



The e-Magazine for Rosslyn Park Supporters - Issue 32 2013/14 - 30 April 2014

# PARK END WITH 8-TRY BLITZ

**W**elcome to Parknews. Park could hardly have done more than Saturday's 8-try thumping of Cinderford to stake their claim for promotion. But when news came through from Blackheath that Doncaster had won, it was all in vain and Park must prepare for another season in National 1. Park can take pride in having taken the division's only full-time professional club right to the wire – indeed their playing record of P30 W25 D1 L4 is better than the Champions' P30 W25 D0 L5, but they were pipped on bonus points. Perhaps the best measure of what was achieved is that we finished 24 points ahead of the next-best semi-pro club, third-placed Coventry. Disappointing inasmuch as we didn't quite lift the title, but this was an outstanding performance with which to sign off for what has been by any yardstick a phenomenally successful season.

The following day Alex Codling said, 'Yesterday was a great way to end the season with our 9th win on the bounce and to score 18 tries in our last 2 games highlights the attacking intent and finishing on show. To finish 24 points clear of the nearest semi-professional team is a truly remarkable achievement and one the boys should be extremely proud of. There was a great atmosphere at the club yesterday and we look forward to more days like this next season.'

Whilst it is frustrating to finish second having a better playing record than the Champions, let's not spoil a great season by indulging in a bout of sour grapes. We all knew the rules before the season started. Doncaster got more points than we did – end of story.

But in looking at the season's ups and downs, do spare a thought for Stourbridge in National 2 North. They had the best playing record in that division and didn't even make the play-offs! Macclesfield are promoted from the North and Hartpury College from the South, while Darlington Mowden Park are at home to Amptill in the Play-Off for the third promotion spot. The relegated sides are all three of the sides promoted last term: Hull Ionians, Worthing and Henley Hawks.

At the other end of the table, the side relegated from the Championship last term go straight back up while the side promoted last year come back down in the form of Ealing Trailfinders. As the French have it, *plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*. There are rumours that Ealing's ever-generous sponsor, Mike Gooley of Trailfinders, has opened up the coffers to provide a huge war chest for the coming campaign. Money alone cannot, of course, buy the sort of team spirit Park showed in the recent campaign (though it's probably a pretty good deposit!). Here's looking forward to another really tough season.

While the League matches are done and dusted, the season is far from over. On Thursday 8th May we stage the London Floodlit 7s. It is the Club's main fundraiser for the year, full details are on Page 2, so please do support it yourself and persuade as many others as you can to come along. It's the Capital's Greatest Rugby Party - and you could see the new lights switched on. A week later we stage the inaugural Women's London Floodlit 7s, and there are details of that inside as well.

## Joint celebrations

Both sides had something to celebrate after Saturday's match - for Park the victory, for Cinderford the news that Henley had only drawn at Tynedale and so the Foresters are safe for another season /continued on page 3....



Charles Broughton and Dave Vincent cut off a Cinderford attack [Photo by David Whittam]

Thursday 8th May

## London Floodlit 7s

An all-star line-up for a fabulous evening of top-class Sevens Rugby, featuring Rosslyn Park, Harlequins, Saracens, Wasps, London Irish, London Scottish, Ealing Trailfinders, Richmond, Blackheath, Esher, the Army and Serious Stuff Pups.

**Kick off 5:00PM**

**Final: 10:20PM**

**Full details and timetable on Page 2**

Thursday 15th May

## Women's London Floodlit 7s

A super evening of the best Womens' 7s Rugby featuring: Rosslyn Park Slingbacks, Finland, Richmond, Wasps, Saracens, Wimbledon, Finland Moomins, Moody Cows and Saxons

**Kick Off: 5:00PM**

**Final: 9:42PM**

**Admission £2 Under-12 free**

Send all articles, reports and correspondence to: [news@rosslynpark.co.uk](mailto:news@rosslynpark.co.uk) (click for e-mail)

# SERIOUS STUFF London Floodlit Sevens

**Thursday 8th May 2014**

**at Rosslyn Park**

**£15 at the gate. £5 under 16's**



for advance discounted tickets  
[www.londonfloodlitsevens.com](http://www.londonfloodlitsevens.com)

**The capital's greatest rugby party**



**Gates open 4.00pm  
Kick off 5.00pm  
Final 10.20pm**

**Confirmed Line Up**

**Harlequins  
Wasps  
Saracens  
London-Irish  
Rosslyn Park  
Esher  
Blackheath  
London-Scottish  
Ealing Trailfinders  
Richmond  
The Army  
Serious Stuff Pups**

Rosslyn Park FC  
Upper Richmond Road  
Roehampton SW15 5JH  
T: 020 8876 6044

The draw has been made for this season's London Floodlit Sevens, and we have a thrilling evening of Sevens Rugby lined up for Thursday on Thursday 8th May. It's surely a line-up to whet the appetite of any Sevens fan, and a great evening to round off what has been a successful season throughout the Club. As usual there are four pools of three teams each:

#### **Pool A**

Harlequins  
London Scottish  
Richmond

#### **Pool B**

London Irish  
Rosslyn Park  
Blackheath

#### **Pool C**

Saracens  
Serious Stuff Pups  
Ealing Trailfinders

#### **Pool D**

Wasps  
The Army  
Esher

The Pool matches begin at 5:00PM with a cracking contest between Harlequins and London Scottish, which should get things off to a lively start. The winners of each Pool meet in the Semi-Finals, the first of which takes place at 9:00PM. Repeating the innovation of last year, the two runners-up with the best records in the Pool matches will play off for the Bowl, which kicks off at 9:50PM. So there should be something resting on every match throughout the Pool stage.

The two semi-final winners will meet in the Final at 10:20PM. This is Rosslyn Park's biggest single fund-raiser of the year, so we hope everyone will support it and bring along as many friends as you can. Could we politely remind Members that admission is a case of ALL PAY. On the night admission will be £15 for adults and £5 for Under-16s, but you can book in advance at a reduced rate of £10 for adults. Go to [www.londonfloodlitsevens.com](http://www.londonfloodlitsevens.com)

The programme for the evening on the field is:

#### **Pool Matches**

17:00	Harlequins	v	London Scottish
17:20	London Irish	v	Rosslyn Park
17:40	Saracens	v	Serious Stuff Pups
18:00	London Wasps	v	The Army
18:20	London Scottish	v	Richmond
18:40	Rosslyn Park	v	Blackheath
19:00	Serious Stuff Pups	v	Ealing Trailfinders
19:20	The Army	v	Esher
19:40	Harlequins	v	Richmond
20:00	London Irish	v	Blackheath
20:20	Saracens	v	Ealing Trailfinders
20:40	London Wasps	v	Esher

#### **Semi-finals**

21:00	Winners Pool A	v	Winners Pool B
21:20	Winners Pool C	v	Winners Pool D

#### **Bowl Final**

21:50	Two best Runners-Up in pool matches		
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#### **Grand Final**

22:20	Winners S/F 1	v	Winners S/F 2
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As you can see, it's a great evening on the field and you can enjoy an equally great time off it. There will be the usual variety of food outlets and alfresco bars to supplement the usual Clubhouse Service, plus a bar extension for those with the stamina!



The Rosslyn Park Slingbacks 2013-14

of National 1 rugby. With no disrespect to Henley at all, it would have felt sad to send down a club that works miracles to survive at National 1 level. They represent a small town in a rugby-mad community whose economy has never really recovered from the closure of the mines - let alone the current recession. But a hard-working Committee, with no sugar daddy but all real decent rugby people, somehow keeps them up. It's not often you see a team leave the field smiling after a heavy defeat!

### Slingbacks

On Sunday the Slingbacks ensured their survival as a Championship 2 side with a spirited performance against Richmond III at the Rock. In a difficult season, the way the girls have kept their heads up and continued to work for each other is an inspiration and an example to any other team. Congratulations are due.

### Slingbacks win close, nail-biting encounter

#### Slingbacks 35

#### Richmond 27

#### Championship 2

by Samantha Sherwood

On Sunday The Rock saw probably one of the most entertaining, thrilling games of the women's South East division season. With weather that was perfect for rugby the Slingbacks kicked off against a Richmond 3's side with it all to play for. Whoever lost this encounter would be relegated. With that in mind the Slingbacks powered out of the blocks and put immediate pressure on Richmond, proving that this would be a game that they weren't going to give up easily. After lots of early pressure from the pack and a great cutting run from Christina Ovenden the Slingbacks won a penalty in Richmond's 22 after 2 minutes. Winger Esther King stepped up and coolly put it over to make it 3-0.

The early head start gave the Slingbacks momentum and with some impressive rucking and pressure again in Richmond's half the ball eventually got to the hands of full back Danielle Williams who ran the first try of the game in from 30 metres, just after 10 minutes, giving the Slingbacks a 8-0 lead.

Richmond responded and piled the pressure on the Slingbacks and at 19 minutes the Richmond 8 made a superb break, skipping through 4 tackles before being pulled down in a try saving tackle by Williams. This strength and determination continued and the Slingbacks played with consistent pressure and intensity, with all the pack carrying well and breaking the gain line, especially Hannah Murphy and Hannah Boardman. The backs were making great runs and defending with gusto, especially Camilla Breuton, who appeared to be everywhere at once. At 25 minutes Elicia Davis got the ball on the wing and ran through the Richmond defence to score a try under the posts. King converted making the score 15-0 at 25 minutes. A score that the Slingbacks would only have dreamed of at kick off.

The Slingbacks continued to pile on the pressure and won a pen-

alty after Richmond were penalised for continually killing the ball at the breakdown. King kicked the penalty bringing the score to 18-0 at 35 minutes.

Richmond then bought on ex-Slingback prop Mena Fombo who made an instant impact. Her work in the rucks gave Richmond the ball in order to score a breakaway try, which was converted making the score 18-7 at 38 minutes. Richmond continued to pile on the pressure and at 40 minutes, after repeated work at the breakdown found a space for Fombo to power over for their 2nd try in 2 minutes, taking the score to 18-12 at half time.

The second half proved to be even more entertaining than the first. With the momentum against the Slingbacks they leaked two tries in the first 10 minutes, both which were unconverted taking the score to 18-22 in Richmond's favour at 50 minutes. But the Slingbacks were not beaten, they continued to put pressure on Richmond at the breakdown and at the scrum with everyone working tirelessly. At 55 minutes they got their break when Davis broke away again, skipping past countless Richmond players to score her 2nd try of the game, leaving the game at 23-22.

Davis within minutes then made a try saving tackle when Richmond broke down the wing. Richmond continued to pile on the pressure and with Emma Smyth coming off with an injury Libby Jensen made her Slingbacks debut, instantly putting in some massive tackles and working hard at the breakdown. At 60 minutes after being warned as a team for too many high tackles Boardman was yellow carded. 10 minutes with 14 is usually the undoing of many a team but the Slingbacks proved that they were not to be beaten and though they leaked a try just after the yellow card, managed to pile on enough pressure, win scrums and release Davis to score her hat-trick try under the posts, which was converted by King on 68 minutes taking the score to 30-27.

With Boardman back on the field the Slingbacks pushed for the final 10 minutes of the season and won 2 consecutive penalties that King attempted but unfortunately missed, at 75 and 76 minutes. However the Slingbacks had one final moment of glory in them - after continued sustained pressure and hard work by all in the breakdown they were camped on the Richmond try-line. At 78 1/2 minutes Breuton reached over for a 5th, bonus point try taking the score to 35-27 with 90 seconds left. The Slingbacks rode out the final 90 seconds and were deserved winners of a thrilling encounter. The Slingbacks finish the season 3rd from bottom and avoid relegation. The crowd at the game on Sunday were fantastic and the Slingbacks would like to thank everyone for their support this weekend and throughout the season. Forward of the match went to Boardman for running fantastic lines and always getting up quickly in defence. Back of the match went to Breuton for her management of the game and great defensive work.

**Park:** 15 D. Williams, 14 E. King, 13 Jenny Hobson, 12 Katie Parkinson, 11 E Davis, 10 C Breton, 9 Maria Castellina, 8 C Ovenden, 7 Stacie Casciani (Sinead Freeman), 6 E Smyth (L Jensen), 5 H Murphy, 4 H Boardman, 3 Laura Templeman, 2 Fi Wallace, 1 Charlotte Brooks



### Minis & Juniors

#### Under-8s

By Alex Bark



**A**fter the Harrison's (U8 A team - see photo) stunning win at the Lexus National competition at Sixways on 13 April, alongside the U7 and U9 As, it was the turn of the rest of the Park U8s for their time in the sun last Saturday at the Wasps vs Gloucester 'Stinger' match at Twickenham. Four Park teams competed alongside 20 others for the Stinger Tag tournament during the morning, with the RPFCS Spitfires running out as joint champions and RPFCS Hawks sharing the Bowl. In all, 21 players from Park made it on to the Twickenham pitch at half time for the finals in front of a 37,000 strong crowd. A fantastic day out for all and a great way to mark the transition from tag to contact for the whole age group!



#### Under-9s

by Paul Bellamy

**T**his report was just too late for last week's Parknews, but the U9s have again been busy over the last few weeks as the season draws to a close. On the 6th we had an A team down to the new format Surrey A in Dorking, a B team down Sutton & Epsom last Sunday and our A team off to the Lexus National Finals at Worcester Warriors.

At Dorking the boys had a good series of matches winning all four on the day but the new format does not allow for an outright champion so we were unable to defend our trophy. Similarly at Sutton & Epsom our B team had a good day winning three out of four and drawing a hard fought match against Wimbledon.

The new Lexus National Final at Worcester Warriors has been long in the waiting as we qualified from the London and South East Region back in November. The event was very well organised and the guys got to play on the first team pitch which is in excellent condition. It was a round robin event with teams from Scotland, the north-east, the north-west, the midlands and south-west. Our opening match was against Cleve and we were in top gear from the start winning 5 tries to 0 followed by a match against the West of Scotland with the same 5 tries to 0 result. Our third match was against Chester who had won their opening two matches as well and this ended in a hard fought 2 - 2 draw (a last minute try was disallowed for Park which was unfortunate). We then resumed winning ways with a 5 - 0 victory over a well drilled Hull Ionian team and our final match was a 3 - 0 victory over Oxford Harlequins.

The guys played brilliantly on the day only conceding 2 tries and were worthy victors. As you can see from the photographs they

were all thrilled to be crowned National Champions and are looking forward to defending their title next year. A big thank you to Lexus for organising this new tournament and to Worcester Warriors for being great hosts.

The white team (A's) remain unbeaten over all three years of competitive matches which is no easy task and deserve credit for all their hard work and teamwork.

#### Under-16s

By Donny Masters

**T**he under 16's retained their Surrey league title this weekend. They are a supremely talented and hard working group of boys who are worthy champions. This season we played 8 games won 7 and lost 1 scoring 273 points and conceding 53.



It was a very proud month for Park with 3 of the squad playing at the divisional festival at Wellington college. Congratulations to Lars Heidrich (2nd row) and Zack Santos (scrum half) who were selected for the England Saxons and Will Glover (open side flanker) was selected for the England Lions. All three boys have been at Park since they were minis and have all developed into fine players.

#### Clubsides

**W**ill Thorogood reports that last Saturday saw the end of the Clubsides' Competition Campaign, with the Hatters playing local rivals Richmond Normans in the Shield. This was a game rearranged from the floods and depths of February. It was an afternoon for open running rugby, and duly was. It wasn't going to be a tight "upfront" game, as scrums were uncontested (where are those props when you want them)? To be honest, Richmond, in the initial stages showed more expansive and direct running, and we missed some tackles. As a result, they took a quick and significant lead.

However, after the initial "blitz", the Hatters settled and gave the Normans a game. We scored a couple of well worked tries, but in the last quarter Richmond consolidated, by going over a couple more times, and the game was theirs. Hatters 12 Richmond Normans 38.

It has been a long season for the Hatters, but they have finished a very creditable 3rd in what is a very competitive Zoo Sports 3 South league. More to come next season, no doubt! Good work, Gents.

Nothing heard at time of publication from the B's, who may have returned from Aachen?! Similarly, nothing from the Nomads...too much port in Porto!!

Hatters are off this weekend to Marseilles, where they play SMUC (Stade Marseille University Club). They are also hoping to watch "King Jonny" of Toulon! The 4's are off to Tyneside in a couple of weeks.

#### Brian O'Reagan

**T**he Club has been saddened to hear of the death of a great Rosslyn Park man in the substantial form of Brian O'Reagan.

Brian came to Rosslyn Park via London Irish, and spent some time

serving on the Rosslyn Park Committee. If being a Committee man conjures up a stuffed shirt image, then Brian was anything but that. In recalling him, the words 'convivial' and 'fun to be with' come up again and again.

He was a rugby man through and through and as good a judge of a player as anyone. He ran Park's Under-21 side and firmly believed in pushing youngsters on into the Senior sides. Roddy Golightly recalls travelling with Brian on several trips to watch players which Brian thought might be good recruits for Park. Each trip ended back at Chez O'Reagan where copious amounts of alcohol would be dispensed.

His contacts in Irish Rugby were second to none. It was he who was behind several matches played between Park and Old Wesley. Two of these involved trips to Dublin, very fondly remembered by all who took part. One of the many O'Reagan stories followed a Friday night friendly at the Rock, with Old Wesley as the visitors. After finally closing up after a long bar 'extension' our then steward, Doug Bradford, ventured outside to spot Brian fast asleep in the driver's seat of his Toyota. When Doug hammered on the window, Brian awoke instantly, "Oh Jesus, that was quick! We're home already!" (He took a cab in the end).

Brian was always quick to offer a job to a player in need at his Marble City enterprise. Many good players did a stint there, including the likes of Mark Jermyn and Simon Hunter.

President Geoff Bayles recalls a generous man. "He once gave me a marble table. I went to pick it up in my car, but had to hire a truck to get it home. I still have it and it is a pretty solid reminder of a good bloke".

He was in essence a thoughtful, kind, generous and sociable man. Our deepest sympathies go to his wife, Joyce, and their family.

### Sorry, Will

**W**ill Bowley has every reason to feel somewhat miffed. In the match at Hull Ionians a Park second row powered over to score and, in common with many others, we attributed the score to Tom Baldwin. In fact it was Will Bowley's first try for the club. Apologies, Will, and belated congratulations.

### End of season awards

After a season like the one we've just had it seems a bit invidious to single out individuals for awards. But, as supporters, most of us spend matches following the ball and unaware of the specific tasks assigned to each player. So the awards from the players themselves, and from the Coaches, are particularly interesting. So step forward:

#### Players' Player of the Year Sam Shires



#### Coaches' Player of the Year Adam Bellamy



### Try of the Year

**Paul Mackey**  
(scored against Richmond away)



These columns are open to anyone who wants to discuss

### Readers Letter

*From Tony Lawrence*

**S**o, another season draws to an exciting conclusion and I think that all Park supporters (and a lot of neutrals as well) will agree that the second best team in National 1 has been promoted to the Championship. The number of times that I seem to have read of Doncaster Knights rescuing matches in the final five minutes (they grabbed at least three points in the final minutes of the home and away matches against Park) it would be interesting to see a table based on scores after, say, 75 minutes in each game. My gut feeling is that we would have cake-walked the title but for those final minutes!

Having said that I would just like to congratulate Alex, the coaching team, and all of the players on a fantastic season. To finish with a better playing record and points difference than Doncaster was a great achievement and fully reflected the style and commitment of all involved. I would find it impossible to name a player of the season since everyone played their part (but I must mention Adam Bellamy for appearing in every one of the thirty league matches - he deserves his Summer break). The entire pack were magnificent and the team's defence was the best that I have seen for many years. That defence and the work of the pack allowed the attacking backs to show their paces and the fact that the tries were so equally spread between the players is evidence of the team work through the season.

Here's hoping that we see many of the same faces playing again in 2014/15. I am sure that the league will not get any easier next year with the likes of Ealing, Coventry, Esher and the teams coming up from National 2 but I am also sure that the title is there for the taking and that losing out to Doncaster this year is only a short term postponement of a well deserved crack at the Championship.

*Tony Lawrence*

### Women's London Floodlit 7s

**T**hursday 15th May sees the first ever Women's London Floodlit 7s. Following on from the success of the men's tournament a group of Slingbacks have decided its time for a women's tournament.

With 9 exciting sides competing - including 2 international sides, 3 premiership sides and 2 highly sought after invitational sides its sure to be a truly exciting and entertaining evening.

Gates open at 5pm, it all kicks off at 5:30pm and the final is at 9:40pm. At only £2 entry, and under 12s for free what better way to spend a Thursday evening.

For more information please check out our twitter feed @WLDon-Floodlit7s and give us a follow, like us on facebook [www.facebook.com/womenslondonfloodlit7s](http://www.facebook.com/womenslondonfloodlit7s) or check out our website <http://womenslondonfloodlit.wix.com.wlondonfloodlit7s>

Its set to be a fun-filled evening and we would really appreciate plenty of support from the Park faithful with the bar open until late with what's due to be an epic rugby party!

The pools are:



## Parknews

Pool A  
Finland  
Moody Cows  
Slingbacks

Pool B  
Finland Moomins  
Saracens  
Richmond

Pool C  
Saxons  
Wasps  
Wimbledon

The schedule is:

### Pool Matches

17:30	Finland	v Moody Cows
17:51	Finland Moomins	v Saracens
18:12	Saxons	v Wimbledon
18:33	Moody Cows	v Slingbacks
18:54	Saracens	v Richmond
19:15	Saxons	v Wasps
19:36	Finland	v Slingbacks
19:57	Finland Moomins	v Richmond
20:18	Wasps	v Wimbledon

### Semi-finals

20:39	Winner A	v Winner B
21:00	Winner C	v Best Runner-Up

### Exhibition game

21:21 Teams to be announced

### Final

21:42 Winner S1 v Winner S2

## Thanks Darrell



**W**hen former skipper Darrell Ball 'retired' due to his Regiment being posted much further North, he promised that he would keep himself fit and try to be available if we were ever short of players. When we did not have a second-row specialist for the bench last Saturday he was as good as his word - and he came on and scored a try! As it says in the match report, you could almost sense the of delight among his teammates when the great man touched down. If this really was the last time we'll see Darrell in the red & white hoops, we wish him every success in the future.



## News from the rock

**N**o – it's not a supermodel on location advertising Chanel or something or other – it's Slingback winger Samantha Emery....



....To err is human, but to do something really stupid you really need the Slingbacks! Here are four Slingbacks climbing Snowdon in red sequin dresses! Long time Slingback winger, Samantha Emery is getting married in June and what better way to send her off than to climb one of Britain's biggest mountains in (Park coloured) sequins! In the group picture at the summit left to right is Maria Castellina, Hannah Boardman, Sam Emery and Esther King.



There's lots of Slingback weddings at the moment as Slingback utility forward, Jo Anafu is also getting married this Friday.

## 1st XV Scorers 2013-14

**S**am Shires not only picked up the Players' Player of the year award but shared the honour of being top try scorer with Dave Vincent (pictured). It perfectly illustrates the all-round rugby that Park have played this season that a flanker and a winger should share the honours. In all 27 players crossed the opposition whitewash.



### Tries

12	Vincent, Shires
9	Broughton, Ellis
7	Bellamy
6	Ajuwa, Gash, Howe, Lewis-Pratt,
5	Hodgkinson, Shabbo,
4	Sneddon, Staff
3	Broadbent, Lundberg
2	Baldwin, Boyle, Mackey
1	Ball, Bowley, Burns, Edgerley, Gower, Grant, Heeks,
	Rowland, Starling
5	Penalty tries

**Kicking**

In the kicking department Scott Sneddon was easily top scorer, being on on target 107 times. Add in the four tries he scored and he is top scorer of the season on 281 points. Had Scott not missed four matches he would surely have secured the treble century. There's always next season!



	C	D	P
Sneddon	47	60	0
Katz	14	10	0
Lewis-Pratt	1	2	0

**Rosslyn Park Remembers**

*This is the last of a series of articles by Stephen Cooper, which appeared in last Saturday's match programme, celebrating some of the characters of Rosslyn Park who gave their lives in the Great War*



**G**uy du Maurier joined Rosslyn Park in 1881 at the tender age of sixteen and played halfback. The club, founded only two years earlier by cricketing friends tiding over the winter months, was then based in bohemian Hampstead, home to his Punch cartoonist father, Georges. The family's creative circle included Rossetti and Henry James, and Guy's niece would be the novelist Daphne du Maurier. His sister Trixy was engaged to the Park founder Charles Hoyer Millar – which is one way of getting a 1st XV start.

This graduate of Marlborough and Sandhurst played his last game in 1885, crossing the whitewash against Maidstone, before departing for Burma in the service of the Queen Empress Victoria. He would spend much of his life overseas as a career soldier – in India, Crete, South Africa – before his death at Kemmel, near Ypres in March 1915, when commanding his 3/Fusiliers battalion.

Returning from the Boer War, where his hair reportedly turned white when the man next to him was killed by a shell, he was concerned at the state of British unpreparedness for a major European

conflict, which had long been rumoured. Rugby defeats at the hands of touring All Blacks and Springboks in 1905/6 deepened a sense that young Edwardian Britons had 'gone soft'.

His play 'An Englishman's Home', dramatising invasion fears, was the stage sensation of 1909; the new Territorial Force set up recruiting stations outside theatres. Guy, stationed in Africa was unaware of his sudden celebrity: his brother Gerald, the impresario (who sang at Park Smoking Concerts) and playwright JM Barrie (of Peter Pan fame) had produced the play without his knowledge. Initially billed as 'A Patriot', news of the author's identity as Major Guy du Maurier DSO was carefully leaked to the press by Gerald. His fame spread from New York to Berlin.

In 1914 Guy's Fusiliers returned from Lucknow, India, went under canvas near Winchester and crossed the channel to France in early 1915. Guy's letters from the front to his wife Gwen so impressed novelist Henry James with their compassion and sensitivity that he had them privately published after his death.

Lt Colonel Guy du Maurier was killed on 9 March 1915. After making sure that all his men were in safety, he was killed by a shell bursting in the doorway of the farm building used as battalion headquarters. He was 49 - the oldest Park player to die, and once again commemorated on the new memorial in our clubhouse.

*'The Final Whistle: the Great War in Fifteen Players' by Stephen Cooper is on sale at Serious Stuff, the club kit shop. Sales support the Rosslyn Park Injury Trust Fund.*

**Next Parknews**

**T**here will not be a Parknews next week due to the Editor being away, but the next Parknews should be on the website some time between Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes the following week (w/c 12 May). The edition will include a review of the 1st XV season plus stats. However, Parknews is intended to be for the whole club, so other teams are welcome to send in their own reviews. It doesn't have to be 'War & Peace', just a couple of paragraphs is good enough. Most readers in the great Rosslyn Park diaspora never played for the 1sts, and are always interested in how 'their' old teams have done. The deadline is early lunchtime on that Tuesday. Photos should be sent as separate attachments and not embedded in other documents. If you would like to receive a 'tweet' as soon as Parknews is posted, follow the [@RPNoseyParker](#) Twitter feed.



Two more of David Whittam's photos from last weekend's stunning 52-17 win over Cinderford. You can find more photos and a match report on the back page.

## 1st XV League appearances 2012-13

	Cinderford	Richmond	Henley	Blaydon	O As	Wharfedale	Blackheath	Worthing	Fylde	L'borough	Tynedale	Esher	Doncaster	Coventry	Hull Ionian	Richmond	Henley	Blaydon	O As	Wharfedale	Blackheath	Worthing	Fylde	L'borough	Tynedale	Esher	Doncaster	Coventry	Hull Ionian	Cinderford	Total
Bellamy	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	16	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	30
Vincent	11	11	11		11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11		11	11	11	11		20	11	15	11	11	11	11	11	11	27
Sneddon	20			10		10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	26	
Broughton			17	11				13	13	13	13	13	13	14	13	14	14	13	14	14	14	14	14	14	13	14	14	14	13	25	
Ellis		8	8			8	8	8	8	8		8	8	8	8	8		8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	25	
Shires	8	7	7	8	8	6	7	7	7	6	8					6	8	7	6	6		6	6	17	6	6	6	6	6	25	
Staff	12	13	13	13	13		12			12	12	12	12	13		13	13	12	12	12	12	13	12	12	12	13	13	13		24	
Boyle	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5	5	18	5	5	5	5		5	5	5		23		
Gash			9			9	9	9		19	9	9	9	9	9	11	9	9			17	9	9	18	19	18	9	9	9	23	
Liffchak	1				1		1	1	3	1		1	1		17	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	23	
McKenzie	3				3	3	3	3	17	3	3	3	3	3		3			3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	23	
Hodgkinson	15	15	15	20	15	15	15	15	15				15	15	15		19	18	13	13	13	15	13	13					21		
Bowley	5	4									4		5	5	5	17	18		5	18	4	4	4	5	18	17	18	4	5	20	
Broadbent	7						18			7	6	7	18	7	7	7	7		7	7	7	7	7			7	7	7	7	20	
Ball	6	6	16	4		4	6		6			6	6	4	4	4	6	17		20	6	18	17						18	19	
Lundberg	17	1			17			17			17	17	17	1	1		1	1	17				16			16	17	1	1	17	18
Gower		12		12	12	13	13	12	12		19	19		12	12				20		18						19	20	19	15	17
Ingles			4		4		4	4	4	4		4	4			4	4	4	4				4	4	4	4				16	
Starling	18	16	6	6	6		18	6	18		18			6	18					16								18	17	14	
Ward		3	3	3		17				17			16	3		17	16		17		17		16				17	16	14		
Heeks	9	9	18	9	9			19	9					19	9							19	9	9	9					13	
Lewis-Pratt						20	20		20	15	15		18	20	15	15	15	15	15	15										13	
Shabbo	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14																				14	10	
Clarke	16					16	16	16	16	16	16	2	16																	9	
Grant	19				19														19	9	9	19					19	18	19	9	
Mackey			12													12	12				12					12	12	12	12	12	9
Ovens			1	1		1	17		1		1					16								17						8	
Cobb				16	16									16	16		16	16		16	16	16								7	
Katz	10	10	10	15	10				20						10															7	
Burns		17	18	19				19	9										9											6	
Rowland										18	7	18		17	6	18														6	
Baldwin																	20	6									5	4	5	5	
Cole													14	14							11				20				20	5	
Edwards																								14	15	15	15	15	15	5	
Howe																	14					15	15	19			14		5		
Ajuwa										14	14	14											11							4	
Loneragan				7	7	7							7																	4	
McDonald				18	18	18																								3	
Woolstencroft																									16		16	16	16	3	
Edgerley																				19	11								2		
Hamilton					20	12																								2	
Pienaar																								7	7					2	

Due to space constraints to this table does not include those players who have appeared in one match. These are: Damant (h Richmond), Graham (h Blaydon), Simpson (a Cinderford), Stedman (a Loughborough) and Strachan (h Tynedale).



## Parknews

<b>National 1 2013-14 Fixtures &amp; Results</b>	Blackheath	Blaydon	Cinderford	Coventry	Doncaster	Esher	Fylde	Henley	Hull Ionians	Loughborough	Old Albanians	Richmond	Rossllyn Park	Tynedale	Wharfedale	Worthing
Blackheath		20-20	32-24	24-6	20-38	38-10	29-31	22-18	32-16	28-28	27-10	18-25	8-21	35-23	20-23	16-14
Blaydon	22-16		24-14	21-16	22-14	25-35	15-14	39-5	14-14	9-34	27-34	26-31	19-18	51-27	51-14	45-14
Cinderford	25-0	32-13		29-31	5-35	32-46	39-32	34-34	31-7	22-19	15-10	28-29	6-11	28-27	03 My	32-31
Coventry	63-21	15-37	38-13		17-18	43-0	32-5	32-15	67-14	33-14	24-10	20-17	18-19	36-34	22-10	47-7
Doncaster	47-17	24-19	62-28	39-30		19-11	29-24	36-10	46-8	32-3	25-10	27-9	24-17	55-3	57-17	38-17
Esher	28-20	24-20	36-5	14-20	14-23		27-24	40-30	52-3	24-21	31-10	31-17	30-38	56-24	26-28	36-19
Fylde	33-17	9-5	35-29	15-36	25-17	33-7		42-22	42-15	56-3	50-30	34-26	26-10	38-3	34-21	45-50
Henley	27-11	23-13	5-12	10-18	11-10	8-14	21-32		40-20	22-11	10-17	18-10	6-6	51-17	52-22	21-16
Hull Ionians	12-36	5-30	11-23	12-41	19-40	25-47	37-24	14-28		24-26	7-53	25-41	12-60	21-45	25-32	31-20
Loughborough	43-50	29-10	36-28	22-45	12-31	12-32	23-7	16-10	25-15		26-19	22-19	17-18	10-19	7-27	28-20
Old Albanians	53-16	27-27	9-17	25-13	17-33	31-8	41-45	19-10	29-13	33-16		15-10	24-27	29-17	25-28	33-20
Richmond	31-31	5-24	55-20	31-32	19-36	22-28	36-0	25-10	33-24	33-10	17-8		7-28	49-21	13-18	34-39
Rossllyn Park	12-15	41-15	52-17	32-10	21-18	38-31	16-7	28-6	48-0	31-5	37-13	26-15		31-11	51-20	48-17
Tynedale	31-10	25-24	24-24	36-35	26-29	27-5	26-7	14-14	40-29	21-24	34-13	24-32	13-41		27-40	37-31
Wharfedale	19-24	13-37	40-10	38-26	19-17	20-19	26-36	39-24	7-17	26-29	32-29	28-34	3-45	14-27		38-34
Worthing	22-27	24-32	34-22	39-12	17-21	19-25	25-17	27-32	34-17	24-43	31-32	28-36	0-44	29-19	34-38	

## National 1 League Table

	Home				Away					Total					Bonus				Pts	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Try		Loss
Doncaster	30	15	0	0	563	223	10	0	5	380	264	25	0	5	943	487	456	18	4	122
Rossllyn Park	30	14	0	1	512	200	11	1	3	403	213	25	1	4	915	413	502	14	3	119
Coventry	30	12	0	3	507	234	7	0	8	371	387	19	0	11	878	621	257	15	4	95
Fylde	30	13	0	2	510	298	4	0	11	312	434	17	0	13	822	732	90	19	5	92
Esher	30	11	0	4	484	288	7	0	8	302	406	18	0	12	786	694	92	12	4	88
Blaydon	30	10	1	4	410	280	5	2	8	326	319	15	3	12	736	599	137	12	6	84
Richmond	30	7	1	7	410	329	7	0	8	351	370	14	1	15	761	699	62	15	7	80
Blackheath	30	8	2	5	369	307	5	1	9	311	468	13	3	14	680	775	-95	11	4	73
Old Albanians	30	9	1	5	410	300	4	0	11	298	393	13	1	16	708	693	15	12	6	72
Wharfedale	29	8	0	8	386	428	7	0	6	314	424	15	0	14	700	852	-152	8	3	71
Loughborough	30	8	0	7	347	350	5	1	9	286	418	13	1	16	633	768	-135	8	4	66
Tynedale	30	8	2	5	405	361	3	0	12	297	533	11	2	17	702	894	-192	13	4	65
Cinderford	29	8	1	5	358	325	3	1	11	286	493	11	2	16	644	818	-174	10	4	62
Henley	30	9	1	5	325	229	2	2	11	268	426	11	3	8	593	655	-62	6	5	61
Worthing	30	5	0	10	387	417	2	0	13	349	529	7	0	23	736	946	-210	16	11	55
Hull Ionians	30	2	0	13	288	525	1	1	13	207	561	3	1	26	495	1086	-591	4	2	20

The next home fixture is

Thursday 8th May

# London Floodlit Sevens

Kick off 5:00PM

See page 2 for full details and how to save money by booking in advance

# PARK COULDN'T HAVE DONE MORE

Park 52

Cinderford 17

National 1

**T**hey could hardly have done more than this 8-try thumping of Cinderford to stake their claim for promotion. When news came through from Blackheath that Doncaster had won, it was all in vain and Park must prepare for another season in National 1. Disappointing, but this was an outstanding performance with which to end a very successful season and the players could leave the pitch proud of what they have achieved.

Park took this match by the throat from the kick off. Cinderford showed they were a pretty useful side when they were allowed to play - but they rarely were. Park's midfield tackling gave a platform from which they always looked dangerous.

Cinderford defended well against a couple of early attacking line-outs, but Park won a penalty in front of the posts. Instead of taking a certain 3 points they opted for the scrum. Number 8 Hugo Ellis peeled off the back and found winger Dom Shabbo outside him, who scored. Scott Sneddon's conversion made it 7-0.

Soon back on the attack, Park stormed through the middle to gain another penalty. This time it was hoofed for the corner to set up the catch and drive. Cinderford looked to have successfully defended the initial drive, but the ball came back to hooker Adam Bellamy who forced his way over, Sneddon again converting for 14-0.

Still enjoying a near-monopoly of the attacking play Park gained a penalty on half way and set up a drive towards the right-hand corner. Finding their way forward blocked they whipped the ball across the field through several pairs of hands, where winger Dave Vincent had an overlap on the left and went over in the corner for 19-0.

Cinderford did not simply lie down and a good attack saw them win an eminently kickable penalty close to the posts. Instead they went for the catch and drive. Park initially won the ball, but the visitors won a free-kick and set up a good position close to the line. Park centre Charles Broughton managed to dislodge the ball and before the visitors realised what was happening Vincent had grabbed it and sprinted away with a lone defender between him and the line. He offloaded to scrum half Jack Gash who went in under the posts unchallenged for the bonus point try two minutes short of half-time. Sneddon's conversion made it 26-0.

Still Park were not done with scoring, as stand-in lock Tom Baldwin charged through on the right for a score of 31-0 at the interval.

**P**ark were back on the attack from kick off, reaching the 5 metre line with some neat handling before being penalised. A good run through brought a penalty, hoofed to the corner only to be penalised at the line out. Shabbo chipped over a defender but was beaten to the ball. But it was Cinderford who got the score. Centre Jack Adams - excellent in a beaten side - charged through the middle and found winger Sam Baker outside him, who put his side on the scoreboard at 31-5.



Dom Shabbo sprints for the line

This inspired the visitors



to give Park a hard time, and they forced Park back onto defence. Flanker George Mills made a powerful run through nearly reaching the line. Eventually the visitors lost control of the ball close to Park's left touchline, Vincent picked it up and sprinted nearly the length of the field, despite nearly being unbalanced by a despairing tap tackle, to score in the corner. Sneddon nailed an excellent touch-line conversion for 38-5.

Park replied with a mighty drive almost to the visitors' line. Eventually the ball was released to the right where skipper Ellis, with the line at his mercy, passed instead to former skipper Darrell Ball, who had answered an SOS call to interrupt his Army duties to play - as he had promised he would - when his old club were short of numbers. Ball scored behind the posts and the genuine delight of his teammates said everything about the team spirit behind Park's success. Sneddon converted for 45-5.

Cinderford were not yet done for as Adams produced a piece of magic, chipping over the defence and gathering the ball himself for a super try to make it 45-10.

The visitors gave it everything, winning a penalty that was hammered to the corner. In defending the situation Broughton was adjudged to have intervened illegally to stop the move and sent to the sin bin. Cinderford attacked again but the final pass went to touch. Replacement winger Peter Cole made a good break out of defence to relieve matters for Park and eventually flanker Sam Shires seized a loose ball and sprinted over, under the posts, Sneddon's conversion making it 52-10.

Cinderford returned to the attack. Awarded a penalty they took a quick tap with Park's Ellis still prone. He tripped the player and was sent to join his teammate in the bin, leaving Park to see out the final minutes with only 13 men. Cinderford piled on the pressure, switching the ball from right to left where Adams came onto the ball to bag his second try. Replacement Mark Davies slotted over a very quickly taken conversion for 52-17, leaving his side a minute in which to bag a 4-try bonus point.

Even reduced to 13 men it was Park who looked more like scoring. A powerful run through the middle by flanker Harry Broadbent drew a good last ditch tackle. Park retained possession until the clock ran down and then pragmatically hoofed the ball to touch, bringing down the curtain on a season that - despite ending in disappointment - was hugely successful.

**Park:** Gower (Grant); Shabbo (Cole), Broughton, Mackey, Vincent; Sneddon; Gash; Liffchack (Lundberg), Bellamy (Woolstencroft), McKenzie; Bowley, Baldwin (Ball), Shires, Broadbent, Ellis.

**Park scorers:** Vincent (2T), Shabbo (T), Bellamy (T), Gash (T), Baldwin (T), Ball (T), Shires (T), Sneddon (6C).