

PARKNEWS



The E-magazine for Rosslyn Park supporters Tuesday 22nd December 2009 - Issue 136

STOP PRESS: Unfortunately tonight's Under-20 match against Bedford Blues has had to be cancelled. Water has not drained from a heavily frosted pitch and Bedford are almost snow-bound, so it is sensible to call it off now.

Seasons Greetings



Welcome to Parknews. Not much activity at the weekend to report: with no matches being played in 2 South, so the League table looks exactly the same as last week. Our match at Westcombe Park has been re-scheduled for Saturday 6th February. However, the Under-20s managed to get in their match at Henley before the snows came (report page 2). The Editor is disappearing to somewhere marginally warmer for the next three weeks or so and there are a few upcoming events that deserve being /continued back page...

Photo by Pippa Rollitt

UNDER-20s SERVE XMAS TREAT

*A Christmas Tale **** Performance Rated: ***** Hark the Herald Angles Sing ***** Jingle Bells *** Silent Night ** Away in a Manger * In the Bleak Mid-winter*

Henley Under-20 12

Park Under-20 48

By David Hitchcock

Flakes glistened in the cold winter air. Lights in every corner glared. Characters from Christmas Past, in red and white took the field. They faced a green and yellow hoard determined to stifle entertainment and remove any chance of Christmas cheer.

In the opening 5 minutes Scrooge ensured that Christmas did not come early for this particular pantomime cast. The penalty count of 4 to zero kept the Hawks moving forward, delaying the start of the main event.

The "Big Man with Beard" in red and white has a lot to live up to at Christmas: he announced his appearance on stage with some full blooded dashes straight through the middle. The dwarves were shaken from their slumbers and the full company got "behind him". Just like plaintive misdirected cry at a Panto of "he's behind you", when there's no one actually there, Santa occasionally careered off without too much behind him. (Some dwarves were rumoured to have got stuck into some early Christmas - having told the old people they were studying in an attempt to better themselves in Credit Crunch Britain).

Unlike - divinity teachers around the globe who are eager at times of the nativity to encourage essays with lots of angels but rather fewer angles - Gaspar was calling for Gold and angles to be run off it.

So it came to pass that The Park machine progressed to within about 20 metres of the Henley line. Gaspar boomed: "Gold". Widow Twanky got herself involved with the 7 dwarves (Insert jokes concerning a lemon and lime soft drink and Snow White's sexual proclivities here), Santa moved himself to 10 and within a twinkle was being felled a couple of metres from the goal line. The dwarves were desperate to help the old man out and chivvied by Snow White the ball was recycled twice to the right before being quickly whipped left for Santa's Little Helper to ghost himself through for the first score. Buttons added the extras for a 7 point lead.

From the kick-off, The Hawks continued to make progress in the Park half but well organised defence and stout marking of the inside channel by Buttons kept them outside the 22. A number of well timed runs by Peter Pan, Prince Charming and Cinderella backed by incursions from Tinkerbell saw Park steadily move up field. Occasionally the ball was lost in contact but the resultant defensive tackling was robust and the dwarves led by the irrepressible Doc secured an increasing number of turn-overs and penalties for the men in red.

Whilst Hawks managed to secure at least 50% of the possession in the half - the sheer dogged determination of the Park players ensured that they finished the half, twenty points to the good, through further tries from Snow White (no small reward for his excellent marshalling of the forwards) and Santa's Little Helper. Buttons adding a penalty on the stroke of half time.

Widow Twanky left the field with a dodgy hammy just before time was called on the half - and with no further replacements to call on the cast was set for the duration of the second half.

The Hawks, to their credit, had not read the script and tore into the Park from the start. It is fair to say a number of the Park players had seen limited rugby in the past few weeks and whilst the heart was always willing, occasionally the body was not. For fully 20 minutes play was concentrated in the Park half. The defensive line held strong - but following a particularly robust move up the Park left, leaving 2 Park players (Prince Charming and Tinkerbell) on the turf, the Hawks eventually barreled over the line on the right. Worse was to come as Sleepy left the field with a troublesome ankle.

Park kicked-off with 13 players on the field but a characteristic selfless drive from The Big Man with the Beard secured good field position, the dwarves continued the progress ... the resultant penalty was kicked, 23-5 Park.

A few choice words from Gaspar saw the re-introduction of Sleepy, and both Prince Charming and Tinkerbell had recovered. Cue more sedate progress up the touchline. Following some excellent catch and drives, orchestrated by Grumpy and Happy, and taken on by Dopey and Sneezzy - Park were hammering the Henley line. Bashful eventually forced himself over and, but for the fact that he'd been shielded by Dopey, he would have scored a well-deserved try for the solid industry he'd shown throughout.

Henley continued to struggle to clear their lines effectively and it was down to the fairies, to put the game beyond doubt. Santa's Little Helper standing at first receiver from a ruck on the Hawks 22 cut an angel (Shouldn't that be angle?) back towards the touchline, diving in at the corner unmolested. 28-5.

There was just time for the fairies to give the Hawks right wing with a present - a 7 point interception - before the curtain came down on an enjoyable performance. 28-12 As a curtain call - the "Dancing Worm" made a cameo appearance before we all lived happily ever after.

Cast

- 1. Sleepy - Freddie Mills**
- 2. Bashful - Liam Maher**
- 3. Doc (well son of actually) - Brett Williams**
- 4. Dopey - James Reddey**
- 5. Happy - Sam Miller**
- 6. Sneezzy - Alex Cardyn**
- 7. Grumpy - James Caddy**
- 8. Big Man with Beard - Chris Berry (c)**

- 9. Snow White - Beanie Isles**
- 10. Widow Twanky - Nick Simson (twanged his hammy)**
- 11. Peter Pan - Archie Lloyd**
- 12. Buttons - Chris Hitchcock**
- 13. Santa's Little Helper - Ant Hitchcock**
- 14. Prince Charming - Jermaine Hazzard-Mitchell**
- 15. Tinkerbell - Tom Steer**
- 16. Cinderella - Toby Yates**

Three Wise Men from SW13 - bearing gifts

Gaspar - Shaun Justice - brought Gold
Melchior - Tim Steer - bought brace of pheasants and a rather natty travel bag with previous employer's logo on it
Balthasar - David Hitchcock - brought water

From front page...
brought to your attention.

Next home match

The next 1st XV home match is a local derby against Barnes on 2nd January, kicking off at 2:00PM. No doubt my old mate Carson will have a few tricks up his sleeve to inconvenience his former club. Carson's sides always aspire to playing attractive attacking rugby so it should be a cracking match.

Kick off change

The following weekend is a blank one at 1st XV level, as we were due to face Mounts Bay who went into liquidation, but on 16th January we have another home local derby, this time against Richmond, who are always tough opponents. Please note that the kick off for this match has been brought forward 15 minutes to 2:00PM

Rugby League

The reason for the slight change of kick off is to accommodate - as a unique double header - the first ever game of Rugby League to be played at Rosslyn Park. At 5:00 PM Harlequins RL will kick off against Crusaders.

Clubsides / Slingbacks

Assuming the weather relents, the Clubsides are due back into action on 9 January. Will Thorogood has pencilled in: 4's v Merlin Home

B's v Esher 5 Home

Nomads v Esher 6 Away

Bench v Ealing Vets Home Surrey Vets' League.

The Slingbacks are due to play Wimbledon in a friendly on Saturday 2nd January and then return to League action in anything but a friendly at Thurrock on Sunday 10th January.

National 2 South

| | Home | | | Away | | | Bonus | | | Pts | | | |
|---------------------|------|---|---|------|---|---|-------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|
| | P | W | D | L | W | D | L | F | A | | Diff | Try | Loss |
| Barking | 13 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 425 | 153 | 274 | 8 | 1 | 55* |
| Ealing | 13 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 458 | 256 | 202 | 10 | 1 | 55 |
| Rosslyn Park | 13 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 382 | 199 | 183 | 6 | 1 | 49 |
| Clifton | 13 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 282 | 268 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 40 |
| Southend | 13 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 360 | 291 | 69 | 4 | 2 | 36 |
| Canterbury | 13 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 333 | 371 | -38 | 6 | 0 | 36 |
| Shelford | 13 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 300 | 295 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 31 |
| Dings Crusaders | 14 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 278 | 291 | -13 | 3 | 2 | 29 |
| Henley | 13 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 274 | 285 | -11 | 3 | 0 | 25* |
| Worthing | 13 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 207 | 252 | -35 | 0 | 3 | 25 |
| Lydney | 13 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 257 | 315 | -58 | 3 | 5 | 24 |
| Richmond | 13 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 321 | 372 | -51 | 5 | 2 | 23 |
| Westcombe Park | 13 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 211 | 274 | -63 | 0 | 2 | 22 |
| Barnes | 13 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 174 | 378 | -204 | 1 | 2 | 11 |
| Bridgwater & Albion | 12 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 148 | 410 | -262 | 1 | 0 | 9 |

* Henley and Barking have each been deducted 2 points

Next Parknews

The earliest that it will be possible to produce the next Parknews will be the week commencing 18th January. However you most certainly do not have to go without match reports, photos and club news. The website at <http://www.rosslynpark.co.uk>

Is being upgraded as you read this, and by the New Year should have much of the information that you would normally find in Parknews. Clearly you'll need to allow time for reports to filter down, but - for instance - Bernard Wiggins' report on the Barnes match plus a selection of David Whittam's photos should be found there during the week following the match. The same will be true for other reports, etc submitted. Do have a look and let us know what you think.

KEARNSY SAYS, "THANKS"



Hi,

I just wanted to put a short note into the next edition of Parknews if possible please.

Now that my tenure has been up for some time now I wanted to take this opportunity to say thanks to one and all for all of the help and support that I have received over the past 3 years.

Thanks to all of the players, coaches, supporters, members, sponsors and anyone else that I may have forgotten. A huge thanks in particular to Steve, Graham and Tom Blake for all of their help and support over the years and in particular for their very kind award! I am always amazed at how much these guys (and many more for that matter) put into club which has been a real inspiration to me during my time and long may it

continue! Without them we wouldn't have such a prospering youth and minis set up with numbers continually increasing month after month. Work that is unseen in the main but deserves a huge amount of thanks.

I believe that the club is in good hands going forwards and I wish John, Shaun, Jim, Donnie, Simon T and the Committee all the very best. It won't be easy but I have no doubt that they'll definitely move things on. Good luck!!!

I look forward greatly to seeing everyone at the club for a beer and a chat on a Saturday afternoon for the rest of the season and beyond, with the conversation now being much more social again (thank goodness).

All the very best to one and all for the Festive period and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Have fun!

Kearnsy