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Bonolo Rapitse, Koketso Madlila, Rehtabile Mogeetsi, Marcia Botopela and Tshepiso Moyaha have fun at the rugby clinic. Photo: Nicholas Zaai

Rugby instills pride in youth

Nicholas Zaai
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- Young rugby players in Alexandra had a ruck of a time with coaches of Lycée Jules Verne, a French school in Morningside.
- The event came in the form of a rugby clinic hosted by Alexandra Rugby Football Club at Kwa-bheklanga Secondary School, Alexandra, on 11 November, which attracted 180 children from U9 to U13 level.
- Most of the organisers and coaches agreed that the highlight was seeing how much fun the children had learning the game, and also how many girls turned up to play.

"We have been here before and it always struck us how eager the girls were to play rugby," said coach Emmanuel Selles.

"Girls in South Africa do not have many opportunities so this has become a priority for us."

Rugby club manager Elias Mpenge said the objective of the day was to expose rugby to the children and make it more familiar in the area.

This, he said, was achieved.

"The children have had so much fun, and rugby also keeps them from loitering and doing things that are around them that they should not do," he said.

When all the drills and games were over, the children received rugby balls, bibs, tog bags, water bottles and snacks.

While the rugby season is over, the club is still keeping busy these holidays.

During a round of friendly matches between the rugby club and the French School in Morningside on 17 November, Lycée Jules Verne's U13 girls won with a score of 30-5. Their U17 girls continued their winning streak with a 35-20 score.

While the youngsters from Alexandra won multiple matches. The U11 girls' match was won by 20-10, U11 boys with 15-10 and U13 boys match by 20-10.

In the end it was a great way to integrate rugby into both areas while instilling a sense of pride.

Details: Alexandra Rugby Football Club
wolvesalexandra3@gmail.com;
063 168 6392.

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The youngsters wrestle for possession during a match at the rugby clinic. Photo: Nicholas Zaai