

North Harbour Under 85s game report:

North Harbour V Thames Valley – 8 September 2018

The game started well for Harbour with the forwards winning good ball and the back creating gaps out wide. An early penalty by Killian Wilson gave Harbour a 3 – 0 lead and this was stretched to 8 – 0 after 22 minutes when Harley Cribb scored in the corner after Cam Dalzell had broken through on the halfway line.

Thames and Harbour traded penalties before Valley scored a well constructed try making the score 11 – 10 after 30 minutes.

Valley dominated possession and territory for the next 10 minutes but Harbour hung on and took a one point lead into the break.

An early penalty to Killian Wilson extended the lead to 14 -10 but Harbour was being starved of the ball by the bigger Valley pack. Two quick tries to Valley took them to a 24 – 14 lead before Chris Holmes finished off a long range counter attack to score wide out. The conversion missed but Harbour were back in the game at 24 – 19 after 60 minutes.

The lead was extended to 29 – 19 when Valley scored after a missed tackle near their line.

Feeding off scrapes of ball Harbour looked dangerous when they moved the ball wide with strong runs from Adam Southworth, Cam Dalzell and Ken Tupuola and eventually the try came with Alex Samuals crossing close to the posts for Doug Patterson to convert. 26 – 29 with 4 minutes to go.

Harbour threw everything at Valley but two crucial turnovers inside the Valley 22 allowed Valley to relieve the pressure and the game was lost.

Player of the day went to flanker Josh Higgie who was immense on both attack and defense. Runners up were Luke Eyre and William McLean

**NORTH HARBOUR
RUGBY**