



BARNES RFC
PLAY IN THE ORIGINAL SPIRIT

MINI & JUNIOR NEWS



MINIS TAKEOVER EALING IN FESTIVAL OF FLOWING RUGBY

Over a dozen teams and 150 players travelled to Ealing for a festival of flowing rugby on Sunday. Leading the way were our mighty U7s, now tournament veterans and showing a combination of style and resilience as they took on all comers. Remember, there is no official scoring at Minis level - but fair to say that rugby and the owner of the snack stall were the winners.

Our U8s meanwhile were chomping at the bit in their last season before contact rugby. So much so, they sometime forget it isn't contact. But if running straight over your opponents isn't 'playing in the original spirit', then what is? It wasn't just physicality that was on show though - pace, guile, teamwork and flair all had their moment in the spotlight in a brilliant morning of rugby and fun.

A shout out to the girls of this age group, who are multiplying by the week and already showing the potential to be a very special group of players.





Spring was in the air and a spring was in the step of Barnes' u9s as they fielded three teams for their first festival of the year at Ealing Trailfinders. Wide attacking lines and quick ball from the breakdown made for finding and creating good space against determined opposition teams. Defenders drawn in before deft offloading meant good flowing rugby, with plenty of shape and structure on the field from disciplined phase play. Plumes of smoke provided the pyrotechnics as burgers and 'dogs flamed nearby on the clubhouse barbecue with the promise of sustenance for tired legs and empty bellies, soon to be wolfed down and well deserved by many!

U14S DEFEAT PARK AND WIMBLEDON IN CUP

Whilst the Minis were tearing up Ealing, the Juniors saw a record number of nine teams in competitive action, across South West London and Surrey. Kicking the day off were our Under 14 squad, with both A and B teams posting impressive wins over local rivals in their Surrey Waterfall Cup pool matches.

Barnes U14 Gold came out of the traps fast, looking more powerful than Wimbledon B, with two good tries from Oscar and Danai, both converted by Jack. In the second quarter Wimbledon came back with two tries to level the score before we recovered our intensity to add a third from a tap-and-go penalty; 14-21 to us at half time. A tense second half saw Wimbledon level, but persistent pressure from our stronger pack eventually told, setting up a well-worked Barnes try with George crossing to put us a score ahead. A last-gasp tackle into touch by Tom L heralded the final whistle and a deserved 21-26 win.

Barnes Green were up the road at Rosslyn Park, playing in the top U14 division. We started well, with high intensity and good structure, and soon the pressure told as our maul drove over in the corner for Rory to score. Sam J added a second with a powerful run from halfway, but the match remained competitive with some crucial turnovers from us in defence. We dominated for a period after the break, adding two more tries - Max scored after a storming run from Nico and then No.8 Bertie outran the Park defence to touch down. Park scored a consolation try, but an intense match ended with a 5-26 Barnes win.

Goalkicking was a highlight for both Barnes teams with 75% success including from wide positions by Henry, Anatole and Jack. And well-controlled driving mauls resulted in tries from both our teams. Some points noted to work on, but overall a great weekend and a proud coaching group. No break, however, with the next round of cup matches this coming weekend.



MIXED RESULTS FOR U12S BOYS AND GIRLS

It was a tale of two genders for the U12s, with the boys fighting hard with little reward, whilst the girls continued their unbeaten streak.

Fielding three squads in the Surrey Cup, this mammoth and tight squad of players gave everything for the Green and Gold in a challenging weekend for the boys. Barnes Reds, took on London Welsh B at Barn Elms - a slow start saw them 6-1 down at half time. An 'inspirational' team talk saw them turn things around in the third quarter, bringing the score back to 6-6 with ten minutes to play. The difference was the stable platform in defence, being in it to win turnover ball, hit rucks, and making their tackles. Plus, supporting play and overlaps were a joy to behold. However, a combination of better shape and pace in the last few minutes, saw Welsh steal the last three tries to come out 9-6 victors.

A similar, slow start from Barnes Gold, also playing at Barn Elms, saw them 5-1 down at half time against Reigate before pulling themselves together, with a masterclass of disruption, to go down 9-7 after a passionate and frenetic second half.

The Greens, who have found themselves in the toughest of pools, were away to London Irish A. Despite real courage and commitment against a much bigger squad, they eventually lost out 7-2. Lots to work on for all three squads, but plenty to be proud of too - not least the camaraderie and joy every player brings to the pitch on game day.

Barnes U12 Girls continued in their winning ways at home to Dorking in the Surrey Cup this weekend. Barnes started with their trademark intensity in defence, forcing Dorking backwards before turning them over and securing the first score after two minutes. Despite spirited work at the breakdown by Dorking, Barnes scored four more times before the end of the first quarter, including two brilliant individual tries by Maria, to make the score 5-0.

With a bumper match day squad of 21 - and only twelve allowed on the pitch at any one time - we rang the changes for the second quarter, giving opportunities to a number of our newest players. Credit to Dorking, who showed real character to come back with a few tries of their own, but just after half-time we hit the '6-try rule' mark, officially winning the game 9-3.

In the spirit of rugby, we continued to the final whistle, trying out new positions and combinations to prepare ourselves for what will be tougher matches ahead. We were particularly proud of our newer players, some of who have only been playing for a few weeks, who showed real courage in getting involved. A few weeks break from fixtures now, before travelling to Cobham on 3rd March for Round 3