

Ladies win 34 - 0 in Edinburgh

Monday, 06 October 2008

Oban Lorne Ladies Rugby Team travelled to Pfeffermill playing grounds in Edinburgh for their first match of this year's National Development League. The aim of the NDL is to provide regular fixtures for new teams or teams who are unable to field a full 15 side. Oban regularly falls into the latter category. Sunday 5th was tournament day as opposed to a league day which means games are all played at 15 a side and players can be borrowed from other teams. In the most glorious weather Oban joined with over 90 other players to complete three coaching clinics, one of which was delivered by Oban coach Andy MacDougall who has been contracted to the SWRU for this purpose. Sadly Oban could only field 10 players including two players who had never played a match before and 16 yr old Alanna Brown who had to be monitored by SWRU staff to achieve her dispensation to play at senior level. Oban joined forces with the newly formed Stirling County team and it proved to be a lethal combination for the Royal Dick Vet College side who were the opponents. From start of play Oban dominated and the first try was scored by Larni Wright in her first ever match, who stormed all the way from her own 22 to score convincingly. Kat Muirhead, who has only ever played beach rugby was solid in defence as was newbie Michelle who sustained a shoulder injury in the coaching clinics. Donna Smith and Jemma Campbell who have recently returned from Scotland trials were extremely strong on the wing and contested every ball. Shauna Mackenzie and another newbie Nikki (a recent transfer to Oban from Cartha) provided strength in the rucks and moved the ball through the hands well. Audrey Barr was as usual the most industrious player on the field and provided consistent support. Donna Smith did some great attacking running to score under the posts, which was also converted. Dee Bradbury taking advantage of a loose ball kicked it towards the try line and picked it up to score between the posts. This was also converted. It would be wrong to say that Oban won this match alone. Stirling County players proved to be very strong players and they scored three great tries also. They were very amiable team members and a pre Christmas friendly is planned.

RDVC had fielded mainly new players who worked hard in defence but did not make the attacking runs required at this level. It will be interesting to watch this side develop as they have always been well coached in the past and progressed quickly.

Final score Oban/Stirling County 34 RDVC 0.

Next NDL fixture is on 26/10/08 in Dundee and will count towards league points, so all Oban players will require to attend.

The ladies team is always on the look out for new players, regardless of experience and training is 6-8pm Friday nights at Glencruitten.