



**BARNES RFC**  
*PLAY IN THE ORIGINAL SPIRIT*

# MINIS & JUNIORS NEWS



## U12 GIRLS DOMINATE IN FIRST SURREY CUP GAME

Sixteen excited girls travelled in the green and gold to Old Reigatians for their first ever appearance in the Surrey Cup. Although a successful team to date, there were plenty of nerves on show during the warm-up as the team got their head into playing a 40 minute match for the first time.

From the whistle, ORs made a strong early run, but were quickly cut down by some ferocious tackling, before being turned over at the ruck. Three passes down the line moved the ball into the hands of our quickest player, who ran the length to score. And from there, it was a dominant performance. At the end of the first quarter, it was 4-0. By the end of the second quarter, the girls were 7-1 up and under the Surrey Cup '6-try' law, the game was over.

We continued to play the second half as a friendly, with Barnes taking a player off, moving others around and also nominating only four players who could score. OR's showed real courage and determination, scoring another 3 tries - but final score was 13v4 (reduced to the maximum 10-4 on the official scorecard).

Next week the girls are back training at Barn Elms, before welcoming Dorking on the 28th January, in what will be a much tougher test.





## U12 BOYS SHOW COURAGE IN TOUGH CUP MATCHES

Two of the U12 Boys teams were in action in the Surrey Cup this weekend. First up were the Mighty Reds vs a very good Old Reigatian's side. Having conceded a couple of breakaway tries early on they found themselves 1-5 down at half time. One "This is your Everest" team talk from coach Jim later and the boys came roaring out, showing great team spirits and guts. They stormed back to win the second half 3-2, making the coaches and parents very proud.

Meanwhile, the Greens were strutting their stuff at Cobham, a strong side who were unbeaten this season until they came up against us last month. What a humdinger of a match! Our boys took the lead after a well worked move involving passing all the way down the line and backed it up with a mirrored carbon copy 5 minutes later.

Momentum shifted though and we went in for the half time chat from a fired-up Boof, 2-1 up. Decisions then started going against us and Cobham pulled level with 10 minutes to go. Hearts were racing on the sidelines in people who should know better. The biggest cheer of the day came when our Fly Half darted over to take the lead with 2 minutes to go. Momentum shifted again though and with seconds left on the clock, our gallant heroes found themselves defending for their try line for their lives but it wasn't enough and Cobham dotted it down for the equaliser.

## LEARNING AND LOTS OF POTENTIAL FROM U14S

Our two Under 14 teams opened their Cup campaign with two defeats. Barnes B lost 19-7 to Old Wimbledonian Warriors in a hard-fought game that was in the balance until the last play. We started well, with some great shape and excellent attacking lines, especially from Oscar and Jesse, scoring first and dominating the first half. However, we lost shape and confidence in the second half. Tackling was generally excellent, with Raff delivering two try-saving tackles, and the team were complimented for their multi-phase defence on our try line. Our scrum was dominant throughout, winning a couple against the head, and there was some good kicking from our 9 and 10. Once the team had got over the disappointment of the result there were smiles all around at a good performance, and all are looking forward to the next game together, with plenty to build on.

Meanwhile the U14 A team travelled to Battersea Ironsides, U14 Surrey champions for the last two seasons. We shipped four tries in a first half to an impressive Ironsides. Lots of lessons for us in working harder to get back in shape at penalties, intensity at rucks and decision-making in possession. What really impressed was how we fought back in an even second half, with big tackles and effort right to the end, including a real train-stopper from Owen C in the final play; a credit to the team spirit and on-field leadership. We were unlucky not to score from a couple of good attacking positions. Some great individual efforts as well, with Max W our player of the match in a late switch from loose head to playing at 7. A 31-0 loss, but one that the boys can take pride in their commitment and much that was good. With a few tweaks and focussed intensity through the full 50 minutes, learning from playing against an outstanding team, this group should have a strong cup campaign.