

# PARKNEWS

the e-magazine for Rosslyn Park supporters - Wednesday 24th December, 2008

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## SO FAR, SO GOOD

Welcome to another Parknews, which comes exactly half way through the season. It would be a hard taskmaster indeed who would not have settled to be in this position before the season started. The two clubs ahead of us have thrown astronomic sums at the project of getting promoted (and - let's be honest - we'd have done the same if we had the resources) but of the sides with more orthodox financial arrangements we stand 15 points clear of our nearest rivals. That is an amazing achievement by the coaches and players. So if you're short of something to toast at this time of year, here's to Shaun, Florent and the boys, not forgetting all the back up staff who give so generously of their time to make this all happen.

Once you start singling people out for a mention there is a risk of offending many other stalwarts. However, at the risk of doing just that, there is someone who never seeks the limelight but whose amazing generosity has made so much of this possible - Simon Tindall. It would be wrong to

mention here the resources Simon has made available, since he clearly doesn't want it. His original motivation was, I believe, that his grandfather had played for the club in the late 19th century and /Continued back page...



Dan Frazier goes over for Park's first try in the victory over Dings Crusaders on Saturday [Photo: David Whittam]

### National 3 South

	Home			Away			Bonus			Diff	Try	Loss	Pts
	P	W	D	L	W	D	L	F	A				
London Scottish	13	6	0	0	6	1	0	503	162	341	9	0	59
Ealing	13	6	0	1	5	1	0	482	199	283	9	0	55
<b>Rosslyn Park</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>
Henley	13	4	0	2	3	2	2	253	228	25	2	1	35
Rugby Lions	13	3	3	2	3	0	2	303	279	24	3	1	34
Dings Crusaders	12	5	1	0	1	1	4	255	261	-6	3	0	31
Richmond	13	4	0	2	2	1	4	230	248	-18	1	0	27
Bridgwater & Albion	13	4	0	2	2	0	5	273	331	-58	2	1	27
Canterbury	12	2	1	3	3	0	3	260	311	-51	4	1	27
Barking	13	2	1	4	2	0	4	228	298	-70	2	4	24
Lydney	13	3	1	3	0	0	6	182	315	-133	2	3	19
Worthing	13	1	1	4	1	0	6	180	381	-201	2	2	14
Havant	13	1	0	6	1	0	5	171	378	-207	2	3	13
Chinnor	13	0	0	6	1	2	4	198	341	-143	0	4	12

The League table at half way, each side having played every other club once (apart from the postponed Dings Crusaders v Canterbury match). Park's only two defeats have been away to the top two clubs.

### This Week

Sunday December 28th

**Colts v Guildford U-21**

(Home - KO 2:00 PM)

The Clubhouse will open before and after the match

Saturday January 3rd

**Havant v 1st XV**

(Away, National 3 South - KO 2:00PM)

**NO OTHER MATCHES ADVISED  
BUT PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE**

### NEXT PARKNEWS

There will not be a Parknews next week, so the next edition should be in the week commencing 5th January. However, the Editor is off on holiday that week, so the deadline for contributions will be the Monday. Due to an oversight on the part of the Australian Tennis authorities, who forgot to consult the Rosslyn Park fixture list before scheduling their Open tournament, the editor will then be unable to produce a Parknews until the first week in February. Kearnsy may have a solution - see next edition.

*The Clubhouse is also open on Thursday evenings, but not at Xmas.*

### DISCLAIMER

Although Parknews is published on the Rosslyn Park website, please note that it is independently edited and that any views expressed within its columns are not necessarily those of the Club, its Committee or its Officials unless specifically stated as being such. The identity of correspondents may be withheld at their request, but items received anonymously will not be considered for publication. The Editor would like anyone offended by its contents to note that he is skint and therefore not worth suing anyway.

# PARK DONG DINGS MERRILY



James Strong hands off an opponent with (L-R) Jon Underwood, Graham Barr and Rob Jewell in Support [Photo: David Whittam]. There are more of David's match photos on later pages.

**Rosslyn Park 32**  
**Dings Crusaders 19**  
**National 3 South**

**N**ot for the first time this season, Park tied up the 4-try bonus point before half-time with a devastating display, only to fail to fully capitalise after the interval. Dings came to play attractive running rugby and played a full part in an entertaining match. Injury-hit Park gave 1st XV debuts to Martin Anayi and Adam Harris, while skipper Rob Jewell was only ruled fit to play an hour before the game having been suffering from flu. Tony Paul had joined the pre-match warm up just in case.

The visitors had the first chance with a penalty after only a minute, fly half Adam Westall's kick bouncing back off the left post. Park were soon up and running, but while the backs looked dangerous it was some effective rolling mauling that saw Dan Frazier cross the visitors' line after 6 minutes, Dylan Pugh nailing a difficult wide conversion for 7-0.

Tails up, Park threw everything at the visitors. With Adam Gates injured, Jon Underwood moved to number 8 and launched some typical driving runs to take his team well within enemy territory. Twice Park were held up over the line, but from the second 5 metre scrum Underwood picked up, committed defenders and off-loaded to scrum half Graham Barr who touched down. Pugh nailed another good conversion for 14-0.

Park attacked from all angles; a good movement up the left was followed by a terrific run through the centre from Chris Simmons and further scores looked inevitable. Crusaders defended well but were forced to concede a penalty after 22 minutes and Pugh again delivered the goods for 17-0.

All credit to the Bristol team, who refused to lie down and at times forced Park to prove just how good their defence is. Just as it seemed Park had weathered the storm a neat side-step by Westall sent in his full-back, Orlando Scott, to score under the posts with Westall converting for 17-7.

That stung the home side into another all out attack and after some neat inter-passing from the backs had the visiting defence reeling from one hot spot to another, prop Nick Huggett crashed over near the posts, Pugh extending the lead to 24-7.

The try that brought up the bonus point was an absolute gem. It started with some neat inter-passing but when winger Nick Canty received the ball he still had a lot to do, but he simply pinned back his ears and

backed his speed and strength to outstrip the visiting defence to score in the corner for 29-7.

Shortly before the interval, Park's Jon Underwood got himself yellow-carded for a technical offence right in front of the referee, who could hardly have been better placed.

**S**tarting the second half a man short seemed no problem when Canty streaked away to touch down, only to be brought back for a forward pass. But gradually Dings fought their way back into the match, spurning a kickable penalty to put massive pressure on the home line.

Just as it looked as if resistance had been successful, and with Underwood coming back on, skipper Rob Jewell found himself also dispatched to the sin bin. The Park skipper looked utterly bemused by the decision, but it was almost certainly the accumulation of minor misdemeanours by the team as a whole that invoked the sanction. Park rallied themselves, and after 15 minutes of the half another Pugh penalty stretched the lead to 32-7.

Shortly after the hour Park began to make several substitutions, which did not help their cohesion and continuity, but things looked safe enough until a complete cock-up five minutes from time saw them attacking but passing straight to Westall who did not stop to say, "Thank you" before scampering in to make it 32-14.

That was all the encouragement Dings needed and they launched a massive assault on the Park line to try to rescue something from the match. On the stroke of normal time skipper Dave Bufton crashed over to make it 32-19, the first time this season that Park have conceded 3 tries at home. A converted try in injury time would have given the visitors 2 points – the 4-try bonus, plus a point for finishing within 7 points of the winners.

The Dings travelling support got right behind them, but Park had by now re-grouped and safely saw out the added time. After such a dazzling first half display it is not a position they should have allowed themselves to be in, but it has to be a good sign when you start carping after 5-point wins!

**Park:** Simmons; Strong, Swords, Jewell (Gosling), Canty; Pugh; Barr (Lapidus); Huggett (Charlton), Tauialo (Blemings), Frazier; Quigley (Harris), Forster; Jones, Anayi, Underwood.

**Park scorers:** Frazier (T), Barr (T), Huggett (T), Canty (T), Pugh (2P, 3C).

*ED: There is a corniest headline competition - I want to win something*

# GREAT WINS FOR DEVS AND COLTS

## Park Development 20 Maidenhead II 0 Canterbury Shield 3

By Adrian Hoile

The Devs managed to gain their second league win in a row, against a Maidenhead side that had soundly beaten them earlier in the season; the performance in each half, whilst very different, can only renew hope of more good performances in 2009.

Park went on the attack directly from kick off with 2nd row Oli Hire winning the ball and fly half Chris Hitchcock putting Maidenhead on the retreat deep into their own twenty-two. They didn't manage to get out of there for five minutes as Park applied the pressure. Twice the Devs were stopped on the line as prop Mark Exworth and Hooker Franco Vilonia thought they had maulled over together and Winger Lois Powell was also held up just short. The defence was being very well marshalled by inside Center James Bunbury and it paid dividends on eight minutes as Maidenhead's fly half was put under huge pressure by Bunbury and his kick was charged down by Jake Boayke who then gathered and went on to touch down for a try which Hitchcock converted, 7-0.

Park kept on the front foot and, with Hitchcock directing around the pitch, kept Maidenhead frantically defending - on occasions illegally and one such occasion on fourteen minutes saw Hitchcock successfully kick for goal to make it 10-0 to Park.

Maidenhead were struggling to gain any sort of grip on the match and constant good work in the tight from Johnny Joyce and Craig Starling, as well as tremendous work in the open by Ben Kelly, saw them turned over and starved of possession. Park scored again on the half hour from a very well worked try from a line out, a fantastic take from replacement Ray Farnham saw quick ball created for Luke Cuff-Burnett to unleash his backline. Hitchcock hit Boayke wide who found Full back winger Tom Cuff Burnett on his shoulder, Cuff-Burnett beat the man and then slipped in Bunbury on his inside to go under the posts for a converted try, 17-0. Hitchcock scored another penalty before halftime to increase Park's lead to 20-0 at the break.

Maidenhead came out of the blocks in the second half trying to gain some pride back and immediately forced Park to defend their try line, solid defence constantly kept Maidenhead out for the first fifteen minutes of the half with Prop Richard Culley twice putting in bone crunching tackling to force the mistake and relieve the pressure.

Maidenhead were forced to try and run everything as they needed to score 3 tries to get beyond Park and their running attitude almost let in Todd Street for an intercept try but for good cover defence from the defending full back. Maidenhead were also now struggling in the set piece and second row Ray Farnham managed to take five of Maidenhead's throws at the lineout and Mark Exworth led his front row to take two strikes against the head as Park now had the opposition beaten.

The final score was 20-0 and Park's Man of the Match was Mark Exworth, simply outstanding for 80 minutes.

**Park:** Street (Maughan), T.Cuff-Burnett (Low), Boayke, Bunbury, Powell, Hitchcock, L.Cuff-Burnett (Kirby), Exworth, Vilonia, Culley, Hire (Farnham), Joyce, Kasarani, Kelly, Starling© (McCue)

**Scorers:** T: Boayke, Bunbury C: Hitchcock x2 P: Hitchcock

## London Scottish U21 Academy 16 Park Colts XV 29

By Adrian Hoile

The Colts borrowed 4 players from the Development squad as they again found themselves without 9 regular players. Boosted by returning players from university, the coaches hoped this wouldn't be a game too far against the SRU funded and well assembled London Scottish Side, preparing for their New Years Day Grudge Match against Richmond U21 for the Rocky Skinner Trophy, named after our current Development Head Coach.

The Colts looked like they were going to be in for a very tough match

as the Scots attacked from the outset, and mistakes by Park led to their being on the back foot for the first ten minutes and conceding 7 points during this time from a Scottish try in the centres.

Park finally got the chance to show what they could do when a break from centre "Beanie" Isles saw them get into the Scottish twenty two, good phase play from the forwards saw scrum half Gabrielle Low hit fly half Ed Nethersole wide and his pass sent Centre Roland Crouch through the Parting Scottish defence to score, Park missed the conversion and the score was 7-5 with a quarter of an hour played.

Park were now starting to get a head of steam and an audacious chip and chase by full back Tom Cuff-Burnett saw Park almost score but he was bundled out in the corner by last ditch Scottish Defence. The resulting lineout saw Rory McKay steal the ball and offload to number eight Steve Kasarani whose strength took him over the Scottish line to score the unconverted try, 7-10.

Scottish came back into the match as the half progressed but couldn't convert their chances with the ball in hand; from the boot however they nudged over two penalties to take the lead 13-10. Just before halftime winger Matt Small broke away from his marker and only last ditch cover defence kept Park out and saw the Scots go into the break with the lead.

With the match finely poised the message from the Park coaches was that if Park performed and played the basics well they would win but any slight mistake or moment of indecision would see them suffer and possibly lose. Park heeded these words and rose to the challenge as straight from kick off they knocked Scottish defenders aside, such charging runs from prop Piers Deehaan and Max Lahiff saw more than one dazed Scottish player. Park were also taking knocks and fly half Nethersole had to leave the field after a dubious late tackle saw him take a blow to the knee. A quick reshuffle with Low moving to full back and the Cuff-Burnetts pairing up at half back and Park took the lead on fifty eight minutes. A Park scrum saw Tom Cuff-Burnett pass wide from Fly Half to Isles. He beat his man to find a looping Tom Cuff-Burnett on his outside, some quick feet and a little shimmy saw him touch down for the five points that he stepped up to convert, Park had the lead 17-13.

The Colts let their opposition cut the points advantage almost immediately as they gave away a penalty that London Scottish converted to go within one point 17-16 with fifteen minutes left on the clock. Scottish threw everything at Park but the defence stood firm and with captain James Caddy picking up any loose ball and Dan McCue and James Huelin counter-rucking with superb effect the Scots were getting frustrated. This frustration led to mistakes and from one such mistake Park scored again, winger Piers Maughan scooped up a loose pass from the Scottish midfield and scampered home, Tom Cuff-Burnett kicked the points and Park now had control at 24-16 and ten minutes left on the clock.

The expensively assembled Scottish side were now in shock and had no answer to superior play of Park in the last ten minutes but managed to defend well enough when it mattered, keeping out Ed Treadwell and Ali, Park had however saved the best try until last. From a lineout on the Scottish ten metre line Kasarani attacked at full speed, off loaded to supporting prop Piers Deehaan who then returned the pass to a looping Kasarani who then beat the last defender with a pass to Deehaan back on his inside, fantastic play and a real try to upset front row purists as Deehaan must have run 35 meters in this movement and handled and offload twice before going over. The conversion was missed and Park had won 29-16. All the squad had played superbly with Kasarani and Tom Cuff-Burnett showing in the Forwards and Back but all players had done their part in what was a very impressive performance.

**Park:** T.Cuff-Burnett, Prior (Maughan), Crouch, Isles, Small (Street), Nethersole (L.Cuff-Burnett), Low, Deehaan, Lahiff, Ali, McCue, McKay (Treadwell), Huelin, Caddy ©, Kasarani

**Scorers:** T: Crouch, Kasarani, T.Cuff-Burnett, Maughan, Deehaan C: T.Cuff-Burnett x2

**Don't forget Park Colts v Guildford U-21 on Sunday 28th December at 2:00PM. The Clubhouse will be open.**

## READERS' LETTERS

*From Simon Dove on the deer problem...*

Charlie

I read the article in Parknews 98 with obvious sadness about the dead deer being found in Richmond Park.

The article states that the Park authorities have found rugby tape in the stomachs of the dead animals. Whilst that is indefensible, the article does not make it clear that the tape was the cause of the animals' deaths. One assumes that is the implication. (It is worth noting that there has been a cull of the deer in the Park recently - presumably lead shot was not also found in the said animals' bodies?)

But not to dismiss the authorities' claim about the tape being in the animals' bodies at all, and assuming the animals cannot be penned off from the playing fields with lightweight fencing (thus also giving the players the chance not to have to roll around in the increasing amount of deer faeces on the Park pitches), I wholeheartedly agree that the tape and any other rubbish be removed immediately after all games.

It would be easy for the message in Parknews not to get through to all of our players and those of the oppo, since they don't all receive the emails from you. So I might suggest that either we, RPFC or the Park authorities commission the erection of suitable (deer friendly) signposts near the river bridge that we all cross from the carpark and also up by the pitches (ie. prominent places) warning about the risk to deer by tape and other debris, so as to be a constant reminder to all.

And perhaps, as a failsafe, the lads on each team who 'draw the short straw' and remove the flags and post protectors could also check the pitches for debris at the same time for the benefit of any of the oppo who can't also read the signs (obviously our own chaps/ chappesses would not fall into the illiterate category)?

As with all verbal warnings, they get forgotten by many after a while, so I think signs would be sensible. We MUST make sure the Park Authorities are kept happy on this matter since without the use of these pitches the Club would be scuppered for all of the social sides' home games. **Dovey.**

*From Graham Lloyd on the same subject*

Totally on board with the message re the deer and the tape.....but the photo is of a hind (female) not a "chap".

However, the judicious use of wild garlic and a heavy red wine will render this academic as the haunches roast mouth-wateringly.

**Lloyd**

**ED:** *Would any of the thousands of people who have played with Lloyd over the years care to comment upon how he became expert in deer-sexing?*

*Mark Pavan on the Slingbacks Beer Festival*

Thanks for the parknews appreciated as always: For your use or other I have copied a post I placed about the RPFC Beer festival on the Motley Fool Foolish Beer bulletin/discussion board. I posted a pre event notice and this was a post event report. The main comment from others was how it was nice that women were involved with Real Ale. Perhaps the local CAMRA people would be pleased to get involved next year to publicise the event etc?

Best Wishes

OK so it was raining and raining hard so leaving was never going to be easy..... A quick report on the beers on offer at this all ladies organised all ladies run event. One of them told me she had become a real ale convert- she had organised the event as a result. All the girls were part of the RPFC girls rugby team; the Slingbacks.

12 Beers on offer as follows:

Acorn Brewery Barnsley: Snow storm 4%  
Brentwood Brewery Chelmsford: Chestnut Stout 4%  
Hook Norton Brewery Banbury: Old Hooky 4.6%  
1648 Brewery Old Hoathly: Winter Warrant 4.8%  
Great Orme Brewery Colwyn Bay: Merlyn 5%  
Hidden Brewery Salisbury: Hidden Pleasure IPA 4.9%  
O'Hanlons Brewery Whimple: Goodwill 5%  
Brysons Brewery Heysham: Lifesaver 3.8%  
Twickenham Ales Brewery Twickenham: Naked Ladies 5% AND Grandstand 5%  
Marstons Brewery Burton on Trent: Ugly Sisters 4.5%  
Batemen's Brewery Wainfleet: Rosey Nosey 4.9%

The most popular beer according to them was the Merlyn. I personally like the Stouts and considering they were the local provider felt Twickenham Ales were disappointing.

The Slingbacks are promising a return next year; I can't wait.

Any one else have views on the beers offered? **Mark Pavan**



This photo: Jon Underwood charges at the Dings Crusaders defence and, below, Graham Barr scores Park's second try [Photos : David Whittam]



Someone told Bob Fisher and Brian Lawrence that the Xmas Party was a fancy dress bash - so they went as Stadler and Waldorf [Photo: John 'Paparazzi' Weatherall]



A pair of old hookers at the bar [Photo: John Weatherall]

From front page....

he wanted to help arrest the decline and to begin to restore it towards its former glories. I think his enthusiasm has gone a bit beyond that now! On behalf of all who care about the club, deepest thanks, Simon, and sorry to have blown your cover.

**S**aturday's win over Dings Crusaders saw a spectacular first half performance, notching up the 4-try bonus point before the interval. If the second half wasn't quite as commanding, then it wasn't helped by the (admittedly self-inflicted) handicap of only having 14 men for half it against a side who were clearly "up for it".

**T**his weekend, there's not a lot of rugby, but there is one very good match on Sunday 28th December with the Park Colts at home to Guildford Under-21s, kicking off at 2:00PM. Those of you who missed last Wednesday's match between the Independent School Barbarians and the Rosslyn Park Invitational XV missed out on an absolute cracker. The Park side ran out winners by 27-20, but the real winner was the sport of Rugby Union – the match was played with consummate skill and commitment in a true Rugby spirit. Many of the Park players were from the present Colts side, so you can expect some good skills to be on display.

Last weekend the Colts did us proud with a superb 28-16 win over London Scottish Academy U-21 at the Athletic Ground. Both the Scottish RFU and London Scots themselves have invested heavily in the Academy side, who asked Park to make sure we brought a strong side. Happy to oblige. The Development XV did well to beat Maidenhead 2nd by 20-0. Full reports on Page 3.

**W**ill Thorogood reports on behalf of the Clubsides, "A mixed week last week, with 2 of our 4 games postponed to the New Year, but the 4's and the Nomads did perform. The 4's went up to Ealing to play, through the Fixture Exchange, an Old Priorians Under 23's side. From what I understand, it was a fast and entertaining match, enjoyed by both teams. Park's larger forwards dominated upfront, but the youthful Priorians spun the ball wide, and from side to side, to keep the ball away from us. 4's 10 Old Priorians 22. Thank you, Richard Baker (Off), for arranging the game.

"The Nomads faced up to Chiswick 2's in their final MMT3 encounter of 2008. This was a top of the table clash, and Chiswick were, obviously, keen to gain revenge after the game down at Duke's Meadows in October. It was a tight and physical match, with a lot to play for. Sound defenses on both sides, and I think the main difference was discipline. The Nomads gave too many penalties away, which led to, too many times, a loss of territory and scoring positions. Nomads 3 Chiswick 2's 8. A scoreline that makes you think that it was a boring game, but not so. Entertaining and nailbiting, in fact!"

**O**n Saturday 3rd January the 1st XV resume League action with a visit to Havant, kicking off at 2:00PM. Last season we came unstuck there in a match that we could and should have won, so your vocal support would be greatly appreciated. From the A3(M), take the B2177 to the roundabout. Follow the road signs to Bedhampton - straight on over the mini-roundabout. Go straight across the traffic lights, bear left at the level crossing, take the second left, James Road, then, at the T junction at the end, turn left into Fraser Road. The Clubhouse is 200 metres on the right hand side.

## John Sabel

**S**ome good news on John Sabel: Chairman, John Adair, has heard from John's daughter as follows: "Dad's doing really well, thank you! He's moved from the hospital to the re-hab unit who are giving him lots of physio. They will allow him home for Xmas day then permanently early in the new year. I'll print off the Park News and take it up to Dad when I've finished work today! I'm afraid there just hasn't

# NOSEY PARKER

*Nosey Parker was thwarted in a bold attempt to surreptitiously replace the President's message in the Dings Crusaders home programme with a version that it was felt may have more accurately reflected the great man's message to the world at this festive time. However, rather than have it condemned to the dustbin of history, it is reproduced here.*

## The Presidents Welcome

The excitement and entertainment caused by a Colleague's performance in the Hand in Hand last week, far exceeding predictions of pre-Christmas drunkenness, provides the stimulus and example for Rosslyn Park's alickadoos in their second semi-professional season in 3rd Division South. The dedication to the consumption of alcohol and the selfless desire to provide amusement for others is an example to us all.



The drinker's motto "Crappus Tauri Mentis Vincit" was coined by Dipsomanus Extremis, a Latin Philosopher cruelly taken from us by a brush with cirrhosis in 57 BC, at the height of his literary powers, and could serve as a guideline for all who run the club.

"Crappus" (excreta) is something we talk at all times.

"Tauri" (of the bull) see above.

"Mentes" (brains) are something we are out of at most times.

"Vincit" (defeats, baffles) well, most things do.

With new blood throughout the club, Park looks forward to a successful season.

Let's give a warm welcome to all our visitors and remember another motto adopted by our club: "Where's the President? It's his bloody round!"

Dr John Thirston  
President

been time to do 'xmas cards' but please would you extend dad's good wishes to everyone in 'The Park' - I know he will get down just as soon as he can!".

## Minis Quiz Night

**T**he Minis section will be holding a Quiz night (food to be decided) on Friday 16th January 2009 at the Clubhouse run by the Rokeby quiz maestros Marco & Andrea Young. Pit your wits with the best that the Rosslyn Park minis have to offer.



Tyron shows the police a photo that John Moylan gave him of the woman John thought he saw siphoning off the boiler fuel.