

RICHMOND'S VISIT SWELLS NUMBERS TO 100

A very high standard of rugby from 100 children after just 3 weeks of contact training marked the visit of Richmond U9s to Teddington on Sunday, 23 September.

Traditional rivals, the two sides enjoyed a great day of training and then a series of closely contested short games. With very little time before the first festivals for both sides, the morning started with a series of drills to develop the children's tackling, rucking and passing before playing several games to help hone the skills.

The leap from tag rugby to contact is a large one but the children from both Teddington and Richmond showed that they are coping well with it and learning the new skills, as well as developing the old ones, very quickly.

The matches, at a sunny Imber Court, were competitive but played in a great spirit and were a credit to both clubs. Fair play and sportsmanship, as well as no shortage of skilful play, were to the fore, providing great entertainment for the parents and coaches while allowing the newly-trained referees to get to grips with the rules of contact.

The logistics of squeezing a hundred children plus parents and coaches into the normal training area was a challenge but worked very well with children and parents going home happy after a morning of enjoyable rugby.

It was a pleasure to host Richmond and we look forward to meeting them at festivals during the year as well as hopefully visiting them later in the season.

Training for the Teddington U9s has gone well so far but now there's a series of festivals which will show whether the teams can match the standards they set last year.