



### **Uttoxeter Tag Rugby – Tuesday 14 June 2016**

With the June weather being unkind it was a touch and go decision as to whether the Year 1-4 tag rugby competition could take place at all. However as we had previously postponed due to wet weather we decided to chance it!

Picknalls First School provided a fantastic location to host the event with Uttoxeter Rugby Club coaches and volunteers helping with the organisation and officiating.

The evening started well with teams from Picknalls, Alton and Church Leigh playing in a year 1 & 2 festival and teams from Picknalls, Alton, Church Leigh and Denstone contesting a year 3&4 event. Rumbblings of thunder were heard in the distance but all matches got underway with lots of enthusiastic cheers.

The year 1&2 competition saw lots of commitment from the teams, with a flexible approach to the officiating being undertaken – otherwise the whistle would have been blown a lot! Players ran around, passed the ball (in all kinds of directions!), pulled at each other's tags and dived for the line. Whilst it may not have followed RFU rules it didn't matter as there was gritted determination, smiles, sweat and laughter on all involved.

Everyone played each other with Alton winning all their games and getting the medals.

The Year 3 & 4 competition was a closely fought contest with some very talented players on display and a high standard of performance within each match. A number of the schools had players from the club within their team and it was great to see them compete against each other.

The games went ahead and as we wanted to try and dodge the rain, the teams played over two pitches meaning there was very little rest between the games. The large pitches resulted in some fast running tries being scored and the teams, all being egged on by parents all worked hard to tag and ensure a competitive game was had. A special mention must go to the girls who played who worked tirelessly and in a number of games were the star players in their teams!

The final games saw the weather turn and the heavens open to what could only be described as a cold tropical storm! Despite this, players, teachers and parents all waited huddled in whatever space could be found to hear the results. Coming down to the last game, the results saw Picknalls Red win all of their games and win the competition. The results were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Picknalls Red
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Church Leigh
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Picknalls Blue
- 4<sup>th</sup> Denstone
- 5<sup>th</sup> Alton

A quick presentation and a dash to the car through the puddles ended the event for all those there – a huge thanks to all the schools, parents and staff who attended, to Picknalls for hosting and to Uttoxeter Rugby Club for attending and officiating. Hopefully those who enjoyed last night's competition will be interested in joining the club to develop their skills further.