

PARKNEWS



The E-magazine for Rosslyn Park supporters Wednesday 19 May 2010 - Issue 153

PARK PROMOTED!

The victorious Park team celebrate their win over Loughborough that brings National One Rugby back to the Rock
[Photo: David Whittam]



Welcome to Parknews as we celebrate promotion to National One. By all reports (and Bob Evans' is on page 2) it was a masterful performance against a strong, well-drilled but ultimately out-gunned Loughborough Students side. Now we can look forward to resuming local rivalries with old friends such as London Scottish and Blackheath, as well as away-days to places such as Blaydon, Tynedale, Wharfedale and Redruth, to name but a few.

has committed to the club his grandfather played for. It would cause offence to him were the amount he has given us to be splashed all over the Internet. Suffice it to say that - even with the increased use of our facilities with the upgrading of the Clubhouse - we would have come nowhere near to generating for ourselves the sort of revenue needed to gain, let alone sustain, National One Rugby. I'm sure Parknews speaks for everyone in the Club in thanking Simon for his amaz-



After the match, Shaun Justice told The Rugby Paper, "We have worked really hard for two years to get to this stage, and today's reward is a culmination of the efforts we've put in as a squad. While people like Paul Unseld [Photo: left] will deservedly take the plaudits today for scoring two top scores at crucial times in the game, I want to make it clear this is a whole club effort -

from the 22 out there this afternoon, and those who weren't here today. We finished second last year, and it was a little gutting not to go up, so obviously it makes it sweeter this time around."

There is, though, one person who perhaps should be singled out at this time of triumph: our most notable sponsor and benefactor, Simon Tindall. Simon seeks no publicity for the money, time and energy he



Simon Tindall celebrates the success in which he played such a great part flanked by Chris Ritchie and Nick Huggett on one side and John Adair and Jonny Barrett on the other.

ing generosity.

Mercifully Mr Tindall's legendary enthusiasm shows no sign of abating, but it is a sobering thought that he is as mortal as the rest of us. So while the rest of us enjoy the summer, those charged with running the Club will already be driving us on to the next stage. The beneficiaries of all this hard work are the rest of us, throughout this diverse club. So please take a few seconds to consider whether there is anything YOU could do to

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PARK CLINCH 2nd SPOT

Loughborough Students 21

Park: 43

National One Promotion Play-off

By Bob Evans

After five years of playing in Level 4 Rugby Rosslyn Park finally clinched promotion to Level 3 on Saturday with a comprehensive win over a talented but ultimately outgunned Loughborough University side. Everyone connected with the club is looking forward to renewing rivalries with old adversaries and friends such as Blackheath and Wharfedale whilst being slightly less enthused by the prospect of long journeys to the likes of Tynedale and Blaydon. All that though is in the future and certainly was not assured when the fifteen ran out on a beautiful sunny day at Loughborough in front of a large crowd of a thousand plus- most of them, apart from a sizeable Park contingent, vociferous students supporting the home side.



James Strong in full cry

Apart from perhaps Allen Chiltern, who was unavailable, Park fielded a full strength squad and just a glance at the quality of the Bench with players such as Jon Underwood and Adam Gates there spoke volumes as to how far the club has progressed over the last couple of years.

The opening exchanges were very much like two boxers eyeing each other up and sparring and the only score was a sweetly struck

penalty by fly half George Drake after five minutes. Ominously for the students however it was becoming apparent that Park had much more power and strength in the set scrums and the Loughborough eight were being regularly shunted backwards. Almost inevitably then the referee awarded a penalty try to Park after a series of scrummages near the home line which Ross Laidlaw converted.

Drake scored another penalty after fifteen minutes to cut the margin to a single point and now the talented home back division were engineering some good moves all of which were foundering on the as ever obdurate Park defence. When they had possession though the Park backs were also starting to threaten by going through their paces slickly and an excellent move saw the ball go through several pairs of hands before prop Will Collier was bundled over by the rest of the pack. With real confidence now Park were outplaying their hosts in all departments bar, the lines out, and were getting a firm grip on the

game. It was a surprise then when in 33rd minute the Park defence hesitated for about the only time in the match and that man Drake ghosted through a gap to score a try which he also converted. This score which gave Loughborough the lead certainly galvanised the home support who started to roar their favourites on and Park wobbled for a moment or two before being settled by the calming influence of the likes of skipper Rob Jewell and Park legend Chris Ritchie. This phase though was soon over and Park again established their superiority. The backs were now fully into



Will Collier scores Park's 2nd try

their stride and the lead was regained when an excellent flowing movement led to Marc Sweeney going over and Laidlaw converting.

The half time score then was 19 - 13 and Park went in for their oranges and to hear the coaches' warnings - despite now having slope and wind in their favour- about a back lash from their young opponents in second half. When the team did emerge after the interval it was a shock to Park followers to see that talisman and top try scorer James Strong had had to be substituted because of a recurrence of an injury.

In the event though it was Park who started the half with more passion and urgency and after only two minutes the ever reliable flanker Morgan Jones found a large gap to scuttle through and score after considerable early Park pressure. Drake again got his name on the score board with a penalty but the game's balance had now definitely tilted towards Park and after 12 minutes of the half winger Paul Unseld showed his predatory instincts by gathering the ball twenty yards out before worming his way through the narrowest of gaps to score wide out. Laidlaw again converted.

Despite Rosslyn Park's growing ascendancy Loughborough refused to lie down and they did score a try after 18 minutes through Number 8 Burgess when a good sweeping move used the space created by the yellow carding of Chris Ritchie to good advantage.

The match though was effectively settled five minutes later when Paul Unseld scorched through again to score an almost identical try which was converted by the ever reliable Laidlaw.

In the last fifteen minutes of the match Park only increased their tally by one penalty but they were now very firmly in control and their grip never wavered even when the coaches went through the range of replacements.

At the final whistle- after saluting their valiant opponents- the whole Park contingent celebrated wildly with popping champagne corks. A long and arduous season had finally been rewarded.

Rosslyn Park: Richard Davies (rep: Chris. Simmons); James Strong (Rep: Ollie Lindsay-Hague), Marc Sweeney (rep: Billy O'Driscoll), Rob Jewell, Paul Unseld; Ross Laidlaw, Graham Barr; Nick Huggett (rep: Max Lahiff), Chris Ritchie, Will Collier; Howard Quigley (rep: Adam Gates), Steve Pape (rep: Jon Underwood); Morgan Jones, Johnny Barrett, Mark Lock.

Replacement not used : Matin Anayi.

Park Scorer: Penalty Try; Will Collier (T), Marc Sweeney (T), Morgan Jones (T), Paul Unseld (2T), Laidlaw (P, 5C)



Adam Gates breaks a tackle (all match photos by David Whittam).



Morgan Jones burst through the defence to score for Park

NOTICEBOARD



ON THE NOTICEBOARD

Thanks to John Weatherall for these photos from last Saturday. Top left, skipper Rob Jewell being congratulated by Shaun Justice; top right, bar manager Will Redhead can't resist any opportunity to cuddle a physio; second row left, Team Manager Kojo, Kit Manager Ron, video man Chis and Flo Rossigneux reflect on a job well done; left, Shaun thanks some of our loyalest away supporters; middle, our greatest canine supporter; third row, left, Secretary Bob Evans with past President Tony Tanner and Treasurer Pete Curry; right, Stuart Abbott congratulates Huggy and finally, bottom left, a rare one: Shaun and Rob Holt caught both smiling at the same time!

LONDON FLOODLIT SEVENS

England Dig Deep to win



The worthy winners [Photo: David Whittam]

The London Floodlit Sevens on Thursday 6th May 2010 saw star-studded Dig Deep England beat Saracens in a thrilling final by 17 points to 5. On their way to the Final the England team beat Esher and Loughborough Students in their pool matches, and in the semi-final they beat London Wasps 24-10. Saracens won their Pool matches against holders, The Army, and London Scottish scoring an unanswered 67 points. In the semi they overcame an excellent Quins side by 12-10.

It was a rather more modest night for Rosslyn Park. With the season extended because of the earlier bad weather, and Park in the promotion hunt, the club had played little Sevens rugby at all (in fact a team had been more-or-less scrambled together to play in the Middlesex 7s the Saturday before to get a little practice) and it was clear that few – if any – players who might be in the side for the play-off match were going to be risked here.

Given that Park went on to achieve promotion, surely no one could argue with the policy adopted in these particular circumstances. But this tournament is important to our whole finances, and in a different situation we perhaps need to reflect on the possibility that if we don't take Sevens in general - and our own tournament in particular - seriously, then we've no grounds for complaint if other sides do the same. That would be a great pity because this year's tournament had some star names and some fabulous Sevens Rugby to decorate a richly entertaining evening.

Pool A
Harlequins 33 Richmond 7
Harlequins 33 Blackheath 5
Richmond 19 Blackheath 21

Pool B
The Army 0 Saracens 33
The Army 19 L Scottish 12
Saracens 34 L Scottish 0

Pool C
Dig Deep England 38 Esher 7

Dig Deep England 43 Loughborough 7
Esher 20 Loughborough 22

Pool D
London Wasps 21 Cambridge U 14
London Wasps 34 Rosslyn Park 5
Rosslyn Park 7 Cambridge U 26

Semi-Finals
Harlequins 10 Saracens 12
Dig Deep England 24 London Wasps 10

Final
Dig Deep England 17 Saracens 5

Below: Jon Underwood makes a break for Park against London Wasps. After a promising start Park were squeezed out of the game



Ten Players, Five Fights, All For Charity

100% not for profit, with all proceeds going to Rugby Charities

RUGBY FIGHT NIGHT



Date: Thursday 3rd June

Time: From 6.30pm for 7pm

Venue: York Hall 'The Spiritual Home of Boxing'

Cost: £45 per head

Dress: Casual

Park boxer Steve Kearns said, "As I'm sure you are aware Chris Ritchie and I will be fighting on behalf of Rosslyn Park in the 1st RUGBY FIGHT NIGHT at York Hall on June 3rd all for charity and I wondered if you would be able to help advertise it for us. In addition to pushing the night itself the text vote that is being run in the build up and alongside the event, is a simple and cheap way of helping. If you text one of the following

RUGBY BEAR
Or
RUGBY COWHEAD
To 82323

"It will register 1 vote against that fighter – You are only allowed legally to vote once (so the choice is yours about who will get your text!). It costs a £1 plus your normal network charge and 70p of that will be donated directly to the supported charities.

So either log on to www.rugbyfightnight.com for more info and to book tickets and text for your fighter! Your support is hugely appreciated by the both of us. Kind regards, Kearnsy "

ED: For the uninitiated, Bear is Steve Kearns and Cowhead is Chris Ritchie

York Hall
5 - 15 Old Ford Road
Bethnal Green
London
E2 9PJ

WWW.RUGBYFIGHTNIGHT.COM

...from front page/ help. Do you know of any potential sponsors or advertisers? Are there any friends, or societies you belong to, who might want to hire our facilities? If so, then Shaun and the people in the Club Office would be delighted to follow up with any contacts you can provide.

Belong

Whilst many readers of Parknews will be Members of the Club in its various Sections, this newsletter is read by many Park supporters on the Internet who are not yet Members. We'd appeal to all those to consider becoming Members. We are still a Members' club, so by joining you gain a say in its affairs. Standard single membership costs £100, or £150 for family membership which is available to any couple and up to 2 (non-playing) children. Benefits include discounted entry to all home games excluding the Floodlit Sevens at £5, 10% off hire of club facilities, 10% off all RPFC branded clothing, the option to apply for tickets for England home matches, regular newsletters plus discounts at a variety of local retailers. Alternatively, as a full member (£150 Single, £200 Family) you can have all the above benefits plus free entry to the ground. There are further Membership benefits in the pipeline (it is hoped that it will be possible to swap Membership cards with 'loyalty cards' that can be loaded with money to allow the Club to offer discounted drinks at the bar.

There is also a completely new category - the 1K Club. This costs £1000 and brings all the benefits of full single membership (or family membership if applicable) but includes also a Rosslyn Park engraved tankard to be kept behind the bar, and all beer served in that tankard to the nominated Member will be free throughout the year [ED that should increase Slingbacks' attendances on Sundays].

All existing Members should have received a reminder letter from Shaun that subs are due from 1st June, so if you are an existing Member and haven't received it contact the Club Office.

Anyone reading this who isn't already a Member, just call the club office (020 8876 6044) and they will do all that is necessary.

National 2 South

	Home			Away			Bonus			Pts			
	P	W	D	L	W	D	L	F	A		Diff	Try	Loss
Barking	28	14	0	0	12	0	2	1060	335	725	20	2	124*
Rosslyn Park	28	13	0	1	10	1	3	997	423	574	17	2	113
Ealing	28	12	0	2	10	1	3	1014	504	443	19	4	113
Southend	28	11	0	3	8	1	5	802	566	236	13	4	95
Clifton	28	11	1	2	7	1	6	682	566	116	12	3	91
Worthing	28	10	1	3	6	0	8	653	561	92	6	3	75
Canterbury	28	7	0	7	6	1	7	625	769	-144	10	3	67
Richmond	28	7	0	7	4	0	10	706	761	-55	13	5	62
Henley	28	6	1	7	5	0	9	668	598	70	8	4	56*
Shelford	27	8	1	5	3	0	10	550	778	-228	5	2	53
Dings Crusaders	28	8	1	5	1	1	12	549	697	-148	6	7	53
Lydney	28	5	0	9	3	0	11	580	807	-227	7	11	40*
Westcombe Park	27	6	0	7	2	0	12	434	832	-398	3	4	39#
Barnes	28	2	1	11	4	0	10	486	916	-430	4	3	31*
Bridgwater & Albion	28	2	0	12	0	0	14	321	996	-675	3	1	8*#

* Barnes, Bridgwater & Albion (twice), Henley and Barking have each been deducted 2 points; Lydney deducted 10. # Westcombe Park awarded 20-0 win over Bridgwater, who had to cancel fixture due to lack of front row.

that rugby and sport in general was a fantastic way to bind the children to each other and to the school community.

Rachel Mowbray visited Future Hope and, "Coached the U13 boy's team and introduced the girls to rugby I experienced just how much of a difference sport can make to someone's life. When the men's Future Hope team plays on a Saturday all the Future Hope children; boys, girls, the small boys house to the university students dress in their smart clothes and cheer on their team with heartbreaking pride. The Future Hope rugby programme's success is evident from the fact that the majority of the Bengal 7s team is now made up of Future Hope boys. This is despite the fact that they often do not have adequate footwear and train on an open public space amongst vendors and horses.

Rachel is now organising an extremely worthy event at Twickenham Stadium on 5th June. The event is a 5k run, or 2.5k run for children, around the Twickenham grounds finishing within the Stadium bowl itself. Schools and clubs are very welcome to run in their colours, as it would be fantastic to see them supporting such a wonderful cause. There is a link to a video that shows a little of life at Future Hope. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5BqR_mbKn0 For more information please visit www.justgiving.com/Rachel-Mowbray or to register please email rachelmowbray03@hotmail.com

Farewell Stuart



A key part of Park's success this season, backs coach Stuart Abbott (pictured left being interviewed after that play-off last Saturday) is leaving the club: indeed by the time you read this he may well be on a plane back to his native South Africa (he leaves

Wednesday). Stuart recently got married and had always intended to return. He takes with him fond memories and leaves behind a lot of friends. He's a smashing guy as well as a good coach and we wish him every success and happiness in SA.

Future Hope

Parknews readers will probably be aware of the Future Hope team, from the the slums of Kolkata who have competed in our National Schools 7s. Future Hope is devoted to "giving today's street children a better tomorrow." Not only does it house, school and provide medical care to 160 children but it also has 110 day scholars from Kolkata's surrounding slums. Many of the children find the structured life at Future Hope difficult to adapt to as a large majority have fended for themselves from very young ages. The founder, Tim Grandage, found



Caption contest Snapper snapped! But what advice is Club Secretary Bob Evans passing on to Park's ace photographer, David Whittam? Or what is David saying?

We'll publish the best suggestions - well, the printable ones anyway - in the next Parknews. Talking of which....

Next Parknews

Parknews will now be in hibernation mode, but will be published occasionally throughout the summer whenever there is something to report, so do keep an eye on the website. However, we shall not be carrying a running commentary on every rumour of moves and signings until things are absolutely signed and settled. We'll at least try to bring you next season's fixtures as soon as we know them.