



Post Tournament Report

Ealing Trailfinders Rugby Club (ETRC) was delighted to welcome Cardinal Wiseman, Elthorne Park, Twyford and Villiers on Wednesday 16 March 2016 at their Vallis Way facilities for the last in their series of age-group specific Ealing schools tournaments this season.

After Y9 (U14) and Y10 (U15) before Christmas and Y7 (U12) last week, it was the turn of the Y8 (U13) teams to battle it out on the fantastic 3G pitch to earn the title of 2015/16 ETRC's Y8 Ealing School Champions.



Club volunteers and pros turned up in numbers to support what was an entertaining and hard-fought affair on a sunny but slightly chilly afternoon.

At the organisation helm was Sean Murphy, U13 club coach supported by Neil Trowbridge, U13 Head coach and Graham Reed, U13s Manager. Club president Dick Craig was attending his 2nd such tournament and gave an introduction into the club. MC Tsang kindly agreed to referee.

4 professional players from the club's Championship side (the level just below the Premiership) actively participated by coaching and providing tips to the 2 teams who weren't playing at any point in time. Joe Munro, Llewelyn Jones, Carwyn Jones and Harrison Orr really impressed the kids by their presence.

Also present were Dave Samuels and Zaki Chamnaoui, both the ETRC Academy, who are respectively Head coach and Assistant coach at ETRC's Satellite Club at Elthorne Park and were on site to provide competition advice to players they've now been coaching since the beginning of the season.





Ealing Schools Y8 Rugby Tournament - Wednesday 16 March 2016

The format was a round robin of 20 min matches. Cardinal Wiseman, represented by James Kalinowski, was too strong and won all their matches, consolidating their position as the best Ealing School across the Y7-Y10 categories having now won 3 of the 4 tournaments, with only Twyford being able to snatch away the Y9 title.



Elthorne, represented by Matt Flowers, was a strong contender for the Y8 title and finished 2nd which is an excellent result and proof that their investment in rugby since the beginning of the season is starting to pay off. Twyford, represented by Yoni Charlupski whose Y8 squad isn't yet quite as good as their Y9 eldest still put in a spirited effort.

Without taking anything away from the 3 other teams, the story of the day was newcomer Villiers' 3rd place. Southall-based Villiers High indeed started playing rugby this season thanks to one of their PE teachers' passion for rugby. This was their first opportunity to play competitive matches so to manage a 3rd place after only about 10 hours of training is a remarkable achievement for Lewis Adams and his boys.





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JC Lacour, club volunteer responsible for community engagement said “this was a fitting end to ETRC’s 1st season of hosting school tournaments. There’s a clearly a lot of raw talent in non-independent schools, and we hope that by continuing to host such tournaments and working more closely with schools we’ll convince some kids that rugby is a better option for them than football.”



On behalf of ETRC, many thanks again to all the club volunteers and pros who took time off their busy schedule to make this event a success, to the PE teachers and their players, to Joe Price from Cardinal Wiseman in his capacity as rugby coordinator for Ealing schools and to Natalie Winton, Marketing & Communications Manager of the club’s Championship side who generously donated a signed match ball and tickets to ETRC’s home game against London Welsh on 26 March.



What to play more RUGBY?

ETRC’s Youth section (U13s – U15s) train on Sunday morning (10:00), from September to April each season. All Year 8s are welcome to join us next season.

For more information please contact:

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