier; Quigley (Barratt), A Jones; Gates, Etheredge (Underwood), Lock.

Park scorers: Strong (2T), O'Driscoll (T), Ritchie (T), Quigley (T), Sweeney (T), Gates (T), A Jones (T), Lock (T), Laidlaw (2P, 5C), Pugh (P, 3C)



It's that man again - James Strong off-loads the ball [Photo: David Whittam]

2s TAME RICHMOND

Park 2nd 31
Richmond 2nd 22
RugbyTech Shield Div 1



Paul Unseld about to fire the after-burners [David Whittam]

Those who turned up early for the 2nd XV match on Saturday were treated to a real cracker. Park started much the better side but Richmond came back strongly enough to make a really good game of it. The match also served to underline just how much strength in depth we have. In addition to the familiar names of regular 1st XV players, there were players here who would give no cause for concern if they were called up for a vital 1st XV match.

A case in point was speedy winger Paul Unseld who bagged a

brace of tries, the second effort leaving 1st XV lock Adam Jones with sagging jaw, "Did you see it? How fast was that?". Unseld opened his account with – for him - a gentle run in after 9 minutes, Rhys Gosling adding the conversion for 7-0.

Skipper for the day Russ Forster, returning from injury, was a commanding presence in the second row along with Callum Duffield and Adam Slade, which may mitigate Howard Quigley's subsequent injury in the 1st XV match. Park enjoyed the lion's share of possession through a strong pack, but it was not until the 20th minute that they troubled the scorer again with a good try from Richard Davies, converted by Gosling. Park received an early blow when Doug Rodman got his hand badly cut (Rodman Senior had only just arrived, late, and parked the car when he had to go and get it again to ferry son and heir to Queen Mary's to get it stitched up).

Prior to the try, there were some fine footballing skills from Adam Blemings, catching the ball and delivering a pass with a speed and dexterity that most three-quarters would die for. There is a school of thought that says Adam still needs to bulk up a bit for a hooker, but he



does bring other attributes to the table and is probably unfortunate not to have had more opportunities. He might like a voodoo doll of Chris Ritchie for Christmas.

Richmond certainly didn't lie down and four minutes later grabbed a converted try of their own to narrow the gap to 14-7. At this point Unseld intervened with a solo try right out of the top drawer that was worth getting along early for on its own. Even if the final defender wasn't Usain Bolt he was completely left for dead.

The visitors, however, were in no mood to lie down and a converted try almost on the half time whistle saw them close the gap at 21-14 to set up an intriguing second half.

It didn't take long for Richmond to show they meant business, going in for a try (unconverted) in the second minute of the half. Park came back at them and, awarded a penalty in a kickable position, skipper Forster asked Gosling to kick the 3 points, which he duly did.

Four minutes later that lead increased through a try from outstanding prospect James Pedder, again Gosling adding the extras to stretch the lead to 31-19. But Park were not allowed to sit back on their lead as Richmond continued to make life difficult. They grabbed a further try on 62 minutes for 31-22, but Park never really looked like losing.

It was a very entertaining game with tremendous skills on display. It made your reporter heartily grateful that he isn't a selector because there were players here not so much hammering on the 1st XV door

as threatening to kick it in. Which is as it should be.

Park: Richard Davies; Paul Unseld, James Pedder, Matt Cannon, Lee McLaughlin; Rhys Gosling; Rhodri Needham; Chas Daw, Adam Blemings, Lee Green; Callum Duffield, Russ Forster (C); Adam Slade, Doug Rodman, Dan Mitchell.
Subs used: Brett Williams, Steve Kearns, Gareth Melling, Roy Turner, Charlie Thompson.

Subs not used: Tony Paul, Jon Lake, Leon Driscoll

Park scorers: Unseld (2T), Davies (T), Pedder (T), Gosling (P, 4C).



Rhodri Needham spins out a pass. Other Park players (l-r) Lee Green, Adam Slade and head showing only, Chas Daw [Photo: David Whittam]

Park Nomads 31

Hammersmith & Fulham IV 5

Middlesex Merit 3

By Lapin

The Nomads season rolls on with another well earned 31 - 5 victory at home against Hammersmith and Fulham 4s. In true Nomads style (something we should perhaps look to change) a significant proportion of the team was late and we arrived at the pitch just-in-time for kick-off against the red shirted H&F 4s. Given Bill's reputation for impromptu violence on the pitch, the ref decided to make Bill's life easier by insisting that the Nomads reverse their shirts to play in white. In a game where we struggled to assert our dominance in the scrum it was a good sign when the talismanic figure of Matt McKinnon crossed the line for the first score. Guy converted to add the extras.

Guy also sparked the attack that led to the second Nomads try. He looked to have over-committed himself, beating the H&F 10 but then got tangled up by the centers. He did manage to offload though and Matt P was able to finish. It has to be said while Guy was taking on the oppo back line on his own, Dochers was waiting patiently, if not quietly, his screams more reminiscent of pig being slaughtered than a center with about three and a half acres of space, however, the try was scored and House got the conversion.

The set plays continued to be troublesome, the wind, which almost made the conditions unplayable, was causing havoc with the lineouts. Credit to Big House and the front three who managed to secure a lot of not only our own ball, but also the oppos as well. Another break from Guy, who by this stage had realized that his opposite number had the tackling ability of an infant koala bear, allowed Eoin stretch his legs and score the Nomads next try. Guy was recovering from a knock on the head and former skipper and kicker Ed Bracken stepped up to take the conversion; even given the strong winds, when taking a conversion from inside the 22, landing it near the 10m line is some achievement.

In the second half it took a wonderful forward pass from Dochers to unleash Nobes under the posts and some great running from Gee, who had come on for the injured Pete, to get our fourth and fifth tries. The interludes between tries were filled with such highlights as Eoin's cataclysmic knock on after silky backs move, Nobes' great dummy down the line before passing the ball to the ground and Ed's lovely lineout to himself, which after collecting superbly he deftly glided a pass to approximately three meters behind the oncoming Nobes. My particular favourite came from a militant Bill on the sidelines, who after calling the H&F winger a 'waspy little tw*t!', or similar, ended up squaring up with him and it took the referee to intervene.

As the injury list lengthened and despite some stalwart defending, H&F did manage to pierce our try line. This was a real disappointment to a Nomads side who defended superbly most of the match. Man of the Match: As ever many contenders for this, Guy for his complete ownership of the oppo 10, Nobes for his jinking runs but, despite giving away a penalty for ferocious shoeing, his Battle of Britain RAF-like aerial dominance and for fantastic game in the tight which allowed the backs to unleash, Josh is this week's man of the match.

NOMADS: 1. Wooney, 2. House, 3. Tim (Bill), 4. Moff (Jim Doyle), 5. Josh, 6. Ship (JT), 7. Matt P, 8. Mck, 9. Matt T, 10. House, 11. Eoin, 12. Dochers, 13. Pete (Gee), 14. Ed, 15. Nobes

Tries: Matt McKinnon, Matt P, Eoin, Nobes, Gee Conversions: Guy 3/4, Ed 0/1

Old Actonians II 15

Park Nomads 24

Middlesex Merit 3

By Lapin

Not content with exerting our dominance on Middlesex Merit Table III with 15 men over the last few weeks, the Nomads took things to a new level this week for the top-of-the-table clash against the undefeated Old Actonians IIs. The 14 man Nomads side fought out a victory in a scrappy game which saw many people playing out of position. Due to a couple of last minute withdrawals from the squad we were left without a front row, which (ahem) has been the cornerstone of much of our success over the last two years. After a quick consult of the rules Guy's iPhone with the Actonian player masquerading as a referee, it was decided that the match could proceed with uncontested scrums, however, we would have to play with 14 men. Robbing a game of rugby by scrummaging is (in this prop's humble opinion) is like watching



Action from Nomads v Hammersmith & Fulham in Richmond Park

Girls Aloud perform without Cheryl Cole, Sarah Harding and the ginger one.

Due to our lack of scrum halves, we started with a makeshift back line with Guy at 9, Eoin at 10 and Jules stepping in to full back. The first half was characterized by a lack of intensity and a lot of kicking the ball away. Full credit to the 14 men on the pitch who never looked short staffed or outnumbered. Eoin was first to break the dead lock scoring from Lloyd's pass deep in the oppo 22.

A recurring theme for the match was the ferocious tackling from the 7 man pack. Ed Bailey and Matt P between them managed to be everywhere, disrupting the oppo rucks and securing our ball. I lost count of the number of times Matt McKinnon stole the ball out of the hands of some unfortunate Old Actonian – I am glad not to have grown up with the McKinnons, I cannot imagine winning any disputes over who got to play with the toys.

At half time we went for a bit of a rearrange, Jules moved up to 9 with Eoin returning to 15 and Guy to 10. Lloyd returned to his natural home in the pack and Robbie came on to the wing releasing Gee to cut his lines from the center of the park. The changes along with the revelation that the oppo supporters had been surprised at our first half performance, (expecting us to be much stronger) rallied the side and we came out for the second half with all 14 guns blazing. Suddenly with our fly half receiving quick clean ball we were able to unleash the backs with Gee and Ed Bracken causing constant problems. Gee got the next try, after some good kicking and nimble hands from the backs he was able to jink his way through the oppo defense who were superior only in numbers.

We did manage to go to sleep a little during the second half and our penalty count at the breakdown was higher than we would have liked. About the only strength of the oppo 10 was his enviable place kicking which was keeping them in the game, and mid way through the second half he gifted them the lead. (15-14)

We lost Michel, who had been playing out of position at hook to injury, and when the opposition wing managed to stamp on the head of Matt McKinnon who was lying, for a change innocently, on the wrong side of a ruck we lost Mck as well. Chris Keyworth made his Nomads debut coming on from Mck who looked like he had cleaned out harlequins favorite joke shop.

A final try from Guy from a quick penalty and another penalty at the death secured a hard earned victory in difficult circumstances. It is matches like this, with 14 men, away, with accumulated injuries which can define a season. Some other notable moments came from Ed Bracken's thundering runs down the touch line and Jules' darting breaks from the back of the ruck (which only occasionally resulted in him not getting smashed for his efforts!) Man of the Match: Another superb performance from the back row (where ever they were playing), some good work from Jules, Eoin and Guy when playing out of position but this week's man of the match – who kindly provided those of us on the sideline with his beautiful new wife for company – is Gee for terrorizing the oppo back line with fantastic lines and powerful running. *NOMADS: 1. Teddy, 2. Michel, 3. Moff (Bill), 4. Ed Bailey, 5. Paul (Chris K), 7. Matt P, 8. Mck, 9. House (Jules), 10. Eoin (House), 11. Ed, 12. Dochers, 13. Lloyd (Gee), 14. Gee (Robbie), 15. Jules (Eoin)* *Tries: Eoin, Gee, Guy Conversions: Guy 3/3 Penalties: Guy 1/1*

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM

Rosslyn Park U15s launch War Memorial Tour

On 22nd October 2009, Rosslyn Park's U15 Youth rugby team will kick off an exchange partnership with RCC Compiègne, site of the Armistice signing in France on 11th November 1918, writes Stephen Cooper. This first tour will honour the fallen members of both clubs, and launch an appeal for funds for a new War Memorial at Rosslyn Park.

In the Great War of 1914-18, rugby players were quick to join up and set a 'glorious example', with tragic results. This Club lost over 70 members, and 80+ wounded, a remarkably high toll of casualties. 350 members served in the War and decorations included 2 Victoria Crosses, 11 DSOs and 63 Military Crosses. Of the 30 players who took the field in the last rugby International of 1914, 11 were later killed, of which 3 – Harrison and Dingle for England and de Beyssac for France – were Rosslyn Park players



Since that era, Park has moved its ground and clubhouse to its present home in Roehampton, London. A lost generation of rugby-playing soldiers, sailors and airmen are remembered in their home towns, or where they fell on the field of battle, but they have no fitting memorial at the Club they represented on the sporting field. The website www.rugbyremembers.co.uk is already an online memorial, with recent stories posted of Guy du Maurier (who first played for Park in 1881 and died at 49 in 1915) and Alexander Findlater Todd, who played for 6 years and became a British Lion.

Almost a century later, we are launching an appeal to honour the memory of those Rosslyn Park fallen with a new clubhouse memorial. The team will visit the battlefields of the Somme and the Armistice clearing, play games against RC Senlis and host RC Compiègne – who lost 54 of 100 playing members - and will also be guests of owner Max Guazzini at the Stade Francais v Perpignan game at the Stade de France on October 24th where they will be

afforded a lap of honour in front of 80,000 spectators.

Future exchanges will build a lasting friendship between the two clubs and provide new chances for young French and English players to meet in some corner of a foreign field, enjoy a game of rugby, and remember those players who made the greatest sacrifice of all.

Please visit www.rugbyremembers.co.uk We hope that you will be touched by the story of these

brave young (and it seems, not so young) men who left the field of play never to return. Please consider becoming a supporter and help us ensure that they are not forgotten.

For more information Stephen Cooper enquiry@rugbyremembers.co.uk (but not this week please!)

The photo shows the 1882/83 Rosslyn Park side with Guy du Maurier at the front on the left.

NOSEY PARKER

What's in a name

I have been asked to submit a further column, though the long term future of it depends upon getting enough (printable) dirt on various luminaries. There was some response to last week's column. The item about Brian Lawrence inventing a phantom player to divert Peter Berryman's attention drew a query from former skipper Alex Milward. "What was the double barrel name? I probably picked him several times and fined him for no-shows!"

Landing strip

Carson Russell contacted Nosey Parker to remind our social correspondent of the time he assisted David Whittam in breaking the world record for a standing leap in the air while clutching a mobile phone. Carson had obtained a rather fetching light blue strip to be used as a change strip. For an away match at Esher, Carson was having this packed as a warm up kit. However, some ne'er-dowell had managed to convince David that the team was going to run out for the match wearing this kit. So animated was he about this breach of tradition that when he got through to the Club Secretary - in those days Bernard Wiggins - as soon as a helplessly unprepared Bernard answered his phone both David's feet actually both left the ground simultaneously.

Road rage

Carson's duties at Barnes often lead him to bump into the aforementioned Brian Lawrence. Brian keeps fit by regular walks around that area, though just occasionally Mr Lawrence has been known to use the same technique in order to cope with an industrial sized hangover. If - just for instance - he has done the line of barrels at the Slingbacks Beer Festival then gone on for a meal with Jim Willerton that entailed two bottles of chianti. It was on such an occasion that Carson recently encountered our hero. "He was trying to cross the road in Barnes, looking slightly uneasy as cars continued to turn at a corner opposite the Sun Inn and ignoring his intention to cross. I was in my White Van and in this queue to turn right. As I approached Brian I lowered my van window and shouted "Go on you old git, but hurry up". He obviously did not recognise me. He shuffled across the road apologising for how slow he is and saying thank you. The joke was on me then as I felt guilty about calling him an old git"

Nickname

My investigators have been sent out to discover why a prominent member of the 1st XV squad is now nicknamed "Crime" and what led to this charming epithet. For, as we all know, Crime doesn't pay. Anonymous tip offs will be respected.

From front page...

who are over on tour. Park member, BBC reporter and author **Fergal Keane** is the common link between the two



sides (indeed his son will be playing for Park). The Club hopes to be able to return the warm hospitality the U13's (as they then were) received when they visited Cork and played Pres last October. Both sides will train prior to the matches and the bar and catering facilities will be open from lunchtime onwards.

Please come and support the stars of the future on a rare Saturday outing at The Rock and enjoy the Craic!

For further details please contact either Gerry Manley (07973 834 535) or Martin Wallace (07836 531 005)

Sunday best

On Sunday the Slingbacks play their first home league match kicking off at 2:30, and it could hardly be tougher. Thurrock are a very strong, physical side who are probably favourites to take the / League title. The Park girls, though, are neer ones to shirk a challenge and they really would appreciate your vocal support for this important match.

Last Saturday

It wasn't just the first team who had a good win - the 2s put in a great show against Richmond - there's a report at page 3.

Clubsides

Will Thorogood reports that, "Generally, through the club, a good weekend. Including the 1's and 2's, only one loss out of 6, so statos amongst you, I think that's an 83.33% success rate! El Presidente must be getting more worried about that free barrel of Young's he will have to donate to us, if we, collectively, get to 100%!!

"Anyway, the Hatters went down to Chobham, in the RugbyTech 4 game, but, again, were pipped by one point, 6-7, in a game, I'm told, where we had 75% of the possession, but just could not cross the try line!

"4's played the Civil Service. A game of two halves, but at the end of the day, a result! They sped to a 21-0 lead by half time...our half! The second half was the "Red Tapers" with them, worryingly, working their way back to be within a score! In the end, the 4's held Service off to win 24-20. I think this leaves the 4's top of the table, currently!

"The B's kick-started their season with an 18-5 win against Grasshoppers. The first half was a stuttering, tetchy and "not pretty" affair. For the first half hour, it was pointless, nil-nil. The 2nd half saw more cohesion, despite a couple of cardings (yellow) for repeated infringements, and the B's came out 18-5 winners. Keep it going, gents!

"Nomads went to Harlequins Amateurs (tomato ketchupless), and through sweat and tears (no blood) came out 46-22 winners. Still unbeaten!! The last I heard, the boys were in the Union Bar of St. Mary's College, which has quite a quite few young ladies as students!"

National 2 South

Alas all our closest rivals for the title also won last weekend, though we made up a point on Clifton (thanks, Carson) and Barking, neither of whom got a bonus point. A win at Dings will see us overtake Clifton, as they are the side that don't play this weekend.

This weekend's matches:

Barking	v	Worthing
Canterbury	v	Henley
Dings Crusaders	v	Rosslyn Park
Ealing	v	Bridgwater & Albion

National 2 South

	Home			Away			Bonus			Diff	Try	Loss	Pts
	P	W	D	L	W	D	L	F	A				
Barking	7	4	0	0	3	0	0	226	85	141	4	0	32
Ealing	6	3	0	0	1	0	2	226	124	105	5	0	25
Clifton	7	3	0	0	2	0	2	165	140	25	3	2	25
Rosslyn Park	6	3	0	0	2	0	1	194	107	87	3	0	23
Canterbury	7	4	0	0	0	0	3	169	234	-65	3	0	19
Southend	6	3	0	0	0	1	2	147	118	29	2	2	18
Westcombe Park	6	2	0	0	2	0	2	113	111	0	0	0	16
Richmond	7	1	0	2	2	0	2	189	171	18	3	1	16
Worthing	6	2	0	1	1	0	2	114	128	-14	0	2	14
Lydney	7	2	0	1	0	0	4	153	179	-26	2	3	13
Dings Crusaders	7	1	0	3	1	0	2	142	187	-45	2	2	12
Shelford	7	1	1	1	1	0	3	123	186	-63	0	1	11
Barnes	7	0	0	3	1	0	3	100	148	-48	0	2	6
Bridgwater & Albion	6	1	0	3	0	0	2	72	174	-102	0	0	5
Henley	6	1	0	3	0	0	2	115	156	-41	1	0	3*

* The league table shows a deduction of 2 points for Henley in respect of a violation of the registration rules. It was reported in the media that – subject to appeal – Barking have been deducted 4 points for going to uncontested scrummages at Bridgwater, due to insufficient front row replacements. As Park would potentially benefit from such a penalty, one wants to be careful not to comment either way. However, readers should probably be made aware that Barking's appeal is based on the fact that this was apparently not a simple breach of the rules in terms of the number of front row replacements a club must have available. It would appear that when they needed to replace a second prop, the player sent on was normally a hooker and – after two or three scrummages had taken place – the referee concluded that he was not an adequate prop and that the game should go to uncontested scrummages for safety reasons. This was then reported as a breach of the rules. It is better to just await the outcome of the appeal.

Lydney	v	Southend
Richmond	v	Westcombe Park
Shelford	v	Barnes

Farewell to Simon

Last Saturday's match was Simon Etheredge's last for the Club, at least for the foreseeable future. Simon's wife has been offered a senior position over there and they have both decided that it is best to move. We wish him every happiness and success.

Put your shirt on it

If you liked the new second strip last Saturday week, whether disported by the 1st XV, who had to change at Barking, or rather more aesthetically pleasing by the Slingbacks at their Beer Festival, the shirts are now available in the kit shop as either orthodox rugby shirts or as a polo shirt. The shirts were originally provided to advertise the Rosslyn Park Injury Trust Fund but now anyone can pick them up at the Club Shop and they make a terrific present for Park supporters of either sex, or just treat yourself. Remember: a shirt is not just for Christmas.

Cullinary delights

We all knew that the Slingbacks can play rugby and serve beer, but their talents seem to know no bounds – they're about to become TV stars... on a cookery programme. They were filmed training for use in the show, which is to be called "Chefs Challenge".

The girls talked about their food preferences and the importance of nutrition for playing rugby. They were then served two meals from two different chefs. One was Mickael Weiss, Head Chef from Coq d'Argent and the other Frank Pontais (often in 'Ready Steady Cook' and Head Chef at Selfridges and Harrods in his time).

Julia Daffy said, "They cooked us a meal each using local ingredients they had been given. This included grayling fish and a different vegetable each. The food was fantastic but I have realised how many times food needs to be served for TV before you actually get it!"

The show was a pilot version and so probably will not take to the airwaves, but it will be shown on the Internet. We're not yet sure exactly when, but will let you know as soon as we do.