

TEDDINGTON LOSE OUT TO HOSTS FOR THIRD YEAR RUNNING



Teddington's U9 'A' squad came within seven minutes of winning their first festival of the season at Chobham on Sunday, October 14 only to be thwarted by the hosts for the third year running and eventually finish third.

One of the toughest festivals Teddington play in, Chobham have always managed to keep a tight grip on the trophy despite

some excellent play from Teddington and a number of close-fought games between the two clubs.

Teddington started slowly against a well-drilled Guildford side in their opening match and although they enjoyed territorial advantage in the first half were unable to break through for a try. The second half saw Guildford come back into the match and gain the upper hand only to be frustrated by some fantastic Teddington defending to see the match end scoreless.

Their second game of the festival saw Teddington play Tunbridge Wells..... again! The Antlers were quick out of the blocks and enjoyed most of the possession in the first half, going in at the break leading 2-0. Tunbridge Wells fought back well in the second half to grab a consolation try but stout defence saw Teddington take the points.

The U9s upped their game for the third match against Winchester. Despite failing to cross the try line in the first half, they always looked the most likely to score and ran in three tries in the second period for a comfortable win.

Wimbledon were the Antler's fourth opponents and the U9s produced their best rugby of the festival running in 6 tries thanks to direct running and swift passing, while conceding only one.

The last match of the day pitted Teddington against the hosts. Nothing less than a win would give Teddington victory and the boys scored an early try and dominated the first half only for Chobham to score in the dying seconds to go in at the break level. The second half saw a well-drilled Chobham side start to dominate Teddington running in two tries without reply to retain their title. Despite being in with a shout of winning the tournament at the start of the match, the

scoreline meant that Teddington finished third despite having the same number of points as Guildford.

Teddington's U9s played some excellent rugby but Chobham deserved their title. There are many encouraging signs so early in the season and the squad will get better. Their generally fierce defence from tag days remains but there is still more work to be done on rucking. The side also needs to consistently reproduce its swift passing moves of last year.

The Antlers made coaches and parents alike very proud at a well organised festival on a beautifully, sunny day and our thanks go to Chobham.

Squad:

James Meadows, Tadhg O'Hagan, Tom Tosetti, Lawrence Willson, Toby Dutton, Eddie Peel, Miles Wakeling, Matthew Wallace, Bruce Gilbert, Adam Lee, Samuel English, Sam Sweetland, Alexander Cozens.

Coaches: Michael O'Hagan, Neil Meadows, Julien Cozens

Referee: David Gilbert

Report: Julien Cozens