



BARNES RFC
PLAY IN THE ORIGINAL SPIRIT

MINI & JUNIOR NEWS



U11S GIVE BORTHWICK AN ATTACKING MASTERCLASS

What looked set to be a cold and miserable morning for rugby, turned out to be a sunny and joyous occasion with lots of fast-paced action on Old Deer Park at the Richmond Festival. The Barnes U11's put forward two teams to take on the opposition in the mud. We came up against some stiff competition, with five matches for each team against the likes of Teddington, Old Ruts, Warlingham, Westcombe Park and Old Reigations but none could dampen the spirit, flair and passion displayed by our glorious Barnes players.

The coaches were so impressed by our team's fearsome defence, lethal rucking and crucial support play, but above all the camaraderie amongst the players shone through – they played as a team, united by friendship and reliance on each other.

Well done U11's, we couldn't be prouder of the spirit in which you played and the sportsmanship you displayed. Even the current England coach and rugby great stopped by to beg for a photo and some advice from his favourite team!



RECORD NUMBER OF TEAMS PLAYING FOR U12S

Between the boys and girls, the U12's had an incredible FIVE teams out and ready to play on Sunday morning, in what we think was a record for the club. Whilst Barnes Reds was sadly cancelled at the last minute because of a waterlogged pitch, it didn't stop the other four teams representing the Green and Gold with pride and joy.

BARNES U12 GOLD STUN SUTTON AND EPSOM.

Barnes Gold faced Sutton and Epsom B away, in bright sunshine on a windswept hill, which meant a drier and firmer playing surface than much of the rest of London and Surrey on Sunday. As usual, the opposition were taller and heavier, but as one of our players observed presciently just before kick-off, the bigger they come, the harder they fall.

Sutton and Epsom quickly revealed a simple game plan, to give the ball to their largest players and truck it up the middle. The Golds countered strongly, balancing numbers committing to the tackle and ruck, with quickly resetting their defensive line for each phase. After ten minutes, Sutton and Epsom had barely got past the half-way line; Golds had only touched the ball twice, but scored both times by moving it out wide, where searing pace and deft footwork from Mason and Leo left the defenders floundering. By half-time Golds were 5-1 up, with further tries from George, Huw and another from Mason.

As we expected, Sutton and Epsom came out strongly for the second half and started to wear the Golds down, making more ground with their big ball carriers, and rumbled over for two more tries despite valiant defence. But, Golds again under pressure a few metres from their touchline, Freddie sat deep to launch a soaring kick which not only cleared their lines, but landed well into the Sutton and Epsom half. Milo spotted the opportunity and cruised between two hesitant defenders, gathered the second bounce and ran through to touch down.

Final score was 6-4 to Barnes Gold, with Freddie awarded man of the match by Sutton and Epsom. This was the performance which coaches dream of, with concentration, skill, speed, awareness, flair, but most of all, teamwork, with every player executing his role for the benefit of the team.

U12 BLUES MIX IT UP IN NEW RAPIDS CUP CAMPAIGN

Despite the inclement weather, Barnes Blues turned up with a full squad to the inaugural Rapids Cup competition at Battersea Ironsides on Sunday morning. The new competition has been created to ensure that players earlier in their rugby journey have the opportunity to play competitive rugby against similar players. For a club such as Barnes, where we welcome everyone who wants to play - with a focus on fun, community and comradeship, it is a much welcomed addition to the calendar.

The Blues first game was against Farnham. After the usual almost instant conceded try, our boys got their game faces on and got to work. Against some much larger players, the rucking and tackling in particular was incredible - led by Ralph, who used the platform to set-up two tries before grabbing one for himself.

What was particularly pleasing was how every player played upto or beyond their level. Imran played like a Man of Steel. Ajay caught some great balls kicked deep. Wilhelm ran from deep and backed himself all the way.

Game two was Ironsides, who with 90 players in their age-group are (for now) the largest U12 set up in country. This time the physicality of the opposition was too much, with the home team running in seven tries. However, we still managed to grab three of our own, including James scoring a blistering try beating six defenders as he ran the length of the pitch.

The final game was against Wimbledon Warriors, where again we conceded first before digging in and starting to compete. Kit started getting turnover ball after turnover ball and the whole team held their line admirably. Oliver, playing on the wing went into Power Up mode, running the length of the pitch to score a solo try of epic proportions. There are lots of other players to mention, but space is limited, but the team spirit of these players was a joy.

They are gaining confidence every competitive game, enjoying each others company and playing together as team.

BARNES GREENS STRUGGLE AGAINST LOCAL RIVALS.

Whilst other games were threatened by cancellation, the Greens headed to Rosslyn Park knowing that it would be a fast and physical game on the 4G pitch against their most local and fiercest of rivals.

And so it turned out to be. Whilst Barnes played with courage and pride, Park were just too big, too strong and too organised for us this time around. The home team ran in seven tries to our one. It was not all doom and gloom however, there were passages of play where we matched their physicality and showed our quality. Plus, the post-match Pizza was amazing. Onwards.



U12 GIRLS CONQUER COBHAM AND CHOBHAM

Sunday saw Round 3 of the Surrey Cup for our pioneering girls. Despite the weather, the journey into darkest Surrey and a sickness bug hitting the squad, fifteen girls made the journey to Chobham RFC to play against a combined Cobham/Chobham squad.

Kick off arrived. We kicked. They caught. We tackled, turned over and scored. So far, so good. But then something unusual happened. We kicked. They caught. They ran. We didn't tackle. They scored. Five minutes gone and one score apiece. A couple more scores settled the nerves and at quarter time, it was 3-1 to Barnes. These are a mature and honest group of girls - and the team talk consisted mostly of the coaches listening as the players identified the improvements they needed to show. And improve they did - with four more tries coming in the next six minutes to bring the score to 7-1 and with it the end of the competitive fixture.



C(h)obham, kept at it though and thoroughly deserved their three tries. In fact, ball in hand, they looked good - spreading the ball wide early and stretching our defence as well as anyone has this season. For our part, we were pleased with the execution of some new attacking moves - with a 10/12 switch and a DSP move both creating great tries. Final score was 12-3, with Alba being awarded player of the match by the opposition, after scoring six tries. This Sunday sees a top-of-the-table clash against Battersea Ironsides. With Steve Cockle as their coach, we know it's going to be a physical one.

U7S AND U8S ROMP IN RICHMOND

The mighty U7s got another festival under their belt at local friends and rivals Richmond on Sunday. Each squad played with energy, gusto and some slinky dodging - impressing coaches and opposition alike.

Meanwhile, the U8s built on recent performances to deliver an impressive display in their festival. Putting width on their attack was definitely a new development, resulting in several great tries. In defence, they showed real teamwork, holding their line and supporting one another throughout. In the final game of the morning, the referee stopped the game to commend our awesome squad for their outstanding passing and positional play. All in all a wonderful morning of rugby.

