

TEDDINGTON U9s NARROWLY MISS OUT ON COBHAM HAT TRICK



Teddington U9s 'A' team narrowly missed out on their third consecutive Cobham Festival title on Sunday September 30, eventually running out of steam against the hosts in the final.

In their first competitive contact game Teddington started slowly and were soon a try down to Sutton & Epsom in their opening match. The second half, however, saw them up their intensity and get the ball out wide quickly, enabling them to run in three unopposed tries.

The second match pitted Teddington against a well drilled, powerful-looking Camberley side. Playing down the hill in the first half Teddington scored twice out wide to take control of the game. After the break, Camberley came back into the contest but an improvement in their rucking and some excellent tackling ensured that The Antlers easily hung on to secure the points without conceding a try.

Two wins in the group stage propelled Teddington in to a semi final with their perennial opponents, Tumbridge Wells. It was a predictably tight game with Teddington taking a half time lead only to be pegged back before snatching victory with a try straight through the middle of the Tumbridge Wells defence in the dying seconds.

The final saw Teddington take on a very well drilled, physical Cobham side. Conceding a first half try put Teddington on the back foot, ensuring that they were always chasing the game, and Cobham's second try, early in the second half, effectively killed off the game with the hosts running out worthy winners.

The Antlers played very well for their first real foray into the world of contact rugby and can be proud of the way they performed and behaved at Cobham. Although contact now plays an important role, the boys need to remember that rugby is still a passing game and continue to get the ball out wide as they did in the world of tag. If they can combine their old strengths of quick passing and pace with the honing of their rucking and tackling skill, they will be formidable opponents this season.

As always, Cobham ran a well organised, friendly, enjoyable fixture and were even blessed with good weather this year!

Squad: Eddie Peel, Finlay Jalovaara, Alexander Cozens, Toby Dutton, Tom Tosetti, Harry Kilby, Bruce Gilbert, Samuel English, Tadhg O'Hagan, Josh Blackman, Bruce Gilbert and Miles Wakeling.

Coaches: Michael O'Hagan, Julien Cozens

Report: Julien Cozens