

'Skins lose out to City of Derry

Enniskillen Ladies travelled away to City of Derry to contest the opening match of the Division 2 AIL, a match that was much anticipated with both sides looking to get the league campaign off to a winning start.

'Skins started the match with an intensity that saw the home defence tested and their scrums come under pressure. However Derry coped well and it wasn't long before their first try came and with the conversion made, 'Skins were facing a deficit of seven points.

The team refocused and continued to exert pressure on their hosts and it wasn't long before 'Skins had set up camp in the Derry "22" and the resulting try was inevitable. Through some good work from the forwards, and a quick recycle from scrumhalf Noreen Nethercott, debutant winger Caitriona Cody crossed the line in the corner. The difficult conversion was missed, but Skins were on the scoreboard.

Alas, it wasn't long before Derry had scored another try and again 'Skins were facing another fight back from 12 – 5 down. The half time whistle came with the 'Skins side on the attack and they were determined to use this advantage after the break.

Refreshed and refocused by the 'Skins' coaching team the side returned with a renewed vigour and began to press home the advantage at scrum time putting the Derry side were in real trouble. Whenever the home side did get the ball their strong runners threatened, but 'Skins were always there to make the tackles. The work rate of both the forwards and backs was immense both at the ruck and in open play.

Soon 'Skins had another try from Eimear Corrigan. A perfectly executed switch saw the defence caught out and she sailed in to make the score 12 - 10. However it was not to be for Skins, as a lapse in concentration allowed Derry to cross the line for their third and final try.

The score was now 17 - 10 and the clock was against 'Skins. The remaining minutes were played out with 'Skins charging at the Derry line but were held up or kept out. The referee called time on this epic match and 'Skins were left feeling disappointed. The team can however take many positives from a strong team effort which will no doubt continue to improve throughout the season.

Special mention should go to the four new players, Sarah Dourish, Wendy Rogers, Alexa Grudgings and Caitriona Cody. All four girls showed excellent promise. We were also overjoyed to welcome the Brogan sisters back after serious knee injuries. Brenda was sidelined for a year and Clare made her comeback after four long years!

Training continues Tuesday and Fridays in Mullaghmeen at 6:30pm. New players are always welcome, for more information contact Noreen on 07853008860 or go to www.enniskillenrhc.com.