

# PARKNEWS

the e-magazine for Rosslyn Park supporters - Thursday 13th December, 2007

## In this issue

Match reports and photos  
Youth report  
Experimental laws  
Legendary Park 7  
and other odds and ends  
that crossed the editor's desk.

## WOEFUL AT WORTHING

Welcome to another Parknews. Apart from a good home win over Bridgwater, it appears that the editor picked the right time to go on holiday! From all reports the performance at Worthing was woeful; statistically, at least, it is the worst result in modern Rosslyn Park history. Never before, since the leagues began around two decades ago, had we lost to a club below National status. Having said that, times change, and we know from the way Ealing and Mounts Bay hit the ground running on promotion to National 3 South that there are nowadays sides in the league below at least as strong as many of those above them in the hierarchy.

Three sides will be relegated this season (and Park are by no means safe yet from being one of them) and will be replaced by the likes of Richmond and Worthing. Three South will be even stronger. Therefore Park will need to be stronger again just to retain our position, let alone to move up and challenge for promotion. It needs a really massive effort from everyone if we are to assemble the resources not to just tread water and trust to fortune.

On Saturday the 1st XV visit Havant in pursuit of some badly-needed League points. Following on from Danny Grewcock's session with the Forwards a few weeks ago, Shaun Justice organized David Flatman to do a scrummage session with the Senior Squad on Tuesday evening. Your vocal support would be most gratefully received. From the A3 (M) take the B2177 to the roundabout, following signs to Bedhampton, straight across the mini roundabout and traffic lights bearing left at the level crossing. Take the second left (James Road) and then turn into Fraser Road at the T-junction and the ground is 200 metres on your right. If you have satnav, the postal code is PO9 3EJ. Bedhampton station is close by.

There should be some familiar faces in the Hav side: Tom Wells is propping down there, and we believe they have former Park youth player Ed Lewis-Pratt on loan.

Sorry, but I've received nothing from 2nd XV / Development this week. The 2s have a tricky trip to Newbury on Saturday, while Development are at home to Ealing for those of you who don't fancy the trip to Havant.

A miserable weekend for the Slingbacks who - not helped by some important decisions going against them - lost 10-7 at Wasps. It was Sherry Lake's last match before returning to her native Canada, so we'd like to thank her for all she has done. Slingbacks Too were even worse dealt with - having insufficient fit and available players, they had to cede the points to Twickenham without even kicking off. It would be a real shame if that were to cost the girls the promotion they've worked so hard for.

The Clubsides were let down on two fronts, the B's and Hatters, by their respective oppos, Colfeians and L.Nigerians, on Friday and Saturday lunch-time!! Most annoying!  
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### DISCLAIMER

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David Riley attempts a break in the cup match at Worthing on Saturday [Photo: David Whittam]

### This Week

**Saturday 15th December**

**Havant v 1st XV**

(Home - National 3 South KO: 2:15 PM)

**Newbury 2nd v 2nd XV**

(Away, Canterbury Shield Div 1 KO 2:15PM)

**Development XV v Ealing**

(Richmond Park, Canterbury Shield, KO TBA)

**4th XV v Apple Growers**

(Home or Richmond Park, friendly KO 12:30)

**Hatters v London Scottish 3rd**

(Richmond Park, Canterbury Shield, KO 2:00)

**Kew Occasionals v B XV**

(Away MMT2 KO TBA)

**Park Bench v Barnes Vets**

(Home or Richmond Pk, Surrey Vets Lge, KO 2:00)

**Pehamians v Nomads**

(Away friendly, KO 1:30)

**Sunday 16th December**

Nothing advised

**Wednesday 19th December**

**Park Under-18 v Wasps Academy**

(Home, Challenge Match, KO 6:15PM)

*The Clubhouse will be open for training on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, so why not drop in for a drink and a chat and catch up with all the team gossip.*

# WHAT A DIFFERENCE A WEEK MAKES

## Worthing 25 Rosslyn Park 6

### EDF Trophy - Round 3

By Bernard Wiggins.

It was obvious that the weather would have a major part to play in events at Roundstone Lane, as there was a very strong breeze and the rain lashed down from time to time. However it was the home side that coped much better with the conditions and Park were guilty as charged in the ball handling dept, which proved to be the architect of their defeat.

Park never seem to me to play well in bad weather, and although the visitors were missing several first team regulars, it should not have made too much difference. What can one say about the first 40 minutes? Park seemed in control, got to the try line on at least 3 occasions and then coughed up possession. When you have the wind with you, no team can afford such largesse.

0-3 to the good after a Richard Mahoney penalty in the 8th minute, Park were very unlucky in the 15th minute when Riley broke clean through the middle but his inside (try scoring) pass to full back Watkins in support was adjudged to be forward. However Park just couldn't hang on to the ball and only led 3-6 at the break after Coulson and then Mahoney had exchanged penalties.

Park were not unlucky in the second half, penalties were conceded at crucial moments, ball retention was lacking and one knew it was not going to be Park's day when 3 minutes after the restart Will Harris emerged with the ball from a maul and raced away to score. Coulson converted for 10-6. A further penalty concession lost Park another 3 points after Coulson had missed another attempt two minutes earlier, and at 13-6 it was going to be an uphill struggle.

Two minutes later the game was all but over after Worthing broke down the left, Coulson chipped over the top and beat the cover defence to score in the corner. Down to 14 men on the half hour after Marcus McCluggage was sin binned for preventing release of the ball, Worthing upped a gear and Park's misery was complete when James Stevens McDonald finished of a smart move to score near the posts. Coulson added the coup de grace.

**Park:** Watkins; Turner, Riley (McKeown), Paul, Jackson R; Mahoney (Capt); McCluggage (Jackson M); Daw (Charlton), Ritchie (Kearns), Blom (Frazier); Poppmeier, Forster; Jones, Rodman (Corin), Gates

**Subs not used:** Count

**Park Scorer:** Mahoney (2P)

## Park 27 Bridgwater & Albion 20

### National 3 South

by Bob Evans

Park started off this match at a very high tempo and the initially sluggish opposition looked as if they were still relaxing on their coach. From the kick off intense Park pressure led to a penalty which Richard Mahony nonchalantly put over. After only four minutes Jon Swords embarked on a brilliant sidestepping run from inside his own half and when he was finally pulled down yards from the line Nick Harlock collected the pass and powered over. Mahony converted with ease and team and supporters were enjoying a ten point lead after only five minutes of play.

Bridgwater now responded to the wake up call – their back division started to show pace and running ability and their pack started to build up a head of steam. A spell of forward pressure on the Park line led to a penalty from outside half Wulff and the game was now well and truly 'on'. Both sides were now in top gear and there followed a series of exciting exchanges which pleased the large, festive crowd and both sides went close. One attack from Park was particularly thrilling when full back Richard Jackson showed great skill in catching a high Bridgwater kick ahead at full stretch and pace and carrying on his run to almost break the defensive line.

The last ten minutes of the half saw Rosslyn Park getting a firm grip of the match and after repeated forward efforts near the line the ball was quickly switched out to Nick Harlock on a blind side run and he went over for his second try of the day. Despite now being very much 'under the cosh' Bridgwater still looked dangerous on the break and sure enough on the stroke of half time a pacy breakout led to full back Osbourne scoring a fine try wide on the right. A half time score of 17 – 8 was a touch disappointing for Park and this disappointment was heightened for the home crowd when the home side reappeared after the interval without the injured duo of Jon Swords- who had looked a potent attacking weapon at outside centre- and Jon Underwood who

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#### MATCH PHOTOS

Top: Mike Poppmeier commands the lineout at Worthing and, above, the pack drive on in the same match. Below, Jon Underwood wins lineout ball against Bridgwater. Next page top, John Swords on the attack, and below Nick Harlock scores, both also against Bridgwater [Photos: David Whittam]



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had been giving one of his all action, super-hero displays at number seven.

Despite the changes though Park immediately got into their stride and with the replacements fitting in well they took the game to the visitors. After another early penalty by Mahony intense forward pressure led to Mike Count 'barrelling' over for a try to which the reliable Mahony again added the conversion. Despite further prolonged pressure Park were unable to score again and clinch the game at this point- too many wrong decisions and over elaboration meant that they could not improve on the 27 – 8 lead.

Then- as always seems to happen in these circumstances-Bridgewater started to fight back. Buoyed by the fresh legs of their lively replacements and showing typically West Country doggedness they were rewarded after twenty three minutes of the half with a good try by prop Isaac who finished off a flowing move – the try being converted by Wulff. Six minutes later they scored again after another pacy movement by both forwards and backs led to left wing Kohler going over in the left hand corner. This latter try was not converted but with the score at 27 – 20 with ten minutes to go and their side starting to look a little anxious Park supporters could feel the Turkey and Christmas pud from their Xmas lunch starting to rise. Their discomfort was made worse a few minutes later when a Bridgewater lock suddenly broke clear with an open path to the line ahead of him- only to be pulled back by Referee Walters for an earlier offence. This new found popularity for the referee was stretched however when he found four minutes of overtime from somewhere but Park managed to hold out.

A splendidly exciting last home match of 2007 and a good win - certainly after the recent losses against Cinderford and Barking which had seen valuable points snatched from their grasp after all the hard work had been done and the matches seemingly over.

**Park:**R Jackson; Turner, Swords ( M Jackson), Paul, Harlock; Mahony , Mc-Cluggage; Daw, Huggett, Blom (Charlton); Poppmeier, Forster; Gates, Underwood (Jones), Count.

**Rep not used:** Kearns.

**Park Scorers:** Harlock (2T), Count (T), Mahony (2p, 3C)



## LATE PENALTY ROBS SLINGBACKS

### Wasps 10 Park Slingbacks 7

#### Championship 2

by Kristina Dorner

**W**asps kick off the game and the ball goes to Hooker Julia who picks it up and goes into contact. The Park forwards are there to support. Wasps give away the first penalty of the match for hands in the ruck and it's a Park scrum. Park win the scrum and No.9 Norm passes cleanly to flyhalf Milo who passes to centre Chidge. The ball becomes loose and Wasps are there to steal it. Park manage to win the ball back off them and a ruck is formed but Wasps give away another penalty for diving in off their feet. There is a passage of play during which Park attack well. There is another penalty against Wasps- again for diving over the ruck. Winger Rae takes the free kick and finds touch. It's the first lineout of the match. Park are not able to win their own lineout but they do manage to force the intercepting Wasps player into touch. Lineout not straight and it's a Wasps scrum. Wasps win their scrum but drop the ball when passing down the line. They manage to re-gather the ball but Cat puts in a great tackle and Myrth nearly manages to intercept the ball from a Wasps pass. Wasps feel the pressure and knock it on. It's a Park scrum and number 8 Myrth takes it blind and manages to pass to Norm before getting tackled. The ball goes to ground but Chidge manages to gather it up and take it forward. Wasps steal and attempt a kick but it is sliced and caught easily by Beef who sprints off down the wing and runs it underneath the posts from the half metre line. Rae converts the try, aided by Po lying sprawled on the floor to hold the ball still - she was determined to get dirty despite the Toos game being cancelled. 7-0 to Park.

Wasps kick off and Park are unable to put on the pressure and are driven back. Wasps are now dangerously close to the Park tryline. Wasps win their scum but Norm manages to intercept the ball which becomes loose. Wasps "fall" on Norm and the ball is set back. Wasps are trying to take it wide but get tackled by flanker LouJ, Chidge and Norm. Wasps manage to keep possession but Rae is there to make some hard tackles supported by the Park forwards. There is a penalty

against Park for coming in from the side which was then reversed by the referee against Wasps for talk back. The reversed penalty was knocked on by Park and Wasp won their scrum to find space and score. They fail to convert. 7-5 to Park.

Park kick off and Wasps knock the ball on. It's a Park scrum which Wasps manage to steal. Norm and Myrth are there to defend. LouJ is briefly injured during a handoff but gets up off the ground. The ball gets knocked on once more and it's a Wasps free kick. Julia manages to catch the kick and takes it in with support of props Jacks and JoA. The ball gets passed to Milo who passes to LouJ who gets tackled hard. Lou comes off and is replaced by Jo Phillips. It's a Wasps scrum. Park turn it and Myrth gets it out and makes a run. Norm gets the ball off her and passes it to Milo to Beef's safe hands who goes into a ruck. Park manages to keep possession and there is a good passage of play between Milo, Chidge and Myrth who gets dumptackled to the ground. Chidge rucks over and JoP picks up the ball to gain some ground. Norm gets the ball out of the ruck and passes to Sherry who runs for a gap. The ball becomes loose and gets knocked on once more when going down the line and it's a Wasps scrum. Wasps are pulled up for feeding in the ball and it's now a Park scrum which they win just to see the ball go to ground once again.

Wasps win their scrum and try to take it wide. They get tackled by the Park back line. Sherry steals the ball and dummy passes to Chidge and then to Myrth who gets tackled on the halfway line. Park keep possession and Sherry passes to LadyT who sets up a ruck supported by the Park forwards second row Lucy, Cat and prop Jacks. The ball becomes loose and it's another Wasps scrum. However a free kick is given, Myrth takes it quickly but whilst the ref isn't looking she is dangerously spear tackled by the Wasps number 8 aided by a Wasps prop. The prop is sent to the sin bin. Myrth recovers from her forceful muddy head stand and it's a penalty for Park. Rae kicks into touch. It's a Park lineout and second pod jumper LadyT goes up high but Wasps manage to steal it at the back. Norm is there to tackle but Wasps keep possession. Another penalty against Wasps sees Milo passing

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down the line. Park run the ball up and a ruck is formed 10m from the Wasps tryline. Norms gets the ball out and passes to Milo who passes to Sherry. Sherry makes a nifty run but fails to be supported and the ball becomes loose. Milo scoops it up and kicks it to a Wasps hand. Wasps get tackled and Park attack on the Wing. Wasps flyhalf kicks it over the top and clears the ball. Shorty catches it but gets tackled seemingly around the neck. There is a maul driven by Park leading to a Park scrum. Myrth picks and goes with ample support from the Park forwards. Park have a drive on but it's knocked on. It's a Wasps scrum but Myrth is there to tackle the spear tackling number 8 into touch. The Park lineout is won by Lucy who passes to Norm. The ball goes down the line into a ruck and Wasps have their hands in. Park take the penalty quickly and Chidge has a nifty run and then pops to Milo who passes to Sherry who goes into contact and has been hugely marked the entire game. Wasps manage to turn the ball over but they are tackled into touch. The ball is nearly lost in the Park lineout but LadyT is there to gather it and the pack get a 10m drive on directed by Norm. The ball gets passed out to Sherry who breaks free and passes to Milo but it is knocked on by accident. It's a Wasps scrum but Park win it and the ball gets passed down the line. Sherry passes to Beef who sidesteps the Wasps players but then the ball is knocked on. Half time. It is still 7-5 to Park.

**P**ark kick off the second half and Wasps knock it on. It's a Park scrum and the ball gets delivered well to fly-half Milo who passes to centre Chidge who manages to make good ground fending off the opposition. It's another Park scrum and Sherry this time takes it in but the referee sees a knock on. It's a Wasps scrum and Myrth satisfyingly tackles their number 8 who -being put under pressure- knocks the ball on. Milo passes to Beef who sidesteps Wasps gracefully. The ball goes back to Sherry then to Shorty who gets tackled but the Park forwards are in support. Lucy makes some good ground but the referee blows his whistle- unsure why. It's a Park scrum and the ball goes out to winger Rae. Wasps manage to rip the ball but the Wasps drive fails to make much ground. A Park player is being pulled up for stealing the ball illegally and Wasps play the advantage and kick into touch.

The Wasps lineout sees a maul up the pitch dangerously close to the Park tryline. JoA makes a try saving tackle which is followed by some injury time for a Wasps player. It's a Wasps scrum 10m in front of the Park tryline. Park win the scrum and Myrth picks and goes into contact. There is a penalty for hands in against Wasps. Myrth tries to take it quickly but the referee pulls her back. Rae takes a free kick and finds touch. Lucy wins the Park lineout and there are some skillful passes down the back line but the referee sees a knock on. It's a scrum for Wasps who pass it to their number 14 who gets tackled into touch by hooker Julia. It's another Park lineout and this time Lucy sets up a drive. Norm gets the ball out down the line but there's a knock on. It's a Wasps scrum and Norm is there to tackle the Wasps 10. Wasps try to rumble it up the pitch to find the Park forwards defending strongly. Play is taking place about 20m from the Park tryline. There is another scrum for Park. Sherry finds the ball and takes it in. It goes to Shorty and she manages to kick into touch. It's a Wasps lineout but Park steal.

The Park forwards secure the ball. Sherry once again passes to Shorty who sets up a ruck. There is a penalty from Wasps and a free kick to Park. Rae kicks to the Wasps fullback who runs it up the pitch. Park forwards are still defending strongly. Wasps go for another kick which finds winger Beef who gets tackled. There is another Wasps scrum 20 metres from the Park tryline. The Wasps number 8 manages to run the ball up dangerously close to the Park tryline but Myrth is there to take the ball off her. There is a ruck and Sherry gains ground after a pass from Norm but the Wasps players take Park into touch. There is a Wasps lineout 10m from the Park line and Park fight to keep them a safe distance from the line. The referee sees a penalty against them for knocking the ball down on purpose forcing them back onto their tryline. Wasps see a gap and manage to score. They fail to convert the try. 10-7 to Wasps.

There are now only 10 minutes left of the game and Park are under pressure to even out the score. Rae kicks off and Wasps manage to catch and go in. Park steal the ball and Milo kicks to ground close to the Wasps try line. Park are up for the chase but Wasps gather the ball through on their tryline Their number 9 dives on it and passes but Park are there to intercept. The ball is fumbled and knocked on. It's a

Wasps scrum but front row Jacks, Julia and JoA work hard to steal it. The ball gets passed down the Park line to Beef who gets one of her slinky runs going and only narrowly fails to score in the corner but the ball gets held up. It's a Park scrum on the left hand side of the pitch metres from the Wasps tryline. Myrth keeps the ball at the back and Park drive on cleanly.

The Wasps number 9 realises Park are about to score and dives through the back of the scrum onto the ball. Ref fails to give the penalty try but its another Park scrum where it started off and once again Park get a technical drive on. The ball is being kept at the back of the scrum at number 8. Once again Wasps find themselves off side and it is yet another Park scrum. Myrth this time picks up at the back and makes a break for the Wasps line. She gets tackled and the ball goes to Sherry. Park attack relentlessly but a small lapse of concentration sees Wasps steal the ball and their number 9 kicks it into touch drawing the play away from their tryline. Esther comes on as replacement winger. It's a Park lineout and Park once again go for the attack. Sherry tries to run wide and is supported by Cat and Lucy. The ball goes to Myrth who passes it to Esther. There is a ruck and Wasps manage to steal the ball. Yet again Wasps manage to kick into touch. It's another Park lineout and Park go for the drive on. The ball becomes loose and gets dropped. It's a Wasps scrum who pass the ball to the ground. They manage to scoop the ball up and a ruck is formed.

The referee sees a penalty against Park for coming in from the side. Wasps have a free kick and they find touch. It's a Wasps lineout on the halfway line and Lucy manages to steal it. Sherry gets the ball and runs it inside with good support from Cat and Myrth but the ball gets stuck and goes nowhere. It's a wasps scrum who kick it to Esther. The ball becomes loose and gets knocked on. The referee is playing a very long advantage to Wasps but they fail to make substantial ground. Park get the ball and are trying to attack with the pressure on and the game drawing to a close. Norm passes to Sherry who gets high tackled. The penalty gets taken quickly and Milo kicks into Wasps territory. There is another penalty against Wasps and Park are yet again dangerously close to the Wasps line.

Park win their scrum and take it into a ruck. Norm is there to get the ball out and passes to Sherry who passes to JoA who runs up the wing. There is another penalty against Wasps for a high tackle. Park are attacking what seems like inches from the Wasps tryline but Wasps manage to steal the ball and kick it to Shorty who runs it back into Wasps territory. There is yet another penalty (one thinks this recurrence should call for a yellow card) by Wasps. Park gain some ground running it up the pitch put a Wasps hand steals the ball. The final whistle goes and the game draws to a close inches from the oppositions tryline. It's a 10-7 win to Wasps.

**Slingbacks:** 1 Jo Anafu, 2 Julia Daffy, 3 Jacks Leadbetter, 4 Cat Bradley, 5 Lucy RM, 6 Tara Cubitt, 7 Lou Jarman, 8 Sarah Taylor, 9 Maria Castellina, 10 Camilla Brueton, 11 Jo Maeva (1 try), 12 Kate Chidgey, 13 Sherry Lake, 14 Raeanne Miller (1 conversion), 15 Jenny Matheson, 16 Jo Phillips, 17 Tamsin Ross-Browne, 18 Esther King, 19 Hanna Boardman, 20 Tara Hodgkinson.

## “SCRUM” ON BBC RADIO LONDON

Catch up with the latest news on Park, and the London rugby scene in general, on BBC Radio London's Scrum programme every Thursday at 9:00PM.

This week The Scrum team are back on BBC London 94.9FM and will be joined live in studio with London Welsh Club Captain Richard Martin-Redman ahead of the exiles clash with National One leaders Northampton at Old Deer Park on Saturday. They'll also be looking ahead to round four in the Heineken Cup and as always we'll have the latest news from London's clubs from the Guinness Premiership to National Three South.

BBC London 94.9's rugby union reporter Sara Orchard will be in studio with the Scrum team- TV and Radio Rugby commentator Simon Ward and Mail on Sunday journalist & rugby author Mick Collins.

Missed an episode, why not Listen Again: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/london/content/articles/2006/09/01/rugbynight\\_feature.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/london/content/articles/2006/09/01/rugbynight_feature.shtml)

We're hoping that Director of Rugby Shaun Justice will be a studio guest in the New Year.

# FOURS TROUNCE KIWIS

## Park IV 26 London New Zealand 2nd 7

### Middlesex Merit Table 1

by Chris Freel

After some dominant and some nail biting displays to date the Fours had managed to reach the Kiwis fixture on the back of 5 straight wins, with 4 on the spin in the league. The past 2 years' results had not been favourable against what is always a strong Kiwi contingent but with confidence riding high and competition for places immense, belief in the side was almost as large as Off's ever increasing cow's buttocks!

The pre match warm up has been a key part of this year's success with a great balance of stretching and banter providing a sensational camaraderie within the squad. After 3 weeks of Freel turning up sober on a Saturday the old Freel returned after back to back booze ups and the familiar alcoholic aroma filled the pre-match huddle. Fresh spoke with fervour and passion and the fire was clear to see in everybody's eyes as we lined up to face what could only be described as a shambolic excuse for a haka. In true fours spirit we showed the Kiwis the dignity and respect of facing their silly dance and then from the first whistle decided to show them our dance which was more in the form of a constant stampede as one by one our runners hit their defence with pace, strength and ferocity. Led from the front by Fresh, Hammers, Off, Witto, Smithers and Freel all crashed through the phases with Frankie and Mark clearing out all of the rubble that was piled on the floor. The backs ran equally as hard with the Bear and Benny C regularly breaking the gain line. The kiwis were rattled so much that after only 10 minutes their toys were being dispatched from the pram and the handbags began to fly early doors with their skipper trying the head stamp before being double teamed in the next ruck by Off and Freel.

We kept our discipline and kept up the pressure. With runners off both 9 & 10, we successfully sucked in their defence. Both scrums and line outs were dominated by Park and eventually our pressure told. After a series of phases the ball passed through the hands into Smithers big shovels and from 5 yards out there was no stopping this hulk of a man. 5-0 park with Granty just falling short on the conversion. It was clear that the Kiwis were not used to this and they stepped up their game running hard and fast with forearms at the ready, using all the back handed tricks of hands in the scrum, hay-makers, gouging and stamping but our defence and discipline held firm. There was no way through for them and as we continued to grind them down we forced an error in the midfield and the Bear and Beesey broke through. Good quick hands again released Smithers in space and this time he ran in the resulting 40 yards to make it 10nil at half time.

From 1 through to 15 this was one of the best halves of rugby seen with every man giving 110% and not surrendering an inch. Granty was majestic under the high balls. Both Andy Day and Adult chased up every single scrap and every one of the backs and back row drove all of their opposite numbers backwards in the tackle. This was not a part of the Kiwis' script. I would like to say that they choked but it was more a case of them being strangled by a Fours side at the top of their game.

The second half continued as the first with the Fours securing an early penalty score through Granty. The forwards continued to win all of their own and half of the Kiwis ball and, as we are all aware, if you cannot win your own ball then you're in big trouble. As the Kiwis chased more, the game opened up and with some changes in the backs at half time big Andy Ray hit the line like a charging rhino with the deft and fleet footed James Moreton ghosting past kiwis with his slick and stylish brylcream hands releasing Turners and Grantee for some strong surges. Gambers pinned the Kiwis in their half superbly and after a series of mazy runs including a bullocking stampede from Fresh, the Kiwis conceded a number of cynical penalties, resulting in Smithers crashing over for his hat trick and Granty nailing the conversion to put us 20-0 up.

The Kiwis did come back with a beautifully worked try of their own after a long double miss pass released their winger but with 5 minutes to go, the Fours showed sensational spirit to drive the ball back into the Kiwi half with the forwards charging on through Samwise, Off and Hammers, and Fresh, Frankie and Witto showing great strength and fitness. Perhaps the try of the match was saved until the death as following a great break in the backs the ball was passed inside and who else but Kiwi-Mark picked it off his toes on the half volley at pace to dive over. A great moment for our very own Kiwi and both he and Logan had excellent games against their brethren. There were some messy skirmishes towards the end as the Kiwi fly half finally lost it and was issued a red card for lashing haymakers at Big Andy Ray (rather him than me!) and another one of their boys saw yellow for generally being an all round pest. An excellent result and a huge highlight in the Fours calendar. Outstanding displays from many but led from the front by the skipper from the outset with each and every man responding to the call.

All that remains now is to ensure we back up this result with another 'W' away at Civil Service next week. Then we can treat ourselves to some festive ale and mince pies! Let's make sure we do the clean sweep.

## BEWARE OF THEFTS

Unfortunately the gloss was taken off the Bridgwater weekend by a theft at the club. Shaun Justice said, "It is often very difficult to spot suspicious characters at the club when you have 6 teams all changing there, half of which are obviously guys that have no connection to the club. However we must try and be more vigilant. Locking the changing rooms is apparently not an option at the moment (I will look into this further). Can I just please echo Kearnsy's comments and make sure all valuables are handed in. This is not the first time this year we have been targeted, please rest assure we will look into a solution and put a stop to this asap". On a secondary note, Shaun said, "Kearnsy and myself spent the majority of last Wednesday sorting out the kit container. On arriving at the club this morning there are tackle shields and post protectors left outside-not returned to the container which had blown half way across the pitch and were soaking wet covered in mud. The container is now organized in a way where it is easy to keep it tidy, can we please return the kit to the container in the correct places. Sorry to moan but we need to look after this kit!!"

**Wednesday 19th December**  
Under floodlights at Rosslyn Park FC

**A real Christmas cracker**

**ROSSLYN PARK Under-18**

**LONDON WASPS ACADEMY**

**Kickoff - 6:15 PM**

**Admission free - Clubhouse open from 18:00**

# HAMPTONIANS CAUGHT BY NOMADS

## Nomads 26 - Old Hamptonians 0

by Ed Bracken

**R**evenge is a dish best served cold (and, in this case, in a mud bath). The last time we played this lot, they filled their team with ringers and even then we ran them close (and it would have been closer if I hadn't thought we were playing American football). There was to be no let-off a second time.

We kick off playing into the howling wind and immediately camped ourselves in the oppo half. On a day when mistakes were inevitable, the set piece was going to be key, and the first scrum set the tone for the rest of the match. Lapin, Dale and Nick W pillaged the oppo front row, and we won the first of many against the head in an absolutely brutal display of scrummaging. We were straight onto the front foot and after a few half-breaks, we went through a number of phases through the middle until the pressure proved too much for Hamptonians and Lapin danced through the frantic cover to plunge over in the corner. The perfect start we wanted. As the game settled, Hamptonians relied on the predictable tactic of kicking into the corners and pressuring the line-out, but this too held firm admirably given the conditions, with Nick Mc and Ed Bailey claiming all their own ball as well as some of the oppo's. Suitably inspired, we surged up the pitch time and again. Dale was always a willing and destructive ball carrier, the ever-elusive Dan somehow always managed to find space (a sign of his class) and the returning Mark pulled the strings at fly half. After a bullocking run from Michiel from the back of another scrum that was going forwards at jogging pace, a set piece in the corner gave us the perfect attacking platform, and Mark executed a magic double dummy scissors that left the oppo defence in tatters to put Eoin in for a simple finish his enthusiasm deserved (the less said about his balletic attempts to keep a kick in play, even though the ball was over on the other pitch by the time he got to it, the better). Perhaps the most telling thing was the sight of Andrew on his shoulder as he went over, all the way over from the other wing, a perfect example of the effort and hard work put in by everyone. Half-time: 12-0.

**W**e made a few changes at half-time to keep things fresh, including Matt Mc who succumbed to another bloody nose after a typically combative display. Bizarrely, the tornado wind somehow disappeared as soon as we changed around and, benefiting from some generous refereeing, Hamptonians started to get back into the game. Pogo came on to show his nouse, and Matt P and Dave (who produced a scything tackle on their number 8) got straight into the action as the forwards held fast, while Roger put in a series of hard hits in midfield to keep the defence intact. In the end, our line was never seriously threatened to maintain our record of three league games now since we conceded a try. We soon reasserted our dominance with another series of phases moving us up the pitch, and then a quick change of direction from Dan allowed Bas to charge 40 yards through the middle before offloading to the supporting Stu to dive over for a score his hard work in awful handling conditions deserved (I won't mention the bit in the first half when he dropped the ball forward when trying to throw a dummy). This was followed by the moment of the match - a long kick from Mark left their Mini Me-sized scrum half isolated and, under pressure from various chasing Nomads, he turned and ran straight into Scott, who cut him in half in mid-air with a hefty thud. Magic. There was no way back for Hamptonians from this point and after Scott and Stu again went close, Mark opened the defence up for the final time to complete the job. Final score: 26-0.

A superb team display for 80 minutes, this match showed what we can do when we get the basics right, work hard and keep it simple in the backs. Outstanding.

Man of the Match: almost impossible to identify any individual in a performance like that. The forwards as a group were awesome, Lapin leading the charge as always, and in the backs, Stu deserves plenty of credit for another aggressive and dangerous display on a nightmare day for full backs, but the award this week goes to Dan for a typically majestic performance in poor conditions.

**Nomads:** 1 Dale (Pogo), 2 Nick W, 3 Lapin, 4 Bas, 5 Nick Mc, 6 Bailey (Matt P), 7 Matt Mc (Dave), 8 Michiel; 9 Dan, 10 Mark, 11 Eoin, 12 Roger, 13 Ed, 14 Andrew (Scott), 15 Stu. **Tries:** Lapin, Eoin, Stu, Ed.

# IT'S TIME TO GET SHIRTY

**L**ast weekend we ran a competition at the junior section Christmas party to design a new 'compression shirt' for wearing under your playing kit. The winner was Thomas White and the picture of his winning design is shown here. Thomas will win the first shirt off the production line (if his parent will get in touch with Sally Leonard at the club and tell her his size!!)



These tops, plus new design club hoodies and t-shirts are available to buy on-line from the end of this week for delivery early in the New Year. The more kit club members order, the more money we will raise via a 'cashback system' so get ordering your stash now! You're also supporting Slingback Kate Giles who owns this sports clothing company and who supplies the GB Olympic rowing team with their technical clothing, so you assured of exceptional quality. More items may be added at a later date depending on demand.

Log on to the following website FROM FRIDAY 14th Dec:

[www.crewroom.biz](http://www.crewroom.biz)

Team name: (down lefthand side of web page) rosslynpark

Password: maltese

# NATIONAL 3 SOUTH FOCUS

Only two Three (South) clubs remain in the EDF National Trophy: Ealing had a very good 20-13 away win at Waterloo and Mounts Bay put up a similar performance travelling to Southend, winning by 13-12. London Scots lost 19-3 at Cambridge and Lydney went down by 8-6 at Preston Grasshoppers.

Park's opponents on Saturday put up a brave fight at home to National 2 Nuneaton and clearly will be no pushovers, despite being a couple of places below ourselves in the League.

There is little doubt what most people would consider the match of the day on the coming weekend, with second place Cinderford at home to the unbeaten leaders, Mounts Bay. If the Cornish side didn't take too much out of themselves in their cup win at Southend, then London Scots will go second if they record their expected win over Dings Crusaders. With Canterbury's recent lapse in form, the top three seem to have broen away from the rest at the moment.

Until Park can find a way of stringing successive good performances together, we still need to keep a weather eye on the other end of the table. In that respect, it seems unlikely that Clifton will salvage anything from a trip to Bridgwater, though Lydney's away form probably gives Luton a chance of picking up a rare win. Ealing seem unlikely to slip at North Walsham and Barking face a difficult task against Canterbury. So Park could put a bit of distance between ourselves and the bottom clubs with a win on Saturday.

**This weekend's Fixtures**  
**Barking v Canterbury**  
**Bridgwater & Albion v Clifton**  
**Cinderford v Mounts Bay**  
**Havant v Rosslyn Park**  
**London Scottish v Dings Crusaders**  
**Luton v Lydney**  
**North Walsham v Ealing**

The previous week's round of league matches saw the first postponements of the season, both down in the west country, though Lydney played. Thumbnail reports follow:

## Canterbury 3 Cinderford 24

**Canterbury: Pen: Rasch (25).**

**Cinderford: Tries: Roberts (62), McNeil (69), M Deacon (78).**

**Pens: Roberts (6), Trigg 2 (42, 60).**

The big match of the day goes to the away side as Cinderford take the points at Canterbury who drop to fifth in the table after this defeat. Tristan Roberts scored the opening points with a penalty goal and a 3-0 lead. This lasted till the 25th minute before Sam Rasch replied for Canterbury to level the scores and it was the score at the half time break. Full Back Dan Trigg kicked the visitors 6-3 after two minutes into the 2nd half; Trigg made it 9-3 with another penalty goal on the hour. Fly half Roberts went over for the visitors first try two minutes later and they led 14-3. They wrapped up the win with a couple of late tries as flanker Chris McNeil went over for his 11th try of the season and replacement front row man Matt Deacon.

**Clifton v Barking – Postponed**

**Dings Crusaders Havant – Postponed.**

## Ealing 36 Luton 15

**Ealing: Tries: Price 2 (13, 40), Richards (15), Bruynseels (26), Edwards 2 (53, 77). Cons: 3.**

**Luton: Pens: Davies 5 (21, 35, 39, 52, 59).**

Ealing are up into fourth place after this comfortable home win over second bottom Luton taking all five points after running in six tries. Two tries in the opening 15 minutes saw the home side go 14-0 ahead as winger Kiba Richards, 8th try of the season, and centre Joe Price touched down and Ben Ward converted them both. Full back Kieron Davies got Luton off the mark with a 21st minute penalty goal but five minutes later and the home side were over for try number three as their other winger Owen Bruynseels went in for his 11th try of the season and a 19-3 lead. Davies pulled six points back with two more penalty goals but just before the half time whistle Price completed a double and they went in 24-9 ahead and the try bonus point was in the bag. In the second half the two tries came from the other home centre Joe Price to wrap up the win with Luton's only points coming from two Davies penalty goals.

## Lydney 6 London Scottish 15

**Lydney: Pens: Westall 2 (27, 38).**

**London Scot: Tries: Fitzgerald (2), Johnson (47), Beard (74).**

London Scottish pick up an excellent away win at Lydney to remain in striking distance of second placed Cinderford who they trail by three points. The visitors were ahead after just two minutes with No 8 Matt Fitzgerald going over for a try and a 5-0 lead. Adam Westall kicked the home side ahead with penalty goals on 27 and 38 minutes to pass the 100 point mark for the season and take his side into half time ahead 6-5. In the second half Lydney failed to add to their total and the Scottish took the match with two more tries as prop Matt Johnson and flanker Dan Beard going over for tries.

## Mounts Bay 26 North Walsham 7

**Bay: Tries: Burnett (10), Carroll (25), Penalty try (37), Morris (56). Cons: Jarvis 3.**

**NW: Try: Gowan (80). Con: Dermody.**

Mounts Bay extend their lead at the top of the table to seven points after taking all five points on offer in this home fixture against bottom of the table North Walsham. It took the home side just 10 minutes to take the lead as captain and No 8 Nick Burnett went over for the games opening try and a 5-0 lead. It was 12-0 on 25 minutes as second row Richard Carroll went over and this time Lee Jarvis converted. Before the half time they went further ahead when the referee awarded them a penalty try and with Jarvis converting they were 19-0 ahead. They failed to build on this platform in the second half with just one try coming in the 2nd half as wing Chris Morris went over and Jarvis converted to secure the try bonus point after 56 minutes. Credit to the visitors who got the games final try as flanker Chris Godwin touched down late in the game and Chris Dermody converted.

## Current League Table – National 3 South

	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	4T	7L	Pts
1	Mounts Bay	12	12	0	0	384	173	211	6	0	54
2	Cinderford	12	10	0	2	400	147	253	6	1	47
3	London Scottish	12	9	0	3	327	149	178	7	1	44
4	Canterbury	12	8	0	4	295	239	56	5	1	38
5	Ealing	12	7	1	4	347	197	150	6	2	38
6	Bridgwater & Albion	12	7	0	5	266	264	2	3	1	32
7	Dings Crusaders	11	6	0	5	245	187	58	3	4	31
8	Rosslyn Park	12	5	0	7	233	218	15	2	3	25
9	Lydney	12	4	0	8	191	196	-5	2	4	22
10	Havant	11	3	0	8	178	264	-86	2	2	16
11	Barking	11	3	1	7	178	349	-171	0	1	15
12	Clifton	11	3	0	8	187	425	-238	0	1	13
13	Luton	12	2	0	10	198	362	-164	2	2	12
14	North Walsham	12	2	0	10	150	409	-259	1	1	10

# EXPERIMENTAL LAWS

## A response to the debate in "Parknews" from J V Smith

*For the benefit of more recent recruits to the Park cause, 'JV' is one of the greats of the Club's history. In addition to his distinguished career with Park, being in the legendary side that won the Melrose 7s to bring that trophy south of the border for the first time, he played for England in every match of the 1950 5-nations and went on to be President of the RFU, where he also chaired the Referee Committee for several years.*

My apologies for not writing last week. Your interesting summary of replies sent caused me to wake up.

I belong perhaps to an even earlier era than Jim Willerton but laced-up leather balls, knee-length shorts, and boots with solid toe-caps sounds like my time. I did however serve as Chairman RFU Referee Committee for some five or six years plus a similar length of time as an England international referee selector so perhaps the points I make may be of passing interest to the few who have managed to read this far.

No matter how far back it is to our playing days, it is important that we follow certain principles.

(1) that we change as little as possible at one time (2) that they should always be made when danger/safety is involved (3) and/or where they will increase the enjoyment for all participants.

To those principles I would add that rugby union football is a game to be played "on feet".

During the recent RWC I was disappointed at the variety of interpretations by referees. This was ever a problem and in my time I pressed for the need for Joint Ref/Coach Conferences and there was some improvement, but you will never get completely over this problem .

The other cause for concern in RWC matches were the numbers of refs who allowed forwards to drive in low and end in a pile on the ground with no attempt made to get up and no whistle blown. This is a dangerous move and I fear some youngster seeing this will copy and suffer serious injury.

I make one comment on the maul collapse proposal. Forget it. Again

the law interpretation is all that is required. At present the ball being carried as Jim accurately described , means that we are allowing either offside or obstruction. Those of my generation may recall the "double banking " debate for lines out stopped when refs argued that it was permitting obstruction and offside. There is no difference between that and the rolling maul. As for the rest of the proposals remember that at most levels of the game there is only one referee and law changes will only be effective if they are changed with that fact in mind. The luxury of three on the field in telecommunication and a 4th ref sitting in front of a TV screen and a dozen camera angles for his use only operates at the very highest level of the game.

I am tempted to write more but as I said at the beginning, get the principles accepted and the rest will fall into place. Congrats to the four who replied in greater detail however.

In trying to give the overall principles involved in Law changes and at the same time be brief I have clearly failed. So here goes with a different approach, in summary form.

Re 1. Agree with Jim

Re 2. Forget it. Too difficult to play and to ref.out side top levels

Re 3. Where's the advantage ?

Re 4. Leave alone; no advantage

Re 5. This is O.K.

Re 6. Agree with Panel

Re 7/8. No change to present laws. Leave alone. My comment is that the Panel needed clarification, so how can they "support" ?

Re 9. Now to my original point. This is a part of the game already being badly refereed. Refs are allowing obstruction and offside. To further allow collapsing of mauls would be dangerous. No law change is necessary if present laws on mauls are properly administered.

For your info I have already asked for Laws of the Game from RFU as they are no longer (or for many years) included in the annual RFU Handbook. I got them sent next days post and I am ploughing through them. I wonder how many present players and supporters have actually read them ? In my playing days most players "picked them up "as they played !! **JVS**



The Rosslyn Park 7 that won the Middlesex 7s in the same year that they brought the Melrose trophy South of the border for the first time. J V Smith is on the far left; others are (l-r) Reichwald, Phipps, Cox, Dorey, Crouch, Williams. Also in the squad of 12 that season but not in the photo were messrs Smith, Winn, Boobyer, Neale and Burges. Of the 12-strong squad Park fielded for Sevens tournaments that season no fewer than eight were full internationals.



# Make your mark at ROSSLYN PARK



## 'Walk of Legends'



### Your Piece of The Rock

Rosslyn Park, founded in 1879, is one of the most famous names in rugby. It is 50 years since moving to its landmark ground on the Upper Richmond Road. Now help the Club and Make your Mark at The Rock.

In front of the Clubhouse will be a 'Walk of Legends' where supporters will have the opportunity to take their place in Rosslyn Park history alongside famous names like Andy Ripley, Danny Cipriani and Prince Alex Obolensky.

### Pick your Brick !

Choose from either single (two lines), double bricks (four lines) or flag stone engraved with your chosen name and personal message in black or gold lettering.

**Single stone £39.50/£49.50**  
**Double stone £69.50/£79.50**  
**Paving stone £195**  
**(See order form)**



Single Paver  
210x105x50mm



Double Paver  
210x210x50mm



Remember a player, young or old, capped international or social team stalwart. Honour a friend or supporter. Say thanks to a coach for a great season. Give a lasting birthday or Christmas gift to a family member. Celebrate a victory, or the birth of a future rugby star.

Bricks will be laid in front of the scoreboard in three panels. You will pass the Walk of Legends on your way to the Clubhouse, and every time you attend a game you will see the permanent mark you are making at the Club. Best of all the Club benefits financially, so you are not only preserving the past but helping ensure the future of Rosslyn Park.

### Replica bricks for home

Take home your own brick by purchasing a replica as a personal memento. Put it on the mantelpiece, build it into the garden wall or use it as a paperweight or doorstep, it's your choice. Replicas are offered at a discounted price and can only be bought at the same time as a Walkway brick

# YOUTH REPORT

by Stephen Cooper

Youth rugby is very different from the innocent joys of the Minis. The U13s (all 56 of them) have found full pitches, 15 players and regular Surrey League rugby a real challenge, and are still finding their feet. There are ups and downs for both Rhinos (A) and Stags (B) in friendly games too. A double win at Wasps is followed by home losses to Saracens. The squad is happy to have played its part in Danny Cipriani's meteoric rise by inviting him to our Coming of Age dinner. At least one coach passed on a few tips to England's next no 10. The two teams also played a double-header at The Rock, an innovation which we hope to continue for all youth sides to get a taste of the Big Time

It gets harder as you get older. Our U14s have lost 28 boys to the dubious delights of boarding school. Keeping a League squad viable and boys motivated to turn out in atrocious weather becomes a real coaching challenge as winter sets in. John Telling, Trevor Leydon and Stan Coats for the U14s and Mark Alhadeff, Alistair Kelly, Dave Roberts and Tracey Brader for the U15s perform weekly heroics and look forward to the New Year when their squads will be replenished by the return of school players. Much welcomed too is the appearance of the 1st XV on Sundays to add their coaching energy and enthusiasm, even after tough games on Saturday.

The first half of the season has been fairly typical for Rosslyn Park Under 14 squads. We lost 28 boys from last year who have gone

*/From front page*

They have taken the points, but it's not the same as earning the points on the field! Anyway, there was a good win, 26-0, for the Nomads against Hamptonians 2's, but at time of writing the Nomads are still "TBA" this Saturday. Following a good win over London New Zealand the previous week, the 4's went down 5-22 to Civil Service 2's. Bench lost 48-13 against top of the table Esher, but creditable performance given they only had 13 players. The Bench take on Barnes Vets at home this week.

With four home matches, there is likely to be some dressing room congestion so if you're intending to watch one of the matches in Richmond Park it might be as well to double-check the kick off time in case a match is brought forward to ease things.

## 'A Match for Anyone' – Rosslyn Park/Russell-Cooke/Sportsmatch

Rosslyn Park are delighted to announce that this Sunday saw the official launch of the Russell-Cooke LLP sponsorship and 'Sportsmatch' funding for the Rosslyn Park Minis and the development of schools rugby in the local area. Russell-Cooke is a leading firm of solicitors based in Central London and South-West London. The firm has a large office in Putney: its clients are companies, individuals and charities. The 3 year agreement has been enhanced in year one by 'Sportsmatch', a government funded body set up to help support the development of grass roots sport in England.

'This is very exciting news for the Park Minis, for the club in general and it will help us to fulfil many of our development plans' says Tom Blake Chairman of the Minis Section.

One of the key drivers is to support primary and secondary schools in our area in the coaching of TAG rugby and rugby. The money will help to provide coaching & teacher training, kit & equipment and access to pitches & more appropriate playing areas. This is an initiative that has already been started but will continue to grow with the help of this investment. Last Monday the finals of the Wandsworth primary schools tag rugby tournament took place, following three preliminary rounds held recently



Steve Kearns gratefully accepts a cheque from Jason Hunter of Russell-Cooke.

away to boarding school. This has resulted in a small squad which includes several new faces. The squad has taken a little while to gel but is now showing good promise. In particular some of the less experienced players are making considerable progress. The first half of the season was completed by an excellent coaching masterclass from Shaun Justice and Adam Gates. The boys are now heading into the Christmas break in excellent spirits, looking forward to a tough league schedule in the New Year. New recruits are welcome at any time.

Richard Guassardo reports that the U16s, challenged by school diktats regarding Sunday club rugby, go into the Christmas break with a win, a loss, a draw and a postponement under their belts. Won v Effingham, lost (inexplicably) v Mitcham, drew v Ealing and face Old Cats early next February with, hopefully, the L1-quality team we undoubtedly have. That and two other difficult games await us: Richmond (look out for explosions off the A316 skyline on 2nd March; better still, come and support us!) and Chipstead. Our final game v Guildfordians is at the end of March. Our intention is to go back to L1 where we belong.

U18s have yet to fire a shot in anger, but face a testing season-opener against Wasps on Dec 19th at The Rock. All support is welcome. Many of the guys have also been involved in the successful Colts Cup run and a rigorous Surrey League season starts with 8 games on the bounce from January 13th. Ahead lies the incentive of a tour to Argentina and Chile.

throughout the borough involving over twenty schools. This is just a start of what's to come!

On Sunday at the Minis Christmas Party, the sponsor's cheque was formally handed over to the Minis by Jason Hunter of Russell-Cooke. Jason commented that this sponsorship represented a commitment to the future of rugby at Rosslyn Park and within our community. From all at Rosslyn Park we would like to thank Russell-Cooke for their generous sponsorship and Sportsmatch for enabling us to extend the activity even further.

## Lunches

A reader sent in a report from the Bridgwater & Albion website which made reference to the Park Christmas Lunch. The chap from Bridgwater said, "The lunch caused problems for Bridgwater's travelling fans who were denied the chance to buy their own refreshments and were confined to a very small and intimate bar. They were not a happy bunch." The Editor is a confirmed anti-Luncher and can remember being similarly inconvenienced - twice at one particular club: on the first occasion the local Council were hosting a bash in the main bar, and the following season it was hired out for a wedding. Ah, yes - I remember now. It was Bridgwater & Albion.

There is a wider point about lunches. The 3-course lunch before home matches used to be very popular, but often of late has been embarrassingly poorly attended to the extent that the Obolensky Bar has comprised just one or two tables with few people beyond the two Committees and their guests. I know the Chairman has asked Sally Leonard to take some soundings among people to see why this is happening and what we might do about it. (The noise from off-stage is the Editor shouting, "Abandon them and let the Members have their bar back"). But if any Parknews readers have more constructive suggestions then they would certainly be very welcome.

## An Idiot Speaks

Why is it that Marketing people have such a wonderful gift for not recognising the value of anything until they have expensively re-packaged it as something garish and tatty and shrouded it in Marketingspeak? Step forward Mark McCafferty, Premier Rugby's chief executive. One can recognise that, as Premiership rugby judges its success or failure by the bottom line of the Balance Sheet, the clubs cannot be expected to release players for the Barbarians. But McCafferty recently started his explanation of this by saying: "We're not expecting any English-based players to be released for the fixture. From the clubs' point of view it's an EDF Energy Cup weekend. We do recognise the Barbarian brand..."

The Barbarian brand? Is that what the Baa Baas long and distinguished history in the game has now become? Where does Rugby Union find these idiots? And why can't we send them back?