

## TEDDINGTON LOSE OUT DUE TO SOFT TRIES

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On a lovely sunny winters morning Teddington were the talk of the festival with several opposing coaches wowing at the standard of Teddington play. This tone was set in the opening fixture verses Windsor with Teddington being ruthless at ruck time winning all but 1 of the rucks during the game.

Teddington exploded out of the blocks and quickly racked up two tries in as many minutes. Teddington conceded 3 penalties for handing off which could well have cost Teddington the game.

But with some excellent defence in the second half Teddington poached on a loose ball to score down the middle after some sustained pressure on the Windsor attacks. The pressure continued with Teddington being held up over the Windsor line 3 times to eventually run out winners 3-0.

Their second game of the festival saw Teddington play Sutton & Epsom.

Teddington were slow out of the blocks conceding straight from the kick off.

This try would prove costly later in the tournament.

Teddington showed the opposition some stout defence and eventually scored a well crafted try in the second half cutting through the Sutton defence to score in the corner. The distinct lack of passing cost Teddington a much deserved win.

In the third fixture of the day the U9s seemed to be losing a bit of confidence in their back play and tried to play straight up the middle of the park rather than using their impressive backs. This only played into the hosts Guildford's hands.

The pressure Guildford was applying saw the Teddington side lose their ability to tackle and ruck something that was so impressive in the opening game.

Teddington conceded a soft try straight through the middle of the defence causing the boys to wake up a bit and soon levelled from a tap penalty 7yards out.

After some stern defending from both teams the game eventually finished 1-1 with some well earned praise from both camps on the standard of play.

After a break the boys pitched up against a Cobham side who were well drilled and certainly pumped up for the game. Some good attacking play lead to Cobham leading 2-0 at halftime.

The continuous pressure Cobham were applying saw Teddington concede again in the second half.

With Cobham trying to rub salt into the wounds of Teddington the boys strung some passes together with some much needed running forward to power through the excellent defence to score before the final whistle.

With their confidence dented somewhat in Teddington's final game of the day verses a well spirited Dorking side.

Teddington finally started to string some passes together and soon realised this was the way to play the game and ran out eventual winners 3-0 with 3 well worked and hard fought tries.

The Dorking side continued to launch attacks at the Teddington defence but were thwarted by some spirited tackling which had been lacking in the previous 2 games

Despite being early tournament favourites it was clear several other teams upped their game when playing Teddington giving them a run for their money. The two soft tries conceded in the 2 drawn games meant that Teddington finished 5<sup>th</sup> despite having the same number

of points as 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> places but on tries scored/conceded countback meant 5<sup>th</sup> place for Teddington.

There are many encouraging signs at this stage of the boys development in the 1st season of full contact but still plenty to work on.

Their defence early in the games will need to be improved on through some training and remembering to use your backs with some quick accurate handling which will soon bring some rewards.

The side also needs to consistency sustain the good rucking and tackling shown in the opening and ending fixtures of this tournament and the rewards will come!

The Teddington coaches and parents were very proud of the boys at the way conducted themselves on and off the field throughout the day and thanks must go to a well organised festival our thanks go out to Guildford.

### Squad:

Oliver Washington, Tobias Clarke, Oliver Utting, Ciaran Donnelly

Rory Smith, Evan James, Harry Morgan

Keagan Davies, Henry Bennett, Joe Brodin, Ishan khushal, Finlay Jalovaara

Coaches: Glen Washington, David Brodin, Chris Clarke

Referee: David Brodin

Report: Glen Washington