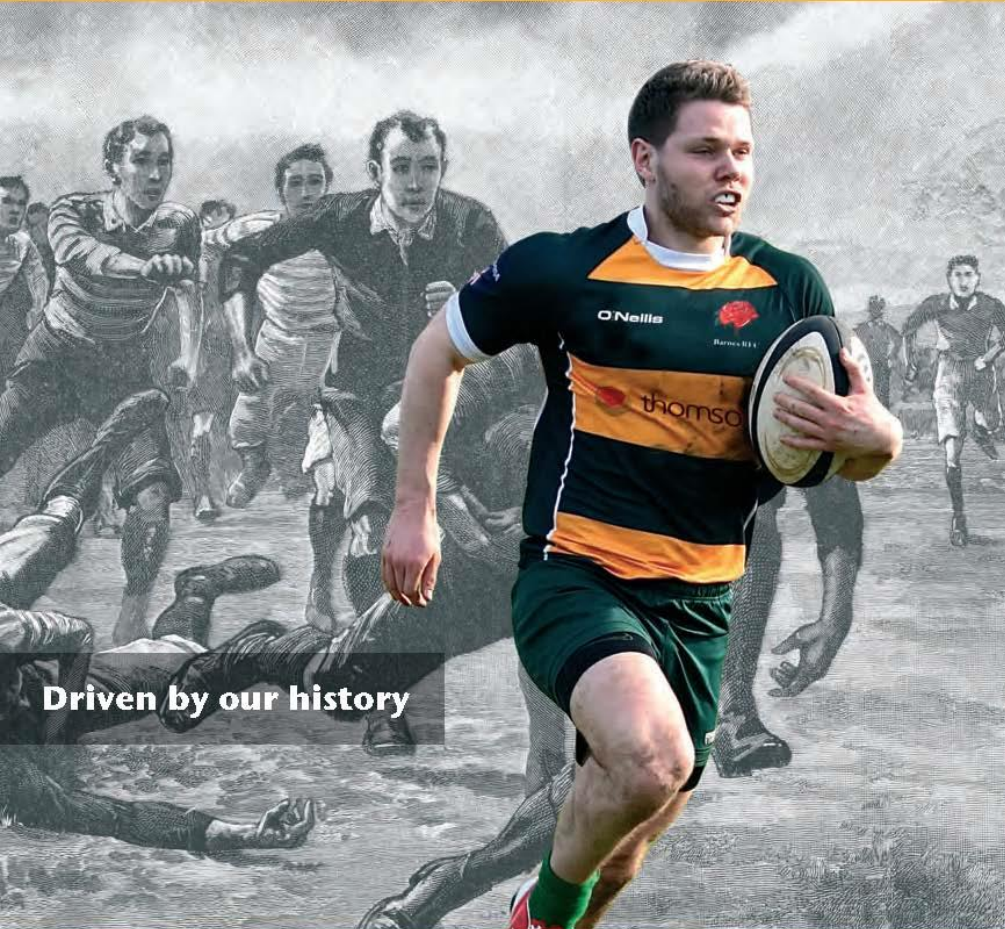

**BARNES RFC**  
*PLAY IN THE ORIGINAL SPIRIT*

**2017-18 London and South East Premier**



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1862...Where legends began

The Barnes name as a sporting club is connected with both the birth of Association football, and by default, the early foundations of Rugby. Barnes Club was established by Ebenezer Cobb Morley, a solicitor from Hull who in 1858 moved to London to further his career.

He was a gifted sportsman and rower who also established the Barnes and Mortlake Regatta which still runs today.

At the time he started Barnes Club there were many versions of ball games that had elements of both today's football and Rugby and there is a documented game between Barnes and Richmond in 1862, where there were no universal rules - despite attempts to codify the game by Cambridge and Harrow schools.

Then in 1863, Cobb Morley drafted the first rules for the game at his home in Barnes and they were revised with other clubs in 6 meetings at the Freemasons Tavern. This was the birth of the FA or Football Association.

His rules were in favour of the 'kicking game', and outlawed running with the ball in hand (as well as 'hacking' or tripping). A disgruntled Blackheath Club walked out of the Association.

There was an inaugural game planned at Battersea Park for 1864 but legend has it that some couldn't wait to try out the new rules – among them Cobb Morley. And so in December 1863, his Barnes team took on neighbours Richmond ending in a goalless draw.

Richmond went on to become founder members of the Rugby Football Union – formed from Clubs that preferred rules that allowed for the handling of the ball.

Cobb Morley chased the wrong shaped-ball, and came from the wrong side of Watford Junction, but he embodied a sporting spirit that we still keep alive here today.

By codifying the football game Cobb Morley enabled it to spread far and wide, and be popularized outside of the public schools where it was played.

The rise of the Red Rose - 1913 to present day

The Barnes Club name has changed back and forth over the years. Barnes RFC was previously the Harroddian RFC, part of the Sports and Social Club of Harrods department store of Knightsbridge, London. The club had excellent grounds on the west side of Barnes. In 1990 Harrods closed the Sports and Social Club prior to selling off the land and property. Barnes RFC had been set up in 1978 as the veterans' team of the club and with controversy about the use of the name Harroddian, the names were switched with Barnes becoming the first and second teams and Harroddians the Veterans.

The Harroddian RFC was established with Surrey RFU and the England RFU for the start of 1912/3 season. (The first match that we positively know about was Molesey 2nds v Harroddian, October 4th, 1913)

With the advent of leagues, Old Harroddians, were placed in Surrey Three. In 1990/91, the club started the season with no ground or clubhouse after the Harrods store was sold and their sports club in Lonsdale Road, Barnes was sold off and turned into a school. After a big effort from all at the club, a decision was taken to play and train at Barn Elms, and members donated to refurbish a clubhouse adjacent to the land.

By the mid Nineties, the club, now named after the village in which they played, finally climbed out of the Surrey Leagues, and took a while to establish themselves in the London Divisions. Six seasons in London Three South-West followed, which saw consistently improving league positions, resulted in back to back promotions in 2001/02. 2003/04 saw the club battle to make the jump to London One, but fell at the last hurdle, after finishing as runners-up. However, the Green & Golds went one step better the year after, winning the London Two South championship. Four years were spent at the pinnacle of London Divisional rugby with Barnes consistently battling it out with the likes of Richmond, London Scottish, Ealing and Worthing at the top of the table. The side finished as

runners-up in 2009 before one of the biggest days in their history as they hosted South-West One runners-up Bracknell. Barnes recorded a famous win, to reach the dizzying heights of Step Four of the English game.

That a village club could reach National Two was incredible. The season ahead was a struggle, but Barnes continued to play an eye-catching expansive style. Numerous games were lost in the last ten minutes which was, ultimately, to prove the team's downfall, and a return to what became National Three London followed. 2010/11 was an incredible campaign for the Green and Golds as only two matches were lost all season, despite this, the promotion race came down to the last three matches of the season, as Barnes faced Dorking, Hertford and Ampthill, their three rivals for the championship. The run-in started at Dorking's "Big Field" where the Surrey side had not lost for two years – but a famous Barnes win was recorded. The following week, league leaders Hertford came to Barn Elms, and one of the biggest crowds to ever watch the club witnessed an astonishing match in which over eighty points were scored, with the home side hanging on to win at the death. The championship was won on the last day as Ampthill were put to the sword. Incredibly, Barnes returned to National Two South at the first time of asking. Again, relegation followed immediately, but the club were far more competitive than in their initial foray into the division. After finishing in fourth place in National Three London & SE, in 2013/14 relegation to the London Leagues was narrowly avoided after a Houdini style escape from the drop zone courtesy of five wins from the last six games – prior to this run, only four games had been won all season! The club recovered to their former glories the following year to finish as runners-up behind Bury St. Edmunds, which resulted in an incredible promotion play-off game at National Three South-West runners-up, Exmouth. A come-from-behind extra-time victory earned the Green & Golds a third stint in National Two South. The highest ever league position achieved by the club followed last season – 13<sup>th</sup> place to retain status at Level Four for the first time ever.

It is worth also pointing out that Barnes regularly field five men's sides, including a strong 2<sup>nd</sup> XV who compete in the top division of the highly competitive Zoo Sports Shield and a Veterans side who are one of the most successful in Surrey. In addition to this, Barnes have a very successful Women's team and a burgeoning Minis and Youth rugby set up, who are achieving notable success in the highly competitive Middlesex and Surrey areas.