



# THE KNIGHT

THE NEWSLETTER OF ONGAR RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB MINIS



## Billericay provide excellent opposition for first matches

We welcomed players, coaches and parents from Billericay RFC on Sunday, October 17 for a mix of training and matches. Like Ongar, Billericay are developing the younger end of their youth rugby and for many of their players it was their first taste of competitive matches. Our visitors brought Under 8 and Under 9 teams to train with and play against our Under 7, 8 and 9s. We were blessed with beautiful sunshine, dry, still conditions and all the players responded enthusiastically, demonstrating good skills in attack and defence. As you will read in the reports below the coaches were really impressed with how the boys (and two girls) applied what they had learned in training to a match situation.

Thanks to parents Jo Alavoine, Jo Cole, Michael Van Klink, Mike Tatton and James Saward for helping out with refreshments and car parking.. We are building a reputation as a warm, friendly club and the positive support our parents always give to participants from both teams is true to the ethos of the game of rugby.



Picture: The Ongar Knights still cheerful after a Sunday morning training session

### Under 8s charge to victory

by Katherine Richardson

Ongar Knights Under 8s had their first game of the season. They had been working hard in training but had yet to be tested against their peers. A strong Billericay side turned up on a cold, sunny morning but the team were ready to go.

The side started well scoring early, but Billericay scored soon after. This only seemed to spur the side on and after some great attacking play, at half time the Knights were 4 – 1 up.

In the second half the side were in full flow showing great tag skills with their attacking and defensive play and scored a further three times, only conceding one. Some great tries from James, Alex and Mattie. Harrison and William were outstanding in their supporting play and Henry, Teddy and George's tagging were keeping the Billericay team in their own half. The real secret to the success though was the great team performance and the positive attitude they had throughout the game. Final Score 7-2.

Well done to all the team on a fantastic effort and let's keep it up for the rest of the season. We have a tough couple of games coming up against Upper Clapton and Harlow but if we keep working hard we will only improve and be more successful.

**Ongar Knights U8:** Harrison Cole, James Berry, Alex Dixon-Smith, George Alavoine, William Padfield, Henry Cameron, Mattie Cranwell, Teddy Shurety

### U7s Knights show their skills

Many of the team had played so well in competitive matches last season despite being a year young. So the coaches were interested to see how they played as a team against older opposition again.

Good defensive organisation and individual hunger to make the tag meant that Billericay struggled to find a way through to score. The Knights were double-tagging and then moving quickly back into the line ready for the next attack.

With the ball in hand the Knights were dynamic. Part of the training is to make players realise that if they run hard between two defenders sometimes that Tag is missed or at worst they can take three steps and pass to a team mate who can keep going. This is better than stopping or running backwards. This driving running was evident yet the coaches were very pleased the way players also tried to pass the ball to a team mate that could see a gap in front of them.

The final score was 5-2 to the Ongar Knights despite valiant efforts by the Billericay team. During the training session our four Under 6s, Ralph, Dominic, Frankie and Logan got stuck in. It is funny to see how the whiff of competition inspires even the youngest. If this team continues to improve in training they will be a handful for any opposition.

**Ongar Knights U7:** Tommy Chart, Ben Terrington, Mattie Cranwell, Robert Kennedy, Archie Van Klink, Henry Bowerfield, Jack Quinlan, Ben Parr plus Logan Nathan, Frankie Smith, Ralph Tatton, Dominic Saward

## Early contender for tackle of the season as Under 9s match Billericay

The key talking point for coaches and parents after this fantastic match with Billericay was the try-saving tackle made by Josh Saward on the opposition winger. The player was flying down the touchline when Josh sprinted across the pitch and launched himself into the horizontal Superman position. He took the attacker's legs out from under him and the two of them rolled into touch. To be honest even young Saward looked a little surprised at the dramatic outcome.

The match ended 11-11 after about 40 minutes of really skillful play by both teams. The teams were well-matched and both scored three types of try. The committed run through the defence did break tackles, especially as the players tired. The fast men like Josh Saward and Luke Holmes could outflank the defence, scoring three and two tries each.

The most pleasing tries were the result of the team recycling the ball after a tackle and passing to players in space. One Ongar try had the coaches purring as the ball was passed through four pairs of hands from one side of the pitch to the other, creating space for Sam Russell to score in the corner. Throughout the game the coaches introduced newer elements of the game such as scrums and line-outs.

All the team played really well but special mention for Ben Cranwell, James Padfield and captain Tom Gray for their tireless support and tackling. Harvey Barford was tenacious in defence and Toby Reynolds's sheer enthusiasm spread through the team.

**Ongar Knights U9:** Tom Gray (Capt) Billy Warren, Sam Russell, James Padfield, Luke Holmes, Josh Saward, Toby Reynolds, Harvey Barford, Ben Cranwell



### Taking bookings for London Wasps trip

We are now taking bookings for Knights for the London Wasps Heineken Cup game against Stade Toulouse over the weekend of January 22/23. The Knights have the chance to play tag rugby as pre-match entertainment. The price is £10 per player, adult tickets are £15 each and further child tickets £8. Please note the match time and date are to be confirmed by Sky Sports just before Christmas so you need to keep the weekend free. We are looking at organising a coach from Ongar. Please complete the booking form and return with cheque to Philip Cranwell by November 7th. If we don't receive enough bookings then unfortunately we will have to cancel.

### Why we have more Away than Home matches and why you need a satnav!

If you look at the calendar you may be wondering why we have only two home matches but will have to travel to at least five matches as well as two Festivals.

Longer established clubs have teams at every age group from Under 7s through to Under 19. To simplify admin they organise block fixtures with other clubs on fixed dates and swop venues each year. There are plenty of clubs in Essex and surrounding counties and at younger age groups there are limits on the number of competitive matches. So fixture lists get filled up pretty quickly.

However because matches at younger age groups are shorter, more than one game can be fitted in during a Sunday morning. So we look through other clubs' websites and work out when we might be able to 'Tag' onto their matches to make up a triangular. It makes more interesting for all the players and that is how we played Braintree and Wenden Ambo last year and will play Brentwood/Eton Manor and Upper Clapton/Stanford le Hope this season.

Like us, Harlow and Billericay are developing their mini sections, so this year we have a three way fixtures when each club will host the other two clubs. We hosted Chelmsford last season so it is our turn to play at their ground.

As Ongar Knights become established and news of our wonderful hot dogs travel, we will be able to invite other clubs to play at Love Lane on a reciprocal basis.

To find out more about Ongar Knights mini rugby please contact Philip Cranwell on 07976 547493 or email [ongar.minirugby@btinternet.com](mailto:ongar.minirugby@btinternet.com)

#### Next matches:

Sunday, Nov 7 10.30am v Upper Clapton & Stanford Le Hope at Upper Clapton FC, Upland Road, Thornwood, Epping, CM16 6NL

Sunday, Nov 14 10:30am v Harlow & Billericay at Harlow RFC Ram Gorse, Elizabeth Way, Harlow, CM20 2JQ.

### Keeping warm and dry

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XP TOUR JACKET



Those of you that visited Braintree in February will know how cold and wet Sunday mornings can get. So we have ordered 20 Gilbert XP Tour water-resistant training jackets, specially made in the club colours with logo and branding embroidered. They are excellent quality and come in two sizes, Small Boys and Medium Boys, and will cost £25. Delivery will be in January but if you want to reserve a jacket now please let Philip Cranwell know soonest.