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A Big Thanks from the Chairman!

What A Season!

On the 29th April our rugby season ended at the wonderful London Irish festival, with teams from Ireland and Luxembourg taking part. It was a great end to a great season, where we enjoyed success both on and off the pitch.



For the second year running we hosted the Middlesex Shield festival. **Mike Oliver** and his team did a fantastic job and organised a superb event for the county. Our players performed brilliantly on the pitch with the club winning the Derek Mann Shield as the best performing club in the county at B level. The previous week, our A squads won the Barry Bowden Cup for best club performance at the Middlesex Cup Festival held at Ealing RFC. *Its official, Teddington are the first club to have achieved "the double" at county level!*



The wet weather was a bit of a problem this year, with a large part of our playing areas being converted to a duck pond for several weeks. Thank you to all our coaches for their patience and understanding. Even our own "Teddington Festival" had to be postponed. Well done to **Ian Barton** and his team for managing to find another date in the dairy and for organising a brilliant event for the kids. Thank you to **Marlborough** for sponsoring the event and to **Eden Park** for providing all the match balls.

We took part in many festivals over the season and the players enjoyed lots of success. A highlight was the Staines festival. Despite the appalling the weather, the players, covered from head to foot in mud, battled through the day, with all the age groups reaching the finals. The club achieved best overall performance on the day and, for the second year running, we were presented with the prestigious Rose Bowl.

Festival Fever

As usual we took part in the **Harlequins Curtain Raiser Cup**, which takes place prior to the Quins home games over a number of weekends. We were the only club to have teams in the final at every age group. Unfortunately, it was not to be our day when the finals took part and we didn't win any silverware. However, it was good to watch the main game afterwards and see the Quins have a resounding victory at their last game of the season. The Quins Community Development Officer, **Nick Hyde** is moving on next season. We thank Nick and the Quins for a great community programme and wish Nick every success for the future.



Our U6s, not to be outdone by the older children, staged the their annual "**Hogwarts Festival**". It always amazes me at how quickly the younger kids in the club take to the sport. There was some really outstanding rugby played.

What goes on tour...

We had our fair share of tours this season. Our U8s travelled over to **Jersey** in February and, by all accounts, had an absolutely fantastic time. Our U12s, in their final years of mini rugby, marked the occasion with a tour to **Dublin**. Over 30 players made the trip and were wonderfully looked after by our hosts, Old Belvedere RFC. We sent three squads to the Gullivers National festival at **Nottingham**. We met some tough competition this year and sadly we didn't manage to get any teams into the finals day at Twickenham. Never mind, we'll be back next year!

Our main tour was to **Sussex** where we played at Brighton RFC and Chichester RFC. The tour organisers,



David Gilbert and David Kilby did an absolutely brilliant job. Our hosts were extremely friendly and hospitable. The coaches showed that they haven't lost their touch by putting on an "exhibition" game against the Chichester coaches. We managed to keep our track record of always letting our hosts beat us! All the "tourists" had a great time. We really feel that touring is an important part of developing the players' sense of team spirit and camaraderie. Thank you again to the Teddington Arms for being main tour sponsor for the 4th year running.

Social Sarah and all that...

Teddington RFC has a strong social ethos and our social secretary, **Sarah Meagher**, put in a huge amount of effort throughout the season. We had a number of informal soirées at our sponsors the **Teddington Arms** and the Kings Head. In particular, the quiz night in April was a huge success. Many parents from the youth section attended the 40th Anniversary Dinner and Dance held at Twickenham Rugby Stadium; a first class occasion at a first class venue. On the kids front, Sarah organised a brilliant Christmas party, with a live birds of prey display, and marked the end of season by having a "pool party" at Hampton Open Air Pool. Brilliant fun!



The club has recently been awarded the **RFU Seal of Approval**, which is a great achievement and demonstrates the huge amount of effort all the volunteers put into the club. The award was presented prior to the premiership final on the hallowed turf at Twickenham. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the coaches and volunteers for all that they do for our club. In particular, congratulations to **Mike Oliver** for being awarded "*Gerry Anthony Club Man Of the Year*".

Summer Break!

So now we can all relax and enjoy the summer break. We're hoping to organise some social events and there will no doubt be the usual Bushy Park Picnic for the younger age groups. The season kicks off again on **2nd September**. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to it already!



Editors Notes:

- comments always welcomed on content and general information you think relevant for members. Contact infor@teddingtonrfc.co.uk
 - look out for new registrations forms in July. Update your email details as indicated and send any new details.
 - watch out for changes on the web site www.teddingtonrfc.co.uk throughout the summer.
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