



Match Report, 30 Apr

England U16s defeat Wales 41-22

30 April 2017, 15:55

- **England U16 - Tries:** Anyanwu, Quirke (2), Botterill, Reid, Obonna, Barbeary. **Conversions:** Botterill, Sinfield (2)

An impressive display of attacking rugby saw England Under 16 score seven tries in their 41-22 victory over Wales at Bridgwater & Albion Rugby Football Club.

A brace from scrum-half Raphael Quirke and further tries from Lennox Anyanwu and James Botterill gave England a deserved 22-10 lead at half-time.

Early second-half tries from Jack Reid and Chidera Obonna extended England's lead before Alfie Barbeary capped off a fine performance to score late in the game as the home side ran out comfortable winners.

England dominate possession

In wet conditions, it was the visitors who opened the scoring thanks to a smart turnover and try from outside centre Bradley Roderick in the second minute.

However, it did not take long for England to hit back – a powerful run from Wasps hooker Alfie Barbeary was brilliantly finished off by Anyanwu to quickly reduce the deficit to two points.

England's desire to play attacking, free-flowing rugby was evident throughout and they deservedly took the lead just four minutes later with Quirke going over in the corner.

Sale Sharks' Quirke impressed throughout so it was no surprise that he was heavily involved in England's third try of the game. His smart tap and go from inside his own half gave wing Botterill the opportunity to show his pace and score in the corner.

England dominated possession in the first half and when Quirke grabbed his second try of the game, the home side took a deserved lead at the break.

Changes at half-time

Despite making changes at half-time, England continued to dominate their opposition and made it count with two early tries in the second half.

Harlequins back-row Jack Reid broke the Welsh defence to go over under the posts before substitute Chidera Obonna showed great pace on the left wing to dive over for their sixth try of the game.

Wales did however fight their way back into the match with two tries of their own to leave the score 34-22 mid-way through the second period.

But it was fitting that England left their best till last as Barbeary started and finished a brilliant team move to dive over late in the game to leave the score 41-22 at the final whistle.

'Two excellent sides'

England Under 16 Head Coach Steve Shortland praised his side for their performance in what he described as difficult conditions.

"There were two excellent sides on show today," he said.

"Both teams had their moments and I thought we scored some fantastic tries in tricky conditions. It was an incredibly exciting game of rugby, I thought we dominated the first half but Wales came back strong in the second and that was a big challenge for us."

He added: "In a short period of time together as a group they have gelled very well – I wouldn't single anybody out but I'm very proud of the performance today."

England U16:

15. Louis Lynagh (Harlequins, Hampton School), 14. Joe Carpenter (Yorkshire Carnegie, Lawnswood School), 13. Lennox Anyanwu (Harlequins, Christ's Hospital), 12. Josh Hallett Saracens New Hall School, 11. James Botterill (Harlequins, Fullbrook School), 10. Will Haydon-Wood (Newcastle Falcons Sedbergh School), 9. Raphael Quirke (Sale Sharks St Ambrose College), 1. James Whitcombe (Leicester Tigers, Woodhouse Grove), 2. Alfie Barbeary (Wasps, Bloxham School), 3. Sam Riley (Harlequins, St George's Weybridge), 4. George Martin (Leicester Tigers, Rawlins Academy), 5. Alfred Mawdsley (Wasps, Aylesbury Grammar), 6. Jack Reid (Harlequins, Wellington College), 7. Fin Rossiter (London Irish, Pangbourne College), 8. Harry Hill (Newcastle Falcons Sedbergh School).

Replacements:

16. Lewis Holsey (Worcester, Archbishop Ilsley CS), 17. Aristot Benz-Salomon (Harlequins, Whitgift School), 18. Corry Payne (Worcester Warriors, KES Five Ways), 19. Sam Davies (Harlequins, Cardinal Vaughan), 20. Harry Dugmore (Harlequins, Tomlinscote School), 21. Sam Clough (London Irish, Edgbarrow School), 22. Will Sinfield (London Irish, Wellington College), 23. Chidera Obonna (Newcastle Falcons, RGS Newcastle).

England vs Wales a great success for BARFC

David Pomeroy | 01/05/2017



Local rugby fans turned out in force to watch England Under 16s beat Wales Under 16's by 41 points to 22 at College Way on Sunday afternoon where despite the wet weather, the big crowd swollen by a large contingent of away supporters was in excess of 2000.

Wales kicked off and within two minutes of the start they were in the lead as the England defence was caught napping and Bradley Broderick broke through to score a try between the posts that Sam Costelow converted.

On the quarter of an hour mark Alfie Barbeary made a good break down the left wing before off loading to Lennox Anyanwu who went over for a try to get the home side on the board.

Almost immediately England took the lead when Raphael Quirke scored an unconverted try on the left making the score 10-7.

The home side extended their lead when James Botterill went over for an unconverted try on the left hand side of the posts.

The lively Quirke, who plays his rugby for Sale, was proving quite a handful and showed his pace one again when he chipped ahead and gathered the bouncing ball before touching down for a try which Botterill converted to make the score 22-7.

On the stroke of half time Costelow kicked a penalty for Wales straight after which the referee blew his whistle to bring proceedings to a halt with the score 22-10.

The first 10 minutes of the second period was evenly balanced, with both sides mounting attacks that were thwarted by the opposition defence, however it was England, who looked

dangerous coming forward who added to their score when Jack Reid scored a try between the posts that Botterill added the extras to.

Shortly afterwards the hosts scored another try, this time when Will Sinfield picked up a loose ball in his own half and ran down the left wing to score an unconverted try.

Going into the last 10 minutes Wales created pressure and were rewarded when Sam Williams crashed over on the right for an unconverted try. The visitors weren't done with and five minutes later Dan Hiscocks went over for a try on the left which Ioan Evans converted.

England bounced straight back and as the clock was counting down Harry Hill charged down the left hand side before releasing Alfie Barbeary to score a try which Sinfield converted to make the final score 41-22 to the home side.

This was a special rugby occasion and one that everyone associated with Bridgwater and Albion Rugby Club can feel very proud to have played their part in making the day such a success.

Afterwards Chris Kelly, the England RFU Juniors Vice President said: "We have all had a wonderful time here and Bridgwater and Albion Rugby Club could not have been better hosts to all of us.

They hosted a lovely lunch upstairs before the game that was enjoyed by all our legends who were here celebrating the last ever schools international. There has been an absolutely fantastic crowd here to watch and the pitch was excellent so it couldn't have been better.

He added: "I was last here to watch the South of England play Australian Schools about 20 years and the club is just as good now as it was then. I used to accompany a rugby club when they toured down here in the past so have got many happy memories of Bridgwater and Albion."

Steve Smith, the Chairman of BARFC said: "The day has been a great success all round and despite the weather we couldn't have wished for it to have gone better."

"We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in anyway at all, especially EDF our match sponsors and all of the local rugby fans who has braved the elements and come along to watch the match."

Written by Richard Walsh