



**BARNES RFC**  
PLAY IN THE ORIGINAL SPIRIT



# MINIS & JUNIORS NEWS



## COLTS COME OUT ON TOP AGAINST ROSSLYN PARK

The Colts took on Rosslyn Park B in the Surrey Birch Final in inclement conditions. Fortunately the self-acclaimed 'bomb squad' were up to the task and put in the best forwards display by a Barnes Colts side for many years. The set piece was majestic and the gain line advances on the fringes were brutal. Sonny R was as accurate with his 'darts' at the line-out as he was with his place-kicking in damp conditions. Will McD scored a hat-trick from prop! Are we seeing a new Barnes 'style of play' emerging?

The backs used the wind well in the second half to keep RP pinned back, breaking the 12-12 stale mate at half time to win out 33-12. Alex K, scorer in the first half, allowed Hal L to take out-half duties in second period, culminating in an ostentatious cross-field kick from 10 yards out, that very nearly converted in the red zone. (Season ban now in place. That's certainly not in the Colts playbook!)

Max D has led the side impeccably in this second half term. The squad is playing with huge belief and spirit, superbly marshalled by the skipper. Max has also applied his incisive attacking game to cut defensive lines with side steps, delayed passes and short balls. It's been a true spectacle for the appreciative supporters.

A big shout out to Henry this week who had ACL surgery. Colts team mates wish him a strong recovery. As an ever-present in the side, for as long as anyone can remember, he will be sorely missed on the field during his convalescence.

# U16S DOMINATE AGAINST SPIRITED OLD RUTS SIDE



Under 13's were away for joint training and a match at Kingston on Sunday. We were warmly welcomed at Kingston Rugby Club. Our boys arrived, with some energy and despite the weather, quite a bit of enthusiasm! Training went well, but the match was our best yet, rucking, tackling and stringing together quite a few phases.

We started well putting in 3 tries, then letting Kingston back in with two of their own. Second half, we went on to win comfortably, playing well, with several of the parents commenting on the quality of our rugby, and the boys grit and determination. Now the coaches have to work out how to get them to do that week in, week out!

# STRONG TACKLING BY U14S TOO MUCH FOR RICHMOND

The under 14s took on Richmond for a training match at Barn Elms. To give match time to all, we played a match of three thirds, with our B and then A teams each playing part of the match, and part mixed, and some players even joining Richmond to make up their numbers. Richmond had one or two rather intimidatingly large forwards who were difficult to stop once moving and that allowed them to take an initial lead of three tries before our team started really working together to grab back control. With some substitutions and with Richmond tiring, we soon levelled the score and finished as 29-17 winners. But a good workout, especially for our B team pack and the star tacklers who faced up to Richmond at their strongest in the first part of the game. The teams will now look forward to learning their opponents in the waterfall cup initial rounds in January.

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## THIS WEEKS FIXTURES

### Minis and Juniors

No Fixtures - but Christmas Socials in Clubhouse after training on both Saturday (Minis) and Sunday (Juniors). See you all there!

### Seniors (Mens - Sat, Womens - Sun)

- Men 1XV** v Wimbledon (Away)
- Womens 1XV** v Wimbledon (Away)
- Men 2XV** v Wimbledon (Away)
- Women 2XV** v Old Rutlishians



# U12'S ON THE RAMPAGE ACROSS SOUTH WEST LONDON



We had a full fixture list on this wet Sunday 10th for the U12's. We had our teams playing, and they were playing all over south West London. From Battersea to Rosslyn and at home too. The story unfolds:

The mist was rising, the air was cold, they heard the footsteps pounding. Into the lion's den, the mighty Barnes arrived. Playing at Ironside against Wimbledon Warriors, Effingham, and Twickenham. They stood tall, they played with pride. The so-called Warriors were left in their wake, weapons downed and retreating in shake. A great fought draw was had to start the morning. The boys followed it up against an Ironside team, with a well fought victory, and then again against another team from Ironside and another onslaught, they stood their ground and sent them home to think again. Some fantastic rugby was being played. Into the final game they rode, against a one club team called Effingham. We were battle weary and couldn't get across the line, Eff you Effingham, but they can hold their heads up high as it will be a moment they can reflect upon with pride. They learnt about teamwork, and they gave everything they could. All the coaches are very proud of their efforts. They played their socks off.

Another battle was taking place at home against Hammersmith and Fulham. A valiant display unfolded, against a large opposition, it was neck and neck, end to end, our boys discovered their courage in tackling. To quote a spectator "this game could go either way" it was that close. You will have to ask us at the bar for the final result, but the huge amount of positive feedback reflects what a success the day was.

Some say we were fighting on too many fronts. However, our team sent to Rosslyn / St Petersburg are a small but mighty bunch. A battle against Rosslyn Park, Canterbury, Oxford Harlequins, Saracens, and Cobham was lined up. Arguably the strongest clubs in our age group. The first match against Rosslyn Park saw our boys play against 3, 11-year old's, who are over 6ft, and 2, 11-year old's, who are 70kg. The boys played like warrior poets. They flung the ball with the grace of a humming Fiji sevens side, they annihilated Rosslyn, 6 tries to nothing. Another spectator was heard saying "I've never seen an U12 side play like this, it is incredible, they must be coached by some seriously talented coaches". Onto Canterbury, an undefeated team in the U12's, a team that makes Rosslyn look small. It was toe to toe, 15-minute games are against our strategy, the ref was against our style, it was a try in the last second to Canterbury that resulted in a bizarre loss, as our boys played magnificently. Onto Cobham next, and again, we are playing against a formidable opponent. We out played them, we blew them off the park, 3 tries to 1. Free flowing rugby at its best. Rucking and phased possession strategy in full flow. You will never guess what a spectator was heard saying...Into the semi-final and somehow up against Rosslyn again. In unconfirmed reports, they recruited 6 first team players, suddenly their pack weight increased by 545kg. Courageously they held out, wave after wave of attack, again the Ref who we can't mention, seemed to think it was American Football, but we couldn't quite get the win. We reached a fantastic level that we had been chasing for months. They boys looked so well drilled and gave it everything, this group is a seriously talented bunch and did Barnes proud. Coaches and parents have all said what a incredible day it was.

