

PARK NEWS



The E-magazine for Rosslyn Park supporters 25th March 2009 - Issue 107

PARK SIDE-STEP BANANA SKIN

The only certainty in National League 3 at the moment is that there are no certainties. Teams nearer the bottom of the League have strengthened their squads to avoid relegation at a time of re-organisation. The Barking side that came to the Rock last Saturday bore little resemblance to the one we met at Goresbrook earlier in the season - even the Coach was different. It was a glorious fresh banana skin waiting to be trodden on by a team in Park's position under-rating them.

It may not have been as pretty as some of our early performances, but we won. It's perhaps apposite to recall this coming Saturday's opponents, Canterbury. It's not that long ago we out-played them twice and lost both matches. It puts the Editor in mind of a former Park Head Coach who - when it was put to him that Park had been unlucky in a particular match - said, "Nonsense - good teams make their own luck. They find a way to win - even when things are stacked against them".

Park have not played to anything like their full potential in their last two home matches. It may be frustrating for people who want the ball thrown around with gay abandon, running in tries from anywhere. It's frustrating for the coaches probably more than anyone. But the hard fact is that against teams who have strengthened considerably and had everything to fight for, we still found a way of winning.

2s BEAT SCOTS AWAY

The 2nd XV had a terrific match against London Scottish, winning by 42-33 at the Athletic Ground. Unfortunately we do not have a report of the match. The Development XV combined with the 4th XV to play the Devs' Canterbury League fixture and the match is covered by Will Thorogood's review of the Clubsides (below).

This is a big weekend for the Club sides with the 3 sides playing in the Middlesex Merit Tables competition all having their play-off semi-final matches this Saturday. It's a tremendous achievement for all of the teams to get to the play-offs. The final tables are at Page 3.

Of the Club Sides, Will Thorogood reports that: "On Friday evening, a depleted Bench team, went to Imber Court but had their winning ways arrested by the Met Police Vets. Turning up with only 9 players, the cops bailed out the Bench by lending them 4 players. With uncontested scrums, the impact of our usually hard scrummaging forwards was taken away. However, it sounds as if the guys enjoyed themselves, and had a few cheap beers afterwards, but lost 44-22. At least the faithful got a game which is the important thing.

4s STEP UP

"The 4's ended up combining with the Devs to play Esher Devs. In need of vital game time, prior to their Merit Table Semi-Final Play-Off, the 4's players showed that they were not out of their depth in this Canterbury Shield 3 game. The Devs/4's went down, but it sounds a close game, 34-26, I think.

"The B's completed their Merit Table 2 campaign in Richmond Park against Imperial College. In a keenly contested, and sometimes a bit abrasive, match, it was 22 all at half time. I think Imperial just had the edge, and in conclusion, it was 34-25 to the Imps. The B's, however, already knew they had qualified for their play off semi-final, so maybe they were saving themselves? /Continued back page



Adam Gates leads another Park attack, supported by Jon Underwood, against Barking last Saturday [Photo: David Whittam]

This week

Saturday 28th March

1st XV v Canterbury

Home, National 3 South KO 3:00PM

Southend 2nd v Park 2nd

(Away, Friendly KO 3:00PM)

Development v Shelford 2nd

(Richmond Park, Canterbury League 3, KO TBA)

MIDDLESEX MERIT TABLE SEMI-FINALS

Park IV v Hammersmith & Fulham II

(Richmond Park KO 3:00)

Ealing Cougars v Park 'B'

(Away KO 3:00)

Nomads v Old Actonians II

(Richmond Park KO 3:00)

Hatters v Wimbledon II

(Doubtful, as Wimbledon are believed to have withdrawn from the Canterbury Shield)

Guildford Vets v Park Bench

(Away, Surrey Vets League, Div1 KO 3:00)

Sunday 29th March

Slingbacks v London Welsh

(Home, Championship2 KO TBA)

Slingbacks Too v Sutton & Epsom 1st

(Richmond Pk, League, KO TBA)

The Clubhouse is also open on Thursday evenings

PARK MADE TO FIGHT FOR IT

Rosslyn Park 21

Barking 18

National 3 South

Park made their usual positive start, having all of the play before a Rhys Gosling penalty put them 3-0 ahead after 5 minutes. Martin Anayi made a good run through the middle, followed by a further one by Dave Riley, whose pass was taken on by Jon Underwood and Barking had to concede a penalty to keep them out. Up stepped Gosling for 6-0.



However Barking, considerably strengthened and with a new coach since the sides met earlier in the season, began to gain more possession. A good attack up their right

stretched the home defence before the visitors gained a long distance penalty, well converted by fly half Ratford for 6-3 after 22 minutes.

Shortly afterwards the Barking kicker was stretchered off with a dislocated hip, an injury which Barking will probably argue cost them the match.

Shortly afterwards, awarded an easier penalty, the replacement kicker muffed the chance to equalise.



Park heeded the wake up call and caught Barking off-side. Graham Barr took a quick tap, his forwards lay siege to the line and Martin Anayi got over for a try, converted by Gosling for 13-3 after 26 minutes. Neither side was able to produce a further decisive attack before half time, but it should have scored more.

Park again made a lively start to the second half and after 6 minutes a rampaging run from Adam Gates produced a further penalty for Gosling to make it 16-3.



Barking dug deep and began to enjoy an advantage in possession and territory and pegged back Park with a well worked try in the right corner for 16-8.

Park looked the more likely side to score when they had the ball, and extended their lead

following a superb kick out of defence by Graham Barr. His long accurate kick put Park into the visiting 22 where they won the line-out and

quickly worked it across the pitch, for nippy winger Riley to side-step a defender and get in at the corner for 21-8.



Barking were too good for there ever to have been a realistic prospect of a 4-try bonus point, but it looked a safe enough home win until Park replacement Morgan Jones got himself yellow carded with less than 10 minutes to play. Sensing their opportunity, Barking kicked to touch, won the line-out and drove over for 21-13 but could not make the conversion that would have brought them within 7 points.

Almost straight away a good move up the right saw them go in for another try to make it 21-18. This time the stand-in kicker wasted no time on a doomed project, simply aiming a quick drop kick in the rough direction of the posts. Barking rushed back for the restart determined to give Park a torrid last two minutes

and possibly even retrieve a match that looked lost five minutes before.



In fact Park used their heads, kept the ball in the visitors' half and very nearly set up a drop goal for Gosling. Taken in the round, this was a better performance by Park than when they achieved the bonus point the previous week. With their new recruits Barking are a far better side than their league position, and you certainly could not criticise

Park's attitude or commitment, but they currently seem to lack a bit of the edge and authority that made them so formidable earlier in the season.

Park: Canty; Riley, O'Driscoll, Jewell, Swords; Gosling; Barr (Roche); Huggett (Charlton), Ritchie (Tauialo), Frazier; Quigley (Jones), Forster; Underwood, Anayi, Gates

Park scorers: Anayi (T), Riley (T), Gosling (3P, C).

David Whittam's Photos

Left column: top Martin Anayi scores Park's first try; middle Rob Jewell tries to find a way through the Barking defence and, bottom, Dave Riley scores Park's second.

This column: Top Jon Underwood soars at the lineout and below that Martin Anayi makes some hard yards.

This Saturday - Kick off 3:00 PM

Rosslyn Park

v

Canterbury

National 3 South

Youth season reaches climax with Stags rampant

By Stephen Cooper

Readers of Harry Potter will know that his Patronus, or protector at times of danger, is a silvery stag. Rosslyn Park Youth have also adopted the talismanic Stag – traditional nomenclature for Park 2nd XV teams, unaccountably dropped by the Senior club – and those Stags have gripped their leagues by the antlers, with some great team performances.

As we enter the last weeks of a weather-hit season, the U13 and U14 Stags teams both sit atop their leagues, charging hard for promotion. Both will play their climactic final games before crowds of hundreds at The Rock. The U13s have achieved the rare feat of entering 3 teams in their age group, and the A Lions are a point off the top, with the C Crusaders in solid mid-table respectability. This is a fantastic tribute to a squad of 65+ players under a terrific coaching and management team led by Gerry Manley.

This group is also remarkable for its social élan, and have established an enviable reputation in Surrey for their pitchside hospitality with flagons of coffee and chocolate brownies. They will also be hosting a marquee at the Floodlit Sevens. Credit goes to all the parents who have sustained the enthusiasm of their Mini days into the Youth League arena.

At U14 level, the A Rhinos have been unsettled by injuries and loss of players to the river and even the Duke of Edinburgh (award scheme, not the pub), and will take their fight to stay up right down to the wire in April.

The B Stags will round off a fine season at The Rock on March 29th, having beaten 3 A teams on the way, and only losing their winning ways in the dazzle of Wimbledon's new floodlights.

John Telling's U15s who toured Ireland and have sustained their league season with a succession of friendlies have an outside chance of promotion, although other results may decide their fate. This age group is a phoenix reborn from last season's disappointments, and all credit should go to John, his coaching team and players.

The U16s also continue their drive to return to the top flight. On paper they have a good chance with two games to go, although pundits point to a narrow loss by 2 points to Sutton that may yet frustrate their ambition. Encouraging late season signs have seen former players returning to the fold, which bodes well for next year.

Sadly as reported earlier, the U17s suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous rugby fortune and folded for lack of players. This is a common problem in our area, with many local clubs competing for the limited pool of players, and school commitments raising the pressure on Sunday rugby.

Good luck to all those teams in their final games and thanks to the coaches and managers who keep it all going over a long season. If effort alone counted, they would all be promoted.

MIDDLESEX MERIT TABLES

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Points	Pts	Total		
					F	A	Diff	Ded	Pts
London Welsh Occies	12	11	0	1	403	129	274	0	68
Rosslyn Park IV	12	8	1	3	312	142	170	0	58
Hammersmith & Fulham II	12	6	0	6	271	243	28	0	48
London New Zealand II	12	7	0	5	251	188	63	5	47
London Scottish IV	12	5	1	6	240	199	41	0	46
Civil Service II	12	3	0	9	135	417	-282	2	34
Imperial Medicals II	12	1	0	11	110	404	-294	4	24

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Points	Pts	Total		
					F	A	Diff	Ded	Pts
Ealing Cougars	14	13	0	1	619	48	571	3	77
Black Baa Baas	14	11	0	3	388	246	142	3	69
Imperial College	14	10	0	4	431	234	197	1	67
Rosslyn Park 'B' XV	14	6	0	8	285	338	-53	0	52
Hammersmith & Fulham III	14	5	0	9	162	395	-233	0	48
Bank of England II	14	3	0	11	166	360	-194	2	38
Grasshoppers II	12	3	0	9	165	371	-206	1	35
London Scottish V	12	3	0	9	126	350	-224	4	32

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Points	Pts	Total		
					F	A	Diff	Ded	Pts
Rosslyn Park Nomads	12	10	0	2	399	102	297	0	64
Chiswick II	12	10	0	2	378	87	291	1	63
Hammersmith & Fulham IV	12	7	0	5	190	200	-10	0	52
Old Actonians II	12	6	0	6	269	225	44	0	48
Harlequin Amateurs II	12	6	0	6	195	288	-93	2	46
Belsize Park II	12	1	0	11	115	298	-183	0	28
Kilburn Cosmos II	12	2	0	10	125	471	-346	5	27

The final Middlesex Merit Tables reflect well on a healthy Section of Rosslyn Park. As 4s skipper Anthony Leatham pointed out, 'Out of the 3 Rosslyn Park clubsides competing in the Middlesex Merit Table leagues - Fours, Bs and Nomads - all 3 teams have managed to secure play-off places in their respective Merit Tables (!) In addition, congratulations should go to the Hatters who are finishing their season in the highly competitive Canterbury Shield 3. Social rugby is alive and well at Rosslyn Park!!

The semi-finals this weekend are:

Division 1
London Welsh Occies v London New Zealand II
Park 4s v Hammersmith & Fulham II

Division 2
Ealing Cougars v Park 'B'
Black Baa Baas v Imperial College

Division 3
Park Nomads v Old Actonians II
Chiswick II v Hammersmith & Fulham IV

NOMADS CLINCH TITLE

Nomads 27

Belsize Park 3

Middlesex Merit 3

By Ed Bracken

We produced another storming display on Saturday to overrun a fiercely determined Belsize Park team to retain our league title. The first half was generally tense and scrappy, as we looked for the win that would give us the title and Belsize Park looked for the win that might just save them from relegation. On a day when their 1's didn't have a game, there weren't many familiar faces from the last time we played them, and sure enough they posed a very different challenge.

The initial exchanges were heavy as both sides looked to establish some sort of dominance, with the tackles flying in. The forwards stepped straight up to the plate as always and looked to take the game to the sizeable Belsize pack. After some early wobbles, the front row soon got to grips at the scrum, with Wooney bang up for it as always, James involved in every ruck and Lee manfully soldiering on despite picking up a heavy knock on his leg.

We also struggled initially in the line-out, but Josh (also playing despite carrying an injury) soon established his customary dominance, and Nick Mc offered the grunt in the engine room. With Matt P and Matt Mc steaming into contact and winning great turn-over ball at the breakdown, we started to edge the forward contest, meaning we had a platform to unleash the backs. However, it wasn't quite clicking, with perhaps an over-emphasis on kicking meaning we were struggling to put together many phases, and it was Belsize Park who opened the scoring with a penalty after a spell of pressure in our 22: 0-3.

To our credit, we refused to panic and got back to doing the basics, and slowly but surely the gaps started to appear, with Alex in particular finding space in midfield. Just as it started to look like we might go into the break behind, Chris broke down the left and offloaded for Alex to smash his way over from short range: 5-3.

We knew at half-time that we had a lot more to offer, and that if we remained patient we could start to open them up, and sure enough it worked. We stepped up a gear or two, and immediately took complete

control. Prompted by the intelligence and slick distribution of Mark at the base of the scrum, Chris was having a field day at 10, constantly making half-breaks and stretching the Belsize defence, and outside him Guy showed his searing pace time and again and was unlucky with several attempts to offload at full pelt.

After serious pressure in the opposition 22, we increased our lead with the simplest of tries - after we'd had an attack held up over the try line, Michiel picked up from the base of the resulting short scrum, and nothing was going to be stopped from that range: 10-3.

And soon it got better, as yet another break from Chris saw the ever-supporting Stu fly over down the left and under the posts: 17-3. We were really starting to fire now, and with Ted making an instant impression in this baptism of fire of a debut, and JT coming on to continue the relentless forward effort, we continued to create chances and Chris soon got the try he deserved after slick passing in the backs: 22-3.

This was the 19 point advantage we needed to secure the league title as of right, but there was no chance of us holding back now. Ed C made a couple of lively breaks down the left and was unlucky to be pulled back just short of the line, before Chris again showed his pace with a flying finish down the short side: 27-3. There was just about time for him to buckle his shoulder when going for the hat-trick after Matt P had intercepted and run most of the length of the pitch, but that set-back aside, we were able to close-out a great win.

A fantastic way to end the league season - a proper, hard fought victory against a well drilled and very committed opposition. Immense.

Man of the Match: very difficult to call on a day when everyone gave everything for the cause. The forwards were outstanding on the day, but Michiel deserves credit for scoring the key try that swung the game in our favour, and one that's becoming his trademark. In the backs, Mark's calm under pressure and smooth reading of the game were a key factor in keeping us ticking over. Outstanding effort.

Nomads: 1 Wooney, 2 James, 3 Lee (Ted), 4 Josh, 5 Nick Mc (JT), 6 Matt Mc, 7 Matt P, 8 Michiel, 9 Mark, 10 Chris J, 11 Ed C, 12 Alex, 13 Guy, 14 Ed, 15 Stu.

Tries: Alex, Michiel, Chris 2, Stu.

READERS' LETTERS

Andy Wilkinson on the bonus points system

Charlie

The views of a supporter who turns up every week, leans against the barrier with his pint, either cheers the team or mumbles and grumbles at them, and then goes home. I may be out of synch with everyone else but I have no real gripes with the league points system as it stands. It gives due importance to wins but also rewards performance on the pitch with that little extra, win or lose, and potentially gives the supporters interest in a match right to the end.

The Barking match may not be a good example, the sin-binning obviously had a bearing, but those Barking supporters at the match (if there were any) had something to cheer their team on for, and we also had the excitement of being able to offer advice to the referee, and bite our nails, right to the end!

Barking incidentally have "scored" 12 bonus points to Park's 8 although I suspect they would swap their 7 losing points for 28 winning ones if they could!

I guess we've blown our 5 year plan out of the window by the team's performance this year, hasn't it been great? We just have to convert that into promotion next year - with Scottish out of the way. Sounds easy doesn't it, the trouble is there always seems to be a team passing through the league.

At the start of each season it seems that a club has to considerably strengthen its squad just to remain competitive, let alone push for promotion. Last year our second half of the season revival was helped by the recruitment of one or two higher division "academy" players. This season in match previews it has been mentioned that we must not be complacent against such and such a team as they have strengthened their squad since we played them last by doing what we did last season. I am sure that the backroom boys are working on next season but avoid-

ing relegation is not the only reason for strengthening a squad mid-season.

Having said that I would like to congratulate all at the club for the work they have put in. The way the season has gone there will be a temptation for them to be disappointed if we only finish third - they shouldn't be

Inevitably, back to the bonus point. Mathematically a team could win every game and not win the league - I agree that cannot be right, but even Formula 1, after a 5 day flirtation with a different system, has reverted to one where a driver can be world champion without winning a race! Regards **Andy Wilkinson**

Trevor Lipscombe has a book to sell

Dear Charlie,

My book "The Physics of Rugby" has just been published by Nottingham University Press.

(<http://www.nup.com/Catalogue/ProductDetails.aspx?ProductID=265>).

The idea is to use rugby as a means to teach physics painlessly to high school students (GCSE and A level). [I have a phd in physics from Oxford and played rugby in college until my neck was broken when a scrum collapsed].

I mention Rosslyn Park a couple of times in the book. I used Andy Ripley, you're former Number 8, as a great example of putting principles of physics into practice, both as Number 8 and then as Indoor Rowing Champion. I also mentioned that the club has the honour of playing the first game on the continent, against Stade Francais, which as I'm sure you remember, Rosslyn Park won!

Not sure if this merits a press release, but any fan who uses the code "rugby10" when ordering the book from Nottingham will get a 10% discount! All best, **Dr. Trevor Lipscombe**

Johns Hopkins University

TRIUMPH, COCK-UP and CURRY CUP



I wish to apologize to all the children, coaches, parents, grandparents and siblings who gave up Mothers Day for the expectation of playing/seeing good competitive rugby on a beautiful sunny warm day and thank you for the patience and pragmatic attitude shown by all.

As one Under 8 said to his Dad ' It was like an all day picnic but not a very good one'

The Curry Cup - Rockys Red & White Army's Youngest's First Tournament

Nick Gardner
Under 6s Manager

Meanwhile at The Rock, the sun shone and all was well as the U6s held the inaugural Curry Cup, named following Putney Tandoori's kind sponsorship of the competition.

As Rudyard Kipling might have put it, "If you can meet with Triumph and Diasater, and treat those two imposters just the same...you'll end up Chaiing the Minis". Graham Robson reports from the coalface:

'Rocky's Red & White Army - The Minis Keep Marching On!'

By Graham Robson
Chairman Minis Section

What a Sunday for Rocky's Red and White Army joy, frustration and tears all in one day!

The good news was the Under 10 A and U11A's played their semi final round of the very well organised Eithad Cup at The Stoop on Sunday. Both teams won their groups convincingly without conceding any tries. They now join the Under 7A, Under 8A, and Under 9As Rosslyn Park teams at the Eithad Cup Final on Saturday 25th April. This is the first year that the Rosslyn Park Minis have entered teams from every age group from U7 to U12 and we have five teams in finals - the highest number of teams from one club (Ealing have three teams and Teddington two teams in the Final)!

On the same day fourteen teams of the Red and White Army experienced the opposite to the very well organised and run Eithad Cup - The Surrey B and C County Festival' at Sutton and Epsom! The only words to describe this event is an organisational disaster. The Festival imploded into chaos due to inept organising and no planning - it was a debacle. Teams stood around for up to three hours waiting for their first matches and many age group competitions were dis-banded as the organisers couldn't put orders of play together or clubs got on and palyed friendlies.

However out of the ashes of this disaster - many phoenixes rose from the the age groups in the competitions that were eventually held:

Under 7 A & B Competition abandoned.
Under 8 Bs - Surrey B Champions.
Under 8 Cs - Surrey C Champions.
Under 9 Bs - Competition abandoned after Pool rounds, Rosslyn Park unbeaten in pool matches.
Under 9 Cs - Surrey C Champions
Under 10 A & B Competition abandoned.
Under 11Bs - Joint Surrey B Champions
Under 11Cs - Narrowly beaten in pool stage.
Under 12 Bs - Semi Finalists

Unfortunately the winners did not receive trophies or winners medals as by the time the finals were finished, which was well after five, the organisers had gone home!

The event saw four Rosslyn Park Teams (RPFC Obolensky, RPFC Cipriani, RPFC Ripley and RPFC Offiah) take on



teams from Wimbledon and Barnes RFC. The pool stages were a very close affair with Wimbledon Warriors and RPFC Obolensky only separated in a final countback, setting up a Warriors vs RPFC Cipriani final.

The RPFC Obolenskys beat

Barnes for third place but the Warriors were too strong for the RPFC Cipriani's taking the final by 4 tries to 2. The trophy and medals were presented by Ahmed Na'eem from Putney Tandoori who very kindly joined us for the morning.

The event, acclaimed a huge success by all involved, demonstrates the strength in depth of the club at this its most junior section. With not only four U6 teams taking part but nearly 30 children from the U5s squad also putting on a full tag exhibition match before the grand final.

Many thanks to Ahmed Na'eem of the famous Putney Tandoori for sponsoring this event and his very kind offer of a 10% discount to members of Rosslyn Park FC at his restaurant (on production of your RPFC card):-
Putney Tandoori
137 Lower Richmond Road
SW15 1 EZ Tel: 020 8788 4891



From front page

"The Nomads rolled on in Richmond Park against Bel-size Park 2's. The first half was closely contested, 10-3 to us at half time. To reflect, I think, what a talented side this is, they dominated a Bel-size Park team, which contained a significant number of their Firsts, in the second half. 27-3 to the Nomads which confirmed their position at the top of the table. The boys were certainly having a good jolly at the club afterwards in celebration!! Thanks for the beer, boys!!

Surrey Vets League 1

Team	P	W	L	D	W/O	Scr	F	A	Diff	P/B	Pts
Richmond Vets	10	8	1	1	2	0	323	147	176	0	45
Esher Vets	8	6	1	1	3	0	209	93	116	0	41
Barnes Vets	9	5	4	0	3	0	194	163	31	0	40
Park Bench	7	3	4	0	3	0	136	185	-49	0	32
Ealing Vets	6	1	4	1	3	2	100	182	-82	0	27
Guildford Vets	6	0	5	1	3	3	54	201	-147	0	25
Weybridge V	6	1	5	0	1	3	60	105	-45	0	18
Farnborough	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
Met Police Vets	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

"Unfortunately, the Hatters could not raise a full side to play Tring in a "double header", so I'm afraid, we lost the points for two games. As mentioned previously, the 6 Nations, which I do love, does have its downside in luring away players from their own games. C'est la vie.

"I found the "Big Tackle", again, interesting, but I anticipate that there will be plenty of debate with the Rosslyn Park fold!! Oh, well done Ireland, even though my mum was upset by the result in Cardiff!"

Local derby on Sunday

On Sunday afternoon the Slingbacks have a vital Championship Two match against London Welsh. The Welsh girls have improved immensely since the days in which the Slingbacks regularly gave them a drubbing and your support would be greatly appreciated. The Clubhouse will be open and there's no charge for admission, so why not come along and enjoy some top class Women's Rugby? The girls' second string are also at home in Richmond Park to Sutton & Epsom 1st. At time of writing we don't know whether kick offs will be staggered to allow the really keen to see both matches.

The Big Tackle



Despite fears to the contrary, Park emerged well from the "Big Tackle" programme on ITV on Sunday evening. If you missed it, then the whole programme will be shown again in the Clubhouse at 1:00PM this Saturday, when the ITV cameras will again be at the Rock to record a follow-up programme. So whether you missed the programme, or would like to see it again, be in the Club-

house for 1:00PM. And also on the Big Tackle, this Sunday you can watch the Slingbacks. This could actually be quite a good one. The main focus is on Witney Ladies, but their opponents scratched the day before. So, as they were filming at Park on the Saturday, they managed to persuade the p***ed Slingbacks to travel to Oxfordshire on the Sunday so they had something to film. It is doubtful whether the producers will show what difficulties the Park girls had in evicting Austin from their dressing room so that they could change. If there was a code of Rugby that entailed falling out of a coach in remote Oxfordshire, still half cut, and playing with everyone out of position, then in the Slingbacks we have potential champions.

Dates for your diary

On Friday 3rd April the 2nd XV's Canterbury League Division one match against Esher (away) is switched to that evening kicking off at 7:30PM. So far as we know, Esher will not be charging for admission. On the following Wednesday (8th April) the Colts play Richmond Under-212s at the Rock also kicking off at 7:30. Admission free and the Clubhouse will open early to accommodate those travelling straight from work.

400 Club

Only one of this month's winners features for the first time. The lucky ones are Edward Aitken (£25), Eric Mountjoy (£50), and Tony Tanner (£100). The next draw, to be announced on 18th April is the big one. In addition to the usual prizes, there will be another three including one of £1,000. Watch this space for details!

Currying favour

If, as Rugby people are wont to do from time to time, you are busting for a curry then why not look up Ahmed Na'eem of the Putney Tandoori at 137 Lower Richmond Road SW15 1 EZ Tel: 020 8788 4891. Ahmed sponsored the minis tournament at the weekend (see previous page) and let it be known that he'll knock 10% off your bill upon production of your Park Membership card.

In the frame



Thanks to Mark Cadogan for the excellent photos of the Club's Minis (opposite and on the preceding page). Mark has a large number of similar pics downloadable from a website which mini parents can freely access and download. As we can't give details here because we cannot know if some unsavoury characters come across Parknews on the internet. Ask around in the Clubhouse and someone will have details.

The Scrum

Don't forget that the Scrum is in its regular slot at 9:00PM this Thursday on BBC Radio London 94.9FM, or via the BBC website. In addition to the usual features on London Rugby and National 3 South, there's a feature on the Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s.

National 3 South

	Home					Away					Bonus			Pts
	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Try	
London Scottish	21	11	0	0	9	1	0	865	240	625	14	0	96	
Rosslyn Park	22	10	0	1	8	0	3	543	277	266	7	0	80	
Ealing	21	10	0	2	5	1	3	699	341	358	14	3	79	
Richmond	21	7	1	2	5	1	5	416	395	21	5	1	58	
Canterbury	20	5	1	4	5	0	5	479	473	7	8	3	53	
Dings Crusaders	21	7	1	3	3	1	6	426	466	-40	5	3	52	
Henley	21	6	0	4	4	2	5	418	417	1	6	1	51	
Rugby Lions	22	5	3	3	4	0	7	487	568	-81	5	3	50	
Barking	23	7	1	4	2	1	8	506	462	44	5	7	49	
Worthing	21	3	1	6	3	0	8	338	507	-169	3	5	34	
Chinnor	22	3	0	7	3	2	7	360	572	-212	2	4	34	
Bridgwater & Albion	20	5	0	4	2	0	9	348	524	-176	2	2	32	
Lydney	21	4	1	5	1	0	10	334	583	-249	2	5	29	
Havant	22	2	0	10	1	0	9	298	692	-394	3	4	19	

Barking have been deducted 3 points

This weeks fixtures

Barking v London Scottish; Bridgwater & Albion v Havant; Chinnor v Lydney; Henley v Rugby Lions; Richmond v Dings Crusaders; Rosslyn Park v Canterbury; Worthing v Ealing.