

# World Cup boost to tune of £2.5m

## RTT reporter

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The chief executive of Richmond Chamber of Commerce has hailed the Rugby World Cup a success as New Zealand and Australia brought the curtain down on six weeks of intense sport.

Speaking after Saturday's final Anne Newton said early indicators show the event has injected about £2.5m into the local economy, with hotels pubs and restaurants in particular reporting a big upturn in business.

Mrs Newton also pointed to the positive impact on local rugby clubs and the game in general with more than 2000 people signing up while in the Fanzones to coach and referee.

She said: "It was a triumph in so many ways.

"One of my team was a volunteer and said the atmosphere was fantastic – visitors were lapping up the electric atmosphere.

"The Australian captain Stephen Moore and the team said the welcome was unlike any other they have experienced – they loved their visit to Twickenham, Richmond.

"I met several international visitors who voted our area and people to be fantastic hosts – of course we are.

"Along with directors of local businesses I went to the Richmond Fanzone several times as did some of our business colleagues and we all had an excellent experience inclusive the big wheel – even the crowd control was beautifully managed across

the A316."

Carrying on the oval-ball fever, the chamber's next business breakfast will be held at Twickenham Stoop stadium and include talks from David Ellis, chief executive of Harlequins Rugby Club and director of rugby at the club, Conor O'Shea.

Mr O'Shea is a former Ireland international, who played for Leinster and London Irish before moving on to coaching, and arriving at the Stoop in 2010.

Mr Ellis was appointed as chief executive of Harlequins in August 2011 and since then he has overseen one of the most successful periods in the club's recent history both on and off the pitch. The breakfast will be held on November 25 from 7.30am to 9.30am.



Club and country: Conor O'Shea, inset, and England captain Chris Robshaw



All set: Attendees at last year's event and

## Seven days and counting before awards

The Richmond Business Awards are just one week away, and with 13 categories being contested the Gala is set to be an evening of excitement and entertainment.

More than 3,000 businesses and non profit organisations have participated nominating in categories such as best start-up, best retailer, and of course the blue riband event, best business 2015.

Hosts Richmond Chamber

of Commerce expect more than 200 business owners to attend the evening at Twickenham Stadium, alongside representatives from the 12 sponsors, the 13 judges, MPs Tania Mathias and Zac Goldsmith and former MP and business secretary Vince Cable

The chamber has advised that even those who didn't participate are still welcome to attend and will be entertained by the BBC's Paddy

O'Connell, a magician, and music from the Allbeats.

Events kick off at 6.45pm with a three course meal served from 7.35pm followed by speeches, the awards and then live music and dancing up to 12.30am. Tickets include the meal and a half bottle of wine and can be purchased from [eventbrite.co.uk/e/richmond-business-awards-2015-black-tie-gala-evening-tickets-14605975867?aff=eorg](http://eventbrite.co.uk/e/richmond-business-awards-2015-black-tie-gala-evening-tickets-14605975867?aff=eorg).



Foehn: Highly commended in the best business category last year, and inset, this year's host Paddy O'Connell

# Richmond

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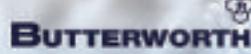
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