



BARNES RFC
PLAY IN THE ORIGINAL SPIRIT

MINIS & JUNIORS REMEMBER



There are times that put the rest of our lives in perspective. This weekend was one of those times. On Saturday, our 400+ minis, were proud to be joined by serving and former members of the Royal Marines for an Armistice Day that will remain in both children's and parent's hearts and memories for years to come. Every player along with any parent or coach that was up for the challenge, got to experience a fitness session - Royal Marine style - alongside the fun, was a reminder of just how fit and strong those who serve us with such courage and bravery have to be. Just before 11am, players, parents, coaches, club representatives and members of the local community gathered together to lay poppies, before observing a two minutes silence for all those who have fallen in conflict. A particularly poignant moment

was listening to Hector Price, one of our original minis, play the Last Post - as haunting as it was beautiful.

On Sunday, over 150 under 12s, 13s, 14s, 15s and their old Emanuel opponents, and Colts, Coaches and parents, gathered together on the Barn Elms pitches to hear Adam Libby speak about the meaning of remembrance, some personal memories of some army peers who were lost in the fighting in Afghanistan and how teamwork and the same concepts of supporting and doing the right thing for your mates translates to everyday life for all of us. The boys listened and all observed the silence with total respect, leaving a coach afterwards to comment how impressed he was and how proud it made us to feel associated with the Club. Thanks to Adam for coming along.

U16S TAKE ORFC TO THE WIRE



The U16s staged a remarkable and character fuelled comeback to narrowly miss out against ORFC.

After going down 20-5 early on, the team dug deep and, through a combination of the forwards fire and backs neat set plays and creativity, managed to pull to back to 20-19 by the time the final whistle blew.

Although the boys were disappointed at the loss, they can take real pride in their performance against a team they lost to by over 20 points last season. A big thank you to Chris Stegman for his support.

Our mighty U12 Girls were back in competitive action this weekend at the Surrey Values Festival, hosted by Wimbledon RFC. Results in previous festivals have made Barnes 'the team to beat' in Surrey and our girls were expecting others to raise their game against them. First up was Ironsides, coached by Steve Cockle (formerly of this parish). A physical team, they came out hard, but determined defence, neutralised their attack, giving Barnes a chance to show off theirs. Final score 35-0. Next up Old Guilfordians, who despite a couple of really promising players, always looked under-powered. Final score 40-0. Richmond next who, without two of their strongest players, were always going to struggle. Some great teamwork coupled with flashes of individual brilliance by Barnes took the final score to 50-0.

U12 GIRLS STAY UNBEATEN



The final match was against Farnham, also unbeaten at this stage and including the niece of Red Roses star and World Cup Winner, Claire Purdy. Barnes started strongly with a couple of great team tries, before Farnham grabbed a great try of their own after finding space out on the wing. From then on it was one-way traffic, with Barnes scoring another five tries without reply. Final score 35-5. A huge thank you to GB7s and Ealing Trailfinders star Emma Uren for spending the morning with us.

THIS WEEKS FIXTURES

Juniors (all Sunday)

- U12 Girls** v Ironsides and Richmond
- U12 Boys** v Esher
- U13 Boys** v Surrey Vales (London Irish)
- U14 Boys** v Old Reigatians
- U15 Boys** v Camberley (Away)
- U16 Boys** v Dorking
- Colts Boys** v London Welsh

Seniors (Mens - Sat, Womens - Sun)

- Men 1XV** v Bury (Away)
- Men 2XV** v Rams
- Women 2XV** v Hackney (Away)
- Occasionals** v Farnham (Away)

U9S GO 16 PHASES TO SCORE GLORY TRY



The U9's were out in force for a second Sunday festival in a row, and as is becoming customary brought unlimited levels of enthusiasm with them. One plan this week was to make better plays from the breakdown - and this they did well with fast scrum-half work followed by multiple quick passes to get the ball away from the crowd and into space. One opposition team did well to repeatedly use the touch-line as an extra tackler (they called it the 'cliff-edge') and our U9's learned defensive lessons from that as well as modifying their own attacking running lines. The touch-line really is one of the best defenders!

They also found their own glory in defence - 'racing to set' quickly on each breakdown and showing good discipline on the offside line. Another highlight of the day was a 16-phase try from one end to the other - impressive at any level of rugby!

A great fun morning of rugby and a blast was had by all. Needless to say they're looking forward to the next one!

U8S HAVE FUN IN THE MUD

The U8s were also out for a second week running and determined to enjoy themselves in the muddy conditions. This squad are just starting to hit their straps, showing massive improvements in each and every festival. Core skills such as catching, passing, tagging and running straight were in full display but it was the focus and attitude that most impressed. Lots of tries were scored, far fewer conceded - but it was the smiles of the faces of every child that told the real story.

As we start to look forward to the second half of the season, the focus will be to use the friendships and camaraderie off-the-pitch to encourage a bit more teamwork on the pitch. We can't wait!



U7S PLAY IN ORIGINAL SPIRIT

The U7s were the third age group representing Barnes at Sutton & Epsom this weekend - and they brought the original spirit in bundles. Tries, tantrums and even tiaras were the order of the day as this brilliant young squad ran rings around the opposition (and sometimes themselves).

If you've never watched an U7s tournament, I really urge you to do so - it is the joy that just keeps giving.