

Enniskillen Ladies - 0, Longford Ladies - 5

Enniskillen Ladies had a second home league week in as many weeks and following the success of the previous weekend's game the team were pumped and ready to go for another game against strong competitors Longford.

'Skins knew this was going to be a tough match with Longford's reputation and knew a strong performance was needed.

The weather conditions were much improved on the previous week with the sun shining, however the wind was another component which needed to be taken into serious consideration.

The game started with the strong Longford pack attacking relentlessly, but Enniskillen showed superb defensive skills to keep them out, with great tackling coming from Wendy Rogers and Gemma McCutcheon. Indeed the Longford forwards did manage to cross the 'Skins line, but pure determination from the Skins pack saw the ball held up.

After twenty minutes or so the Longford pack started to tire and the half continued with both sides showing strong performances in both attack and defence. 'Skins' forward pack performed well with strong ball carrying from McCutcheon and Aisling Maguire and once again they pressurised the opposition's scrums, showing their determination and willpower, thus giving scrumhalf Noreen Nethercott the opportunity to disrupt at the back of the Longford scrum.

The back line did well also in defence using their skills on turnover ball to quickly realign in attack and use their rehearsed moves to gain valuable yards thus keeping the opposition on their toes, but unfortunately 'Skins were unable to make the lovely breaks by Alexa Grudgings, Leanne Hall and Brenda Brogan count.

Near the end of the half the Longford backs looked to be in for a try but for a crunching, try-saving, tackle from winger Caitriona Cody and the half ended scoreless.

In the second half both teams knew what needed to be done and that a try would gain the valuable top spot in the league table. With this in mind 'Skins went out in force to continue to dominate their home ground and indeed centre Brenda Brogan looked to be in for a try to open the scoring after a superb break from her own "22", but under strong pressure from the Longford wings, was deemed to have lost control of the ball as she grounded it.

The last twenty minutes proved unfavourable for Skins, when due to two injuries the scrums were forced to be played uncontested, with 'Skins reduced to fourteen. With the numerical disadvantage and Longford guaranteed the ball from their own scrum on the 'Skins "22", the home side were forced to face another tirade of forward attacking from the strong Longford pack and on this occasion were unable to keep them at bay, resulting in the opposition scoring an unconverted try in the corner for the only score of the game and the narrowest of wins, 0 - 5.

'Skins ladies did not give up and should be praised on their efforts and commitments in fighting to the end.

Enniskillen Team: Alexa Grudgings, Leanne Hall, Caitriona Cody, Brenda Brogan, Eimear Corrigan, Caoimhe Morris, Noreen Nethercott, Aisling Maguire, Samantha Cheshire, Alice Swan, Wendy Rogers, Clare Brogan, Sarah Teague, Helen Carleton, Gemma McCutcheon. Subs: Catherine Mallon, Joy Clements.