



BARNES RFC
PLAY IN THE ORIGINAL SPIRIT

MINI & JUNIOR NEWS



MINIS LOVE THE LIMELIGHT AT REEDS FESTIVAL

barnes minis were once again out in force at the Reeds Weybridge Festival on Sunday 25th February, with a firm focus on fun, laughter and amazing rugby.

With three teams, it was clear from the outset that our U8s meant business. Sure enough, from the outset there was some fantastic rugby on display, with coaches particularly pleased with the quality of the defensive line and passion for grabbing opposition tags.

Whilst there's still work to do, particularly with passing the ball into space the teamwork on show was amazing, with players actively supporting one another in both attack and defence. Most importantly, they played with huge smiles on their faces, with coaches and parents very proud of their efforts and sportsmanship. Next stop Richmond on the 3rd March.





Another great outing for the Mighty U7s, despite the challenging schedule laid on by our hosts. The opposition are getting better every festival, and our gang continue to rise to the occasion. It is wonderful to see their confidence growing, both as individuals and as a team as they start out on their rugby journey.

Highlight of the day was Arthur Allard selling the whole of Sutton & Epsom (the towns as well as the players) a dummy before running in a try from deep inside his own half. Shades of Matt Dawson from the '97 Lions.

U9S MIX IT WITH THE BIG BOYS AT BIG MATCH EXPERIENCE

On Saturday 24 February the U9s had their glorious "Big Match Experience"! The weather Gods blessed us with sunshine, which definitely helped put a smile on everyone's face and started the day well. We kicked things off with an energised warm up led by Men's 1XV players Milo, Joshua, Oli, George and Jamie. The enthusiasm and energy of the guest coaches was matched by the U9s who got stuck in with one-on-one wrestling games and rugby adaptation of paper, rock, scissors! Then it was time to put the new skills into action, with a few matches. guest and regular coaches were both impressed by how quickly they learnt.

After training, we quickly headed over to the Men first team game, providing them with a typically noisy Barnow guard of honour as the players ran onto the pitch. Dom did a first class job of hand delivering 40 hot dogs to us pitch side, which were gobbled up in no time, some washed down with J20, some with Guinness! [Editors note - To the coaches, not the players Michelle.]

A huge thank you from all the U9 Coaches to the first team players who came and imparted some of their knowledge and fantastic games on both the kids and adults. Everyone got a lot out of the session and both parents, coaches and kids really appreciated it! We would welcome you all back anytime you're available!





U12 BOYS RUN LONDON IRISH CLOSE IN 'CLASSIC'

Whilst two squads were training at Barn Elms, one intrepid team travelled to Hazelwood to face London Irish. Despite the journey, there was a great turn out of parents to cheer on their boys in what was expected to be a very tough test. Despite the giant nature of the opposition, the team didn't take a step backwards all game, putting themselves on the line time and time again to bring them down. Despite the courage, the boys found themselves 3-0 down at half-time, belying the effort and quality of their play.

The second half was a different matter, with Barnes finding a brand new gear - in what was surely the best 20 minutes of their season to date. The rucking and counter rucking was magnificent, creating several turnovers to create try scoring opportunities. With four minutes to play, it was suddenly 3-3. Time and time again, the Irish came. Time and time again they were rebuffed by the green and gold. And then, with seconds to play, the wall crumbled and Irish scored a heart breaking fourth score. The final whistle went - 4-3 to the home side. A sad team, but a team that should feel incredibly proud of both their performance and their character. There's much to more come from this group of players.

U14S DOUBLE DEFEAT OF WIMBLEDON

The Under 14s hosted their Wimbledon counterparts at Barn Elms for A and B team friendly matches involving 36 Barnes players in a break from Watfall Cup fixtures. Two competitive matches, with narrow wins for Barnes in both games: the U14As squeezing home as 10-5 winners with a try in the final play and the B team also winning their match, 15-12. It was great to see their togetherness and belief that they could prevail against strong opposition in both the squads, a testament to their team spirit and on-field leadership. And a useful opportunity to mix the teams up a bit for player development and give a few B team regulars a run in the A team, where they all stood up well to the challenge.