

December Newsletter 2024

Email: countyoffice@middlesexrugby.com

President's Corner

The County President, Nigel Orton shares his Middlesex travels and encounters:

On Field ~ 27 Nov: UCFB 1 v University of Essex 2.
This BUCS Men's Southeast Div 4A match was played at Hendon RFC, the referee was Gerard Taylor (LSRFUR). Univ' of Essex won 11 - 15 pts.



The University Campus of Football Business (UCFB) based at Wembley Stadium was launched in 2014 and is dedicated to studying business in the football and sports industries. I wasn't familiar with UCFB and they add to the 26 university clubs in Middlesex. Collectively, they educate over 400,000 students representing a huge pool of potential club players!!!



UCFB in black and white tops

In a very evenly balanced match, Adam Pendell (6), Alex Powell (7), Tom Watts (2) and George Foster (10) stood out. Brave, hard tackling by UCFB denied Essex extending their lead. UCFB's captain was Tom Watts. It was the first time for ages that I saw a 'not straight' scrum feed being penalised. Ealing 1871's coach, David Braithwaite coaches UCFB. Some of UCFB's squad also play at Ealing 1871.



1 Dec: Girls' U18s: Middlesex v Eastern Counties and Middlesex v Essex. A triangular festival played at Grasshoppers RFC. The referees were Benjamin Allanson and Daniel Burges (LSRFUR). The score v EC was 5 -19 pts; and in a particularly exciting match to watch against Essex the score was 5 - 10 pts. Middlesex wearing navy/white hooped tops.

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Middx attack v Eastern Counties



Grey Court pass from a ruck



Middlesex were led by Grace Hunter (4), the team manager was Jok Dunbar with coaches: Chris Mason, Jen Edward, Tom Mann, Ivan Moore and Ed Buxton. *Read more in the Team Middlesex report*

4 Dec: **Middlesex Schools' boys' U18 Cup Festival** at Grasshoppers RFC, organised by Conall Devlin (London Oratory Sch). Participating teams were Gunnersbury Catholic Sch, Grey Court Sch, The London Oratory Sch and The Fulham Boys' Sch. Each team played 3 matches. Referees were Graham Kantorowicz and Bandara Wekadapola (LSRFUR).



Gunnersbury with line out possession

The cup winners were Gunnersbury who beat L Oratory 15 - 12 pts, and plate winners were Grey Court beating Fulham Boys 29 - 21 pts.



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London Oratory mount an attack

7 Dec: Epping Upper Clapton v Romford and Gidea Park This was an LSE Counties 1 Essex league match, the referee was Kevin Allum (LSRFUR). The result was 8 - 10 pts. My thanks to Ian Swindale, Simon Parrish (chair) and Anita Cook (secretary) for hosting me and for the friendly reception from the many club members I met.



EURFC, like Middlesex County RFU, started in 1879. Initially as Orion Football Club in Clapton, Hackney, but later rebranded as Upper Clapton. In 1933, a sponsor spent over £3k to gift them their 14-acre ground, 'Thornwood'.

It was pleasant to be invited for a well-attended pre-match sponsors' lunch and for the opening of Epping's new 4G pitch, costing £800k. Storm Darragh made the journey and playing conditions challenging, but the pitch immediately proved effective in preventing a cancelled fixture. With the 4G finally ready, this was Epping's first home match of the season.



Epping UCRFC, in red and white tops, score

The captain was Alfie Reynolds (6). The 2s played Bishops Stortford 3s (Mitres) in a Herts/Mx Merit Championship North match, the score was 46 - 5 pts.



11 Dec: Mill Hill School v Sunshine Coast Grammar School. Tours are formative, fun experiences and Sunshine Coast GS, from Queensland, Australia made Mill Hill one of their UK stops. They played U16 and U18 boys' matches and a girls' U18 sevens. My thanks to Mill Hill's Director of Sport and Director of Rugby, Aaron Liffchak who hosted my visit. I was reminded of fond memories, when I led a school tour in 2007, staying on the Sunshine Coast to play Brisbane GS.



Mill Hill U18 Girls, brown & white hoops

It is great to see girls' school rugby developing. Nationally, most activity is in Yrs 7-9, so Mill Hill's U18s are pioneering, having only launched their senior side last spring. It is a RFU target to get more primary age girls playing, via T1. Today, with some big tackles the girls put on a skilled and open sevens

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show! GCGS's Meg Fortune, hotly tipped for international sevens, ran in five tries to secure the visitor's win, 15 – 30 pts. Mill Hill were captained by Lila Varona-Blakstad.



Mill Hill boys U18

The boys' U18 (1st XV) match was refereed by Kelvin Pryer (LSRFUR). The result was 31 – 14 pts. This was an intense battle in a fast-moving match. There were 5 pts separating them until the final 15 mins, when play ran in favour of Mill Hill, who were ably captained by Charlie Saffer (5).

Huw Evans (LSRFUR) refereed the U16 match, which Mill Hill won. The SCGS tour party was led by Head of Rugby, Troy Atkins. Their tour started at Strathallan Sch, then to Rugby Sch and Clifton College, and was due to depart onwards to Paris.



Mill Hill score a try

Off Field: I attended the England autumn series matches at Allianz, spotting **CS Stags'** members helping unfold the pitch banner display during anthems at E v NZ. It was exciting for **Tobin Robinson** (London Scottish), **Niamh McLoughlin** (St Stephens Sch, TW1) and **Kitty Bessant** of

(Twickenham Primary Academy) who were among the match day mascots at E v Japan.

The County expresses our condolences and sorrow to the family, friends and teammates of ex-England and Wasp, **Tom Voyce** who perished in Northumberland when his car was swept away in flood water during Storm Darragh.

Nigel R Orton, President
nigel.orton@middlesexrugby.com

Message from Chair, Eddie Keal

We reach another year-end and some welcome Christmas holiday time off. I hope you all find some space to rest and enjoy a peaceful couple of weeks. The County has had a busy 2024, with several key changes to people and roles. It all seems to have gone well so expect some more change in 2025. I expect we will start to find our agenda set a little more by the RFU's Community Game of the Future work.

The Management Board members have put in some stunning shifts recently, especially our new arrivals. And the overall work-rate has been immense. The Presidential reports in this Newsletter are unsurprisingly very popular. Nigel does a fabulous job of getting so much detail and insight into each one.

The best of luck to everyone for the rest of the season. We work towards a crescendo of County events which start in a few months' time. Keep an eye on the "What's on" column at the end of this document for details as they appear.

Season's Greetings to all. Enjoy some rest!

Eddie
Middlesex Chair

[Update from Fred Cracknell – Chair of Rugby Development \(on the field\)](#)

The big news from a rugby growth perspective is that T1 is due to be rolled out with the view to it becoming the point of entry to Rugby Union for new players. For those of you not familiar with T1, it is a codified non-contact variant of the game which looks and feels more like Rugby Union with scrums, lineouts and rucks. With the RWC taking place in England in 2025, this is the perfect time to open our game up to new players and T1 provides the perfect platform to do this.

The RFU are already funding a number of programmes around Middlesex primarily aimed at school delivery. One of the joys of T1 is that every school will be playing by the same rules so it makes it much easier to prepare for and participate in competitions. The plan is for the details to be shared with clubs in April as to how you can use T1 effectively on a Sunday to bridge the gap between children having a positive experience of T1 rugby at school, to becoming a regular member of your club. The focus at this stage is to use T1 to grow the girls game but the delivery in schools isn't limited to girls and T1 can be utilised in exactly the same way to encourage boys to the game. For those of you who are interested in what the RFU are doing in Middlesex to encourage new players to the game, there is a session on the **6th of January**. Everyone is welcome but this is primarily focussed on the girls game. Please let me or Sam Clapham know if you would like to attend.

Hackney RFC have already started to use T1 in their school delivery and are seeing the benefits of a codified touch variant having hosted a competition for 50 girls across 5 schools in early December. This was supported by a Girl's festival on the 15th which resulted in 5 new girls coming to the club. This is a great example of bridging the gap between school rugby and club rugby using T1 and is exactly the sort of model the RFU is looking for clubs to replicate. As I said earlier, while this is girls' focussed there is nothing to stop clubs using the same model for boys.

As a CB we will support the great work that our clubs and the RFU are doing in delivering into schools. I personally don't think T1 has to stop at minis and juniors. We lose a number of players in their late 20s and into their 30s as the physical demands of rugby begin to impede on day to day life. T1 could be great vehicle to keep these players around the club rather than losing them to social touch/tag, padel, or triathlons, in much the same way the O2 Touch programme did.

The important thing is not to see T1 as a threat to contact rugby but as a compliment to it. T1 is an opportunity to encourage people who wouldn't have ordinarily been interested in rugby to our clubs and to keep those who may have drifted away.

Please do reach out if you have any questions on T1 and how your club could benefit – Fred.Cracknell@middlesexrugby.com

Fred

Message from Andrew Smart, Chair of Competitions

As we limp into Christmas with one round of fixtures still to be played completion rates across both the leagues and the merit tables continue to plummet. Following on from the weekend before last when because of the horrendous weather across the country when, of the 534 games planned 247 were postponed with a completion rate of 46.25%. Interestingly London despite the terrible conditions only saw a fifth of its games going down or just under 6% of the national total. You would have hoped that last weekend with everyone back up and playing that we would have a really strong resurgence across the country but in fact the reverse was true. Of the 525 matches planned across the community game only 464 were played with 57 walkovers (including 13 across London) and a further four postponements or a competition rate of 88.38%. If you took out the interference from weather those are the worst figures of the season so far

The three Herts/Middlesex Counties leagues continue to show solid figures with 171 games planned across the three leagues so far this season we have seen nine walkovers and a further four postponements for a completion rate of 92.3%. We will have to see what happens across this weekend to see whether asking clubs to play the weekend before Christmas was the wrong decision. Plenty for us, involved in running competitions across the country, to think about for next season. If we have indeed got it wrong there will definitely be changes for next season

The Papa John's Community Cup entries for this season reached 427 against 524 for last season. We have nineteen entries for this season against the twenty-six Middlesex clubs for last season. Just under 50% of eligible clubs have entered the competition for this season and at the Regional 1 level not one of our three clubs have entered. At Regional 2 where we have seven clubs again only two have bothered to enter. It is difficult to see how the competition in this format can survive especially when you look at the pressure it is putting on our league to accommodate this competition. Again, some more hard decisions to be made across the summer

Anyway, enough about the data lets talk about rugby on the field. For the majority of our clubs, we have already entered the second part of our league season with everybody having played everyone once and having played the first round of the return fixtures

Not the case though in the Championship where after eight rounds there is all change at the top with Coventry on Saturday suffering their first loss of the season which saw Ealing after a huge home win at home to Cambridge, on the same weekend, up to top by three points. London Scottish drop from seventh to tenth, although with no relegation from the second tier at the end of this season there is no need for them to fear the remainder of the season.

At level 5 in Regional 1 South Central after twelve rounds albeit having played a game more London Welsh now lead Jersey by a whopping ten points with CS Stags 1863 remaining fifth with Hammersmith and Fulham up to ninth and five points clear of the relegation places

At level six in Regional 2 Thames, again after twelve rounds H.A.C lead London Scottish Lions, who have played one match less by three points. Belsize Park also having played one game less are up to third, six behind the leaders although they play on Saturday in what should be a tremendous game. Grasshoppers remain sixth, Old Priorians drop to eight Teddington two games behind down to tenth, whilst Old Haberdashers remain bottom and twelve points away from safety. Three Middlesex clubs in the top three positions in the league all chasing one promotion place

At level seven in Counties 1 Sussex/Surrey again after twelve rounds Twickenham are second by one point behind the leaders Old Rutlishians whilst London Cornish remain sixth. In Counties 1 Essex again after twelve rounds Epping Upper Clapton drop to tenth. In Counties 1 Herts/Middx, again after twelve rounds Cheshunt are top Brunel University remain in second place three points and a game behind. Finchley drop to third only four points behind the leaders whilst, Ealing Trailfinders 1871, (who have already beaten all the sides above them) fourth two points behind them and with a game in hand. Old Streetonians remain fifth, Ruislip up to sixth, Chiswick drop to tenth with Hackney remaining eleventh.

At level eight in Counties 2 Herts/Middx at level eight also after eleven rounds, Hampstead with a game in hand are top on points from Saracens Amateurs who have played one game more. Wasps FC eight points behind drop to third with two games in hand, with Harrow up to fourth U.C.S. drop to seventh, Enfield up to ninth and Old Millhillians now bottom

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At level nine in Counties 3 Herts/Middx after nine rounds Thamesians are top by three points but having played a game more than second placed Royston, Actonians remain fourth, Finsbury Park remain fifth, Kilburn Cosmos remain seventh and Mill Hill on their return to the leagues ninth and so far, winless. In Counties 3 Surrey after eleven rounds Old Hamptonians drop to second, three points behind the leaders whilst London Exiles go up to eighth

At level ten in Counties 4 Surrey, after ten rounds, Harlequin Amateurs drop one place to sixth, Old Paulines ninth and London French bottom and tenth.

At level eleven in Counties 5 Surrey after ten rounds, Staines undefeated are top by five points with Feltham on their return to the leagues remain fifth

In the Middlesex Merit Tables Premier Division after nine rounds NZ Kiwis remain second with two games in hand whilst London Sussex remain eighth although with a game in hand.

In MMT1 after eight rounds London Japanese drop to third whilst Quintin up to fourth.

In MMT2 West London, with two games in hand, are top after nine rounds by five points, Whitton Lions remain fifth, Haringey Rhinos drop to seventh, Hanwell ninth whilst Old Isleworthians drop to tenth and bottom.

In MMT3 after nine rounds, Northolt up to fifth. Ickenham ninth.

In the Herts and Middlesex MTs Championship South after nine rounds Old Grammarians with two games in hand are currently fourth only five points behind the leaders

In Merit Table South 1 after eight rounds Pinner & Grammarians are top by two points over Hendon who have played a game more. Southgate drop to fourth.

In the Premiership Women's Rugby after nine rounds Saracens Women's drop to third Harlequins Women up to second, Saracens Women down to fourth whilst Ealing Trailfinders Women remain sixth.

It just remains for me to wish you, your families and your clubs a very merry Christmas and all the best for 2025.

Plenty of rugby still to be played but when it comes, please enjoy your break. For many of our clubs it all starts again on the 4th January

Keep safe and all the best.

Andrew Smart

Update from Chair of Team Middlesex – Mark Coles

Season's Greetings! I hope this finds you and your club/school/university well. The season is flying and we're already just around the corner from 2025.

Our first representative games kicked off in December with a triple header weekend. This saw our U16 Girls taking on Hertfordshire at the StoneX and putting in a great effort in their first game together. The U18 Girls also had a triangular match on the 1st of December against Eastern Counties and Essex at Grasshoppers with another two strong performances put in ahead of their next game on January 12th.

The U18 Boys meanwhile kicked off their campaign against Surrey down in Cobham and came away with a comprehensive win with many of our lads impressing the Divisional selectors who were looking on. A special mention must go to Jok Dunbar who led from our side in creating a Barbarians team so that lads from Middlesex who were not involved in the Surrey fixture got a chance to play with boys from Hampshire and Surrey against a Hampshire side who had been let down at short notice by

Sussex. Not only did our lads impress, but we played a key part in getting a game on for 40 boys who otherwise would have gone without.



The team then followed this up with a game on 15th December against Hampshire (see picture above) down at Aldershot coming away without the win but a more than industrious effort put in by all from one to twenty-one. They return to action on the 5th of January (location- TBC at time of writing) to conclude their campaign so we will get details shared as and when known.

I mentioned last month I was hoping to be able to announce some more names for the Adult Age grade coaching vacancies and I'm pleased to say we've taken steps forward in this space.

The Senior Women's Head Coach will be Jake Wagner. Jake comes from South Africa and brings a great deal of experience and enthusiasm across the Men's and Women's game with experience in the latter category at UCL and London Welsh, currently holding the roles of Head Coach at Belsize Park and St Mary's ladies' teams. Dan Nevison will continue as Team Manager and work is under way to reassemble the wider coaching and leadership team for the upcoming campaign.

We've also made good strides on the U20 leadership and can announce Richard Hicks will be Head Coach

of the programme this year. Richard (Hicksy, to many of you) has just returned from Spain after several years and comes with a wealth of experience in coaching players of this age and will be a great asset to the County programme.

Richard will also be supported by a core team of Kevin Thomas as Team Manager who brings years of playing experience from playing back home in Wales/Middlesex and is getting started on his coaching journey within the Middlesex programmes. Sam Challenor (Ravenscourt Park, previously England Rugby, London Irish amongst others), Chris Farrell (Grasshoppers forwards coach) and Luke Povey (Harlequins, Harlequins Amateurs) will be making up the core coaching team and I'm personally excited to see how this group go over the coming months.

Of the Adult Age (U20, Women, Men) team, our first assessments will be the U20's on 16th February at Wasps. Invites to clubs and universities will be going out this week and will be open until the 9th of February so if you are reading this, please do flag this is coming to any players who are interested, or coaches with your club/university who may be able to nominate players.

We've also received the below dates for matches in our Adult Age groups. There will likely be additions and changes, but please do make a note in your diaries to come down and support the players.

U20 Men

30th March- Essex (Home- Wasps)- K/O- TBC
11th May- Surrey (Away- Location TBC)- K/O- TBC

Senior Women

25th May- Essex (Home- Wasps)- Kick Off- 3pm
1st June- Surrey (Away- Location TBC)- Kick Off- 3pm

Senior Men

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17th May- Essex (Away- Location TBC)- Kick Off- 3pm

24th May- Hertfordshire (Home- Grasshoppers)- Kick Off- 3pm

31st May- Buckinghamshire (Home- Grasshoppers)- Kick Off- 3pm

Next month, I'll be banging the drum again for dates of assessments so players can be put forward for our teams but for now thanks as ever for reading, for your support and join me in welcoming the new faces above and have a restful Christmas and prosperous 2025.

Thanks as ever for reading and for your support
Mark

Mark.coles@middlesexrugby.com

Middlesex Coaching & Referee Development



Coach education at Grasshoppers RFC



Coach Education at Ealing Trailfinders

Middlesex have run a total of **7** Coach education sessions which covered, safety in contact, safety in the lineout, safety in the scrummage, back play workshop, covering attack & defence and developing skill while working in small groups. Tutors involved were Academy coaches, Patrick O'Grady, Richard Pryor, Simeon Barnes and Rhys Davies. The Middlesex venues were, Ealing Trailfinders, Grasshoppers, Harrow school, Finchley St James Catholic School. These sessions attracted **232** coaches and have involved **144** youth players

RFU Courses Run in Middlesex this season

U14 – U18s Skill development – 1 course **23** attended. England Rugby Coaching Award (ERCA) 5 courses **151** attended - Contact first Course 6 courses **125** attended – Secondary school course 1 course **32** attended – Tag rugby 6 courses **68** attended – Play it safe courses 4 courses **62** attended – Principles of Scrummaging 3 courses **42** attended – Principles of Lineout 3 courses **35** attended. The total numbers were **538** Middlesex coaches attending the sessions.



Referee Education at Finchley RFC

Middlesex Referee Development

Middlesex have this season run 2 Take up the Whistle short referees' courses, they were at Finchley RFC – **16** attended & Grasshoppers **16** attended. Further referee courses will be run at Harrow RFC 13/01 & 29/01 – Grasshoppers RFC 03/02 & 10/02 & Twickenham RFC 07/04 & 14/04, We will be looking to run a young match officials

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award course in the new year. Please do get in touch if you have any 14 – 18 yr old players who would like to attend.

The RFU have run 3 England Rugby Refereeing Award courses with **36** Middlesex referees attending.

RFU Emergency Aid Courses

Middlesex have run 3 courses at Old Grammarians, Ealing Trailfinders, Grasshoppers with **53** coaches / managers / volunteers attending. The next course is planned for Harrow RFC on Saturday 01/02/25

The overall impact of coach & referee education in Middlesex are -

Coach education have seen **770** Middlesex coaches attending sessions with **144** youth players involved with player development. There have been **68** Middlesex new referees upskilled to gain a referees award with **53** coaches / managers gaining an Emergency Aid qualification.

If any Middlesex club would like to run a coach education session, a Young Match Officials course or an Emergency Aid course, please do get in touch.

There is a facility for coaches to join Middlesex Coaching which gives you free access to a sport plan app which has over 2,500 skill development activities and direct invite to the Middlesex Coach education programme please contact the below number.

Clubs are also invited to run coach education workshops during May & June 2025 (summer programme)

For any further information on coach education please contact Bob Lawless Chair of Coach & Referee Education on WhatsApp 07803 196 409

Thanks for all the support to Middlesex clubs and coaches & players in making the coach & referee education programme possible and to the

Middlesex Management Board for the financial support in offering the free Middlesex education. I wish you all a good festive time and hope 2025 is kind to us all

Bob Lawless, Chair of Coach & Referee Development on (e) robjlaws@aol.com or on WhatsApp (m) 07803 196409

What's On

Save the Dates in 2025:

County Clubs 7's Saturday 10th May, Grasshoppers RFC

Entry details to follow from Organisers, Steve Partridge & Mark Coles

County Clubs Dinner - Friday 16th May at Ealing Trailfinders – Booking book your place/places below.

<https://forms.gle/gY4JnVw3wVZMRx278>

Middlesex Schools Rugby Festivals by Jerry Rogers

The 2024 Middlesex Schools Festivals were held in November and December at Grasshoppers and St James school.

I was fortunate enough to watch the U16s, U14s and U12s festivals all held at Grasshoppers in excellent weather. All three days were filled with a fantastic display of rugby. On Wednesday the 20th November, the U16s event was masterminded by Ben Wassell of St James school and the final result was: -

1st - Mill Hill

2nd – St James

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3rd – London Oratory School

The U14s (Tuesday 26th November) and the U12's (Friday 29th November) was organised by Kevin Moran of The London Oratory school and ran on a pool system of 4 or 5 teams playing each other. The results of the pools sorted out who would play in the Cup, Plate, Shield and Bowl competitions.

Again, both days were full of exciting and competitive rugby. The results were as follows: -

Under 14's

Cup - Winner Halliford School – Runner up London Oratory

Plate - Fulham Boys School – Runner up - Richmond upon Thames

Shield – Winner - Christs School – Runner up - UCS

Bowl – Winners - Vyners School – runner up Enfield School

Under12s

Cup – Winner - Hampton School – Runner up Cardinal Vaughan

Plate – Winner - Fulham Boys School – Runner up - Greycourt School

Shield – Winner – UCS Runner up - Gunnersbury School

Bowl – Winner - Teddington School – Runner up - St James School



[Top 3 photos: County Treasurer, Charles Portsmouth and South Group Chair, Jerry Rogers handing out the medals at the under 12's festival.](#)

[Bottom left and right: School Masters and coaches from the participating schools. Bottom center: Event organizer, Kevin Moran being thanked for his efforts by the County Officials.](#)

Middlesex Chairman Schools Rugby Report December 2024

This year Middlesex Rugby had the pleasure of hosting outstanding finals, which represented the best of schoolboy rugby in the county.

Please see below the **2024/25** results:-

- U18 Plate **Winners
Gunnersbury Catholic School**
- U16 cup **Winners Mill Hill
and Runners up St James' Boys School**
- U15 Boys Cup **Winners St James'
boys School**
- U14 Boys Cup **Halliford and
Runners up London Oratory**
- U14 Plate **Winners Fulham
Boys and runners up The Richmond upon
Thames School**
- U14 Shield **Winners Christ
School and runners up UCS**
- U14 Bowl **Winners Vyners
and runners up Enfield**

U13 Rugby Festival

Cup winners – **St Benedicts**
Cup runners up – **Hampton**

Plate Winners – **Latymer Upper School**
Plate runners up – **Gunnersbury Catholic School**

Shield winners – **St Richard Reynolds**
Shield Runners Up – **Isleworth & Syon**

Bowl Winners – **UCS**
Bowl runners up – **Teddington School**

U12 Rugby Festival

Cup Winners - **Hampton** and Runners up - **Cardinal Vaughan**
Plate Winners - **Fulham Boys** and Runners up - **Greycourt**
Shield Winners - **UCS** and Runners up - **Gunnersbury**
Bowl Winners - **Teddington** and Runners up - **St James**

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:-

- **Kevin Moran** for leading a fantastic U12 Festival at Grasshoppers RFC
- **Ben Wassell** for hosting an excellent U13 rugby festival at St James Boys' School
- **Connall Devlin** (Middlesex Secretary) for his hard work and organisation with the festivals
- **Nicky Fielder, Carmine Brudenell and Charles Portsmouth** for their help and assistance
- **Matt Gillmore** for the fantastic contribution and hosting of the competitions at Grasshoppers RFC and for skilfully refereeing two finals
- **Philip Willis** - for outstanding referring
- **Nadia Moreira** who leads our physio team who provided excellent pitch side medical care
- **Nigel Orton, Peter Baveystock** together with their team of blazers (**Bob Lawless, Jerry Rogers, Tom Brownsell, Charles Portsmouth and David Hiles**) who warmly welcomed all teams and presented the medals and trophies.

I am delighted that we were able to deliver another fantastic season of Middlesex rugby and look forward to the eagerly awaited Middlesex Schools

sevens competitions. Details of which will be published shortly.

In the new year there will be a variety of Girls competitions to look forward to.

I wish you all and your families a very merry Christmas.

Yours faithfully

David Jones (Chairman Middlesex Schools Rugby)

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