

PARKNEWS



The E-magazine for Rosslyn Park supporters Wednesday 24th February 2010 - Issue 142

THE CRUNCH BECKONS

Welcome to Parknews: we said Dings would make it difficult! It wasn't a rugby classic - how could you expect one in the conditions? - and there was no bonus point, but Park battled away and never really looked like losing. It is easy to forget how far this side has come, because playing a fired up Dings side in those conditions is the sort of trappy match we might well have lost in previous seasons.

Anyway all that is history, and as big matches go this weekend's is massive. A glance at the League table on the back page shows just how crucial the game is. Ealing are 3 points above us, level on points with league leaders Barking. Moreover, this Saturday Barking themselves are at home to Southend, who are steadily climbing the table and then 3 weeks later Barking travel to Ealing. A good win on Saturday will see our destiny back in our own hands - defeat and we shall be depending on the results of others.

We always seek your support in these columns, and the support of our away "regulars" makes a big difference, but this week we really would appeal to everyone to get behind the lads. Despite their success and the exciting rugby they play, Ealing struggle for support. If most of you who read this come along and give vocal support we could almost turn this into a home game! And it's not difficult to get there:



Chris Ritchie makes some hard yards against Dings [David Whittam]

Operation Ealing

The address of Ealing is:
Trailfinders Sports Club
Castle Bar
Vallis Way
West Ealing
London W13 0DD

By road, from the A40 take the B452 turn-off towards Ealing (actually signposted as Perivale) along the Argyle Road. Go through two sets of traffic lights keeping in the left hand lane. At the first roundabout, (about 0.5Km) turn right into Vallis Way. Trailfinders Sports Club entrance is at the end of the road.

By public transport, by far the closest station is Castle Bar Park on the Greenford line out of Paddington (which also stops at Ealing Broadway en route). Trains leave Paddington at 15 and 45 past each hour and the journey time is 16 minutes. Return trains leave at 22 and 52 past the hour. From Castle Bar Park station, cross the footbridge at the end of the platform (you can see the ground from the top of the footbridge). If you're lucky and the back gate is open, then it's only a few yards along the footpath to your left; otherwise you have to effectively walk around the ground to get into it. Go along Hathaway Gardens, more or less straight in front of you, turn left along Claremont Road and left again into Vallis Way, where the ground is directly in front of you.

Alternatively bus E10 from Ealing Broadway (bus stop D on Haven Green on the opposite side of the road from the rail / tube station) passes close to the ground: get off at bus stop RU on Ruislip Road East. However, please note that there is no service on the Central Line between Marble Arch and Ealing Broadway this Saturday.

The 2s match was called off, along with the Clubsidest' home matches, with Richmond Park's pitches under water last weekend. This Saturday the 2s are due to play Plymouth Albion on the main pitch in Division 1 of the RugbyTech League, but that fixture has yet to be finally confirmed and Plymouth may well be reluctant to commit to travel if the weather leaves the match uncertain to go ahead. If you really can't make it to Ealing then check it out /continued back page....

Saturday 27th February

Ealing v 1st XV

National 2 South
Away KO 2:00 PM

2nd XV v Plymouth Albion 2nd

RugbyTech League 1
Home KO TBA

Hatters v Staines 2

RugbyTech 4
Richmond Park KO TBA

B's v Imperial College

Middlesex Merit Table 2
Away ko 12:00

Park Bench v Milan Vets

Richmond Park ko 11.30.

Sunday 28th February

No fixtures advised

Monday 1st March

London Scottish v Nomads

Richmond Athletic Ground KO 7: 30
(Referee Brian Moore - TV cameras and physios in attendance!)

The Clubhouse bar is open on Tuesday & Thursday evenings. Come along and enjoy a sociable drink

FIGHTING DINGS MAKE IT TOUGH

Rosslyn Park 24
Dings Crusaders 17
National 2 South



Ross Laidlaw in full flight

For the second time this season Dings Crusaders effectively stopped Park from playing. Although Park enjoyed a clear territorial advantage, in terms of possession the Bristol side at least held their own and were extremely effective at harrying and frustrating anything the home side tried to put together.

It didn't start like that. Park had nearly all the early play and had Dings well on the back foot. Two early penalties stroked over by Ross Laidlaw gave the home side a 6-0 cushion from which to set about scoring the tries they

needed to enhance their promotion challenge.

That all changed in the 22nd minute when Dings fashioned a super break up the left, only a last ditch tackle by Jon Underwood preventing the score. Having reached the Park try-line, Dings were in no mood to take a backward step and their pack – revelling in the muddy conditions – launched drive after drive at the home defence. Park defended magnificently for almost five minutes without a break but eventually the pressure told and Dings were able to whip the ball to their right where centre Sam Caven went over for a hard-earned score.

The conversion was missed, but the visitors visibly grew in confidence. The match was still being played predominantly in their territory but they were now denying Park the sort of quality ball they needed for the running and passing game that has been the hallmark of their success. A penalty just inside Dings' half saw Laidlaw stretch the lead to 9-5 after 28 minutes, and the best move thus far saw Park gain a penalty in front of the posts nine minutes later. The fly half gratefully accepted another 3 points.

When Dings came back at Park it was Laidlaw who got a highly effective boot on the ball to peg the visitors back in their own 22. However, the chance to get one of the four tries they needed for a bonus point was lost when Park knocked on and it was 12-5 at the interval.

Park started the second half with great determination, but Dings raised the art of sheer obduracy to a tactical ploy and the frustration of the home side began to show in the concession of a couple of cheap penalties. However, after 16 minutes they broke the deadlock, following a penalty that was hoofed to the corner by Laidlaw. The

pack lay siege to the Dings line, sucking in defender after defender and then spread it wide where winger James Strong bulldozed through at pace to score. The angle defeated even Laidlaw's attempted conversion but it was now 17-5.



Nick Huggett battles through

Dings were in no mood to surrender, continued to work hard and their efforts were rewarded fifteen minutes later when a good move sent centre Tim Bagg through under the posts, Tom Lukjaniec adding a conversion for 17-12 putting the visitors back within a score.



Ross Laidlaw's 14 points with the boot made all the difference on Saturday [all match photos by David Whittam]

Park were stung into action and replied with a superb individual try by Marc Sweeney, receiving the ball just outside the 22 he ran straight as a die using all his speed and strength to get over. Laidlaw added a very difficult conversion for 24-12.

There was no realistic prospect of Park scoring two more. Dings were tiring, but still giving everything and when – with the very last move of the match – they were awarded a penalty, took a quick tap and plunged over to score, it would be a hard heart indeed that begrudged them the bonus point.



Marc Sweeney scores for Park

In terms of pure entertainment this was a poor match. In the context of Park's promotion aspirations it looks like a point lost, but that is surely to under-rate how difficult it is to break down a team like Dings playing in their ideal conditions; the obsession with bonus points should not disguise the fact that Park won a match that could easily have been a banana skin.

Park: Davies; Strong, Sweeney, Jewell (O'Driscoll), Lindsey-Hague; Laidlaw; Barr (Chilten); Huggett (Lahiff), Ritchie, Collier; Quigley (Jones), Pape; Gates, Underwood, Lock.

Sub (did not play): Tauialo

Park scorers: Strong (T), Sweeney (T), Laidlaw (4P, C)

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

EVENING STANDARD, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1970-71

BARRY NEWCOMBE

Rugby



DAVID FOULDS
A personal issue.

Champagne for the winner!

WARLINGHAM captain, David Foulds, is staking a bottle of champagne on his club's rugby match

against Sevenoaks on Saturday.

"Sevenoaks are coached by Tony Tanner, who was captain of Rosslyn Park when I was there," said Foulds. "So there's a personal issue in this match and I've wagered a bottle of champagne with Tony on the result."

Warlingham have had some coaching advice from the former England prop Tony Horton, who watched their Surrey Cup win over Chipstead, which put them in the semi-finals of the Eastern zone of the Cup.

Former President Tony Tanner came up with this press cutting of 40 years ago from the London Evening Standard (as it then was). Yes, the handsome devil in the photo is indeed the legendary Fouldsie.

The background was that when both mens' Rosslyn Park careers finished, Fouldsie went to skipper Warlingham, where his father, a former England international who like Fouldsie also played for Waterloo, was President of the club, and Tony went to coach his local club Sevenoaks. When the two clubs met there was a wager.

When the cutting emerged in the Clubhouse a couple of weeks back, even 40 years later there was a dispute as to who had or had not paid up on the deal!

Do you have a piece of Park memorabilia that tells a story and might conveniently fall on a scanner to appear in Parknews? If so, get in touch at news@rosslynpark.co.uk

Play offs

If Rosslyn Park are involved in the Play-Offs this year, the earliest they will be held is Saturday 8th May, not on 1st May as shown in the Members' Handbook and in match programmes. Although the NCA are keen to stick to that date, it's quite possible that the weather will take matters out of their hands. The Northern half of National 2 is further behind with their fixtures than the Southern section. It seems that the NCA will try to juggle fixtures to give priority to those that might affect the play-offs, but even doing that they might need a bit of luck.

There is also the prospect for the Champions this year of strutting their stuff at Twickenham. It is proposed that on finals day at HQ the winners of the Southern and Northern sections of National 2 should play off to determine the overall Champions. So far as we know there is no incentive other than prestige. Some Committee folks are pretty sniffy about the whole idea, as it's likely to involve expense with little if any financial return, but for players at National 2 level the chance to appear at Twickenham in front of a large crowd doesn't come every day.



Will Collier gains the attention of the Dings defence last Saturday

Double Header in prospect

The Slingbacks league programme has been affected by the weather as much as everything else, and the Park girls need to play their outstanding matches to be sure they avoid the dreaded drop. There had been a problem in fitting in the home match against Harlequins Ladies, but that has now been overcome by the Quins girls agreeing to play on a Saturday. The date looks like being 17th April, which is also the final home 1st XV match of the season. Assuming an improvement in the weather to allow the main pitch to recover, there is the prospect of a really good double-header - and possibly one hell of a social afterwards! Make a note in your diary to come early and leave late!



Adam Gates wins at the line-out on Saturday



Rosslyn Park



Slingbacks present

PUB GOLF

9 holes in Clapham Junction

27th February

7pm Tee off at The Merchant



£5 to enter including a free
drink at the 9th hole

Golfing attire will reduce your score....

From front page...

On the website. There are a couple of other attractive home fixtures with the Hatters having a League match at home to Staines 2nd and the gentlemen of Park Bench entertaining a veterans side from Milan.

On Monday the Nomads are performing for the benefit of the TV cameras against London Scottish at the Richmond Athletic Ground, where the TV cameras will be hoping that the referee lasts more than 5 minutes this time! Why not go along and give them a cheer?

Clubsides

Will Thorogood reports on the Clubsides: "1's made "heavy weather" of their game against Dings on Saturday, but it's a win!

"The 4's played in what was quoted as being a "strange game" against Welsh Occies in a top of the table clash. Down to 13 men (two yellow cards) for the last 10 minutes (but this was not to be a Scotland repeat), sheer determination, will and tenacity, allowed the 4's to hold on to their lead. 21-16.

"The B's went to Old Priorians and fought out a 5-all draw. Nick Jones said that it was a fair result. I don't know if this has put paid to the B's chances of qualifying for the play-offs. Got to keep playing and working at the goal of the semis, at least!

"The Hatters played Kew Occasionals, after L.Scots cancelled on them for their RugbyTech game. I don't know the exact score but the Hatters won by 6 tries to 4".

Pub Golf



Alice

The Slingbacks are running a game of Pub Golf this Saturday evening. Organiser, Slingback Alice Watchorn, told Parknews, "It is pretty much a pub crawl but you have dedicated drinks in each pub which have a "par" rating and you can be either over or under par with your usual bogies and birdies". Your fearless Parknews reporter asked whether our more senior

drinkers might be able to use their Freedom Passes to assist navigating the course. Ms Watchorn was ready for that one: "The use of a bus pass may only be accepted for those who have had joint replacements I guess.... I shall assess claimants on the night!", she asserted. By the way, don't think that this event is going to stop the girls getting to Ealing on Saturday: if you spot a posse of young ladies clad in golfing gear at the match - it's the Slingbacks. It all kicks off at the Merchant, Clapham Junction at 7:00 PM, so please take a look at the Flier on the previous page and please support this fund raising venture if you can.

Honours Boards

Quite a few Members have commented that the honours boards have yet to be re-erected in the main bar (soon to be renamed "Ripley's Bar"). The intention is to re-create the old honours boards, professionally sign-written on light oak, to produce something really eye catching and worthy of the great individual efforts that the boards represent (over the last decade or so plastic transfer lettering has been used on them which has not helped their appearance). The Chairman has seen some boards that fit the bill, and made contact with the signwriter who produced them, but the cost is likely to be in the region of £4000. If there is someone, or some people, out there who would consider helping to defray at least most of the cost then we can go ahead with the work quickly.

National 2 South

	P	Home			Away			F		A		Bonus			Pts
		W	D	L	W	D	L			Diff	Try	Loss			
Barking	19	10	0	0	7	0	2	595	210	385	12	2	80*		
Ealing	19	9	0	0	7	0	3	686	346	340	14	2	80		
Rosslyn Park	19	11	0	0	5	1	2	622	269	353	10	1	77		
Southend	19	8	0	2	4	1	4	531	405	126	8	3	61		
Clifton	18	8	1	0	4	1	4	389	330	59	7	2	61		
Canterbury	19	5	0	4	5	1	4	448	489	-41	7	1	50		
Worthing	18	6	1	3	3	0	5	347	336	11	2	3	43		
Shelford	19	6	1	1	3	0	8	410	434	-24	3	2	43		
Dings Crusaders	19	5	1	4	1	1	7	374	401	-27	4	4	36		
Richmond	20	4	0	5	2	0	9	446	580	-134	7	3	34		
Lydney	18	2	0	6	3	0	7	369	453	-84	4	7	31		
Westcombe Park	17	4	0	4	2	0	7	262	408	-146	1	3	28		
Henley	17	5	0	4	1	0	7	331	413	-82	3	1	26*		
Barnes	20	0	1	8	3	0	8	288	622	-334	1	3	16*		
Bridgwater & Albion	19	2	0	9	0	0	8	214	616	-402	1	1	10		

* Barnes, Henley and Barking have each been deducted 2 points

Outstanding Fixtures of Leading Clubs

Date	Ealing	Rosslyn Park	Barking
27/02	h ROSSLYN PARK	a EALING	h Southend
06/03	a Henley	h Bridgwater & Albion	a Westcombe Park
13/03	h Worthing	a Shelford	h Clifton
20/03	h BARKING	no fixture	a EALING
27/03	a Southend	a Henley	a Barnes
03/04	h Westcombe Park	h Worthing	no fixture
10/04	a Clifton	a Southend	a Richmond
17/04	h Barnes	h Westcombe Park	h Lydney
24/04	no fixture	a Clifton	a Shelford
01/05	a Lydney	a Canterbury	h Dings Crusaders

Trivia

Slingback Louise Morrison is running a trivia night at the Clubhouse on Friday 19th March and is hoping that different parts of the club will enter teams for what should be a good social evening. The fun starts at 7:00PM, the cost is Cost £10 pp and teams will be between 6 - 10 people. There is a cash prize for the winning table and also prizes to be won throughout the night. Players, friends and family members are all welcome to come along for a laugh. Contact Louise at Morrison.louise@gmail.com



Louise

Where are they now?

Well actually at Richmond, looking after the Under-21s, so they said. But John Wehtherall 's trusty camera caught the dynamic duo - Rocky and Hoiley, our former Development coaches - at the match against Dings Crusaders last Saturday, outside the hospitality rovacabin. Clearly they just can't bear to be away from the Rock too long! My old mate Rocky always used to agree with me about the consumption of solids being counter to the whole spirit of the game. It must be something in the air at Richmond that has turned his head!



Lift needed

Long-term Park supporter Simon Woods, who had the misfortune to break both his feet last year, has now recovered sufficiently that he can contemplate standing on terrace again. However, he needs a lift to the ground from North London in order to do that. If you're driving to the Bridgwater match and could offer Simon a lift, please contact him on simon334@btinternet.com