

VP Rugby AGM Report 23-2024 Season

First XV

Starting the season with the task of being in contention for promotion to National 3 this was never going to be an easy task, but we were hopeful with a few good players coming into the squad.

Seasons first game was away to Stewartry the longest trip of the season, this didn't go our way losing by a point, over the rest of the season the team only lost 2 other fixtures one to Garnock and the other to North Berwick, that being the negatives the team played extremely well in most of the other fixtures and probably the highlight of the season was taking full points at home against the league winners Garnock, as well as beating Gordonians in the cup, the biggest thing this season is that when winning we also gained much needed bonus points, something that was highlighted as a weakness from previous seasons, overall a very good season finishing in second place in league a great effort from the players coaches and all the support staff.

This season the team was coached by Head coach Lewis Knox supported by Craig Ormiston (forwards) and Darrel Lindsay Russell (S&C) who have done remarkable things with the team pushing them to this position in the league. However Lewis has come to the end of his three years of being head coach and has handed over the reins to Craig who will drive the team on to a top place next season, we also are sad to lose Darrel Lindsay Russell our S&C coach and wish them both all the best in the future, (I'm sure we will see them both down at training doing some specialist sessions)

The season ahead we know where we need to improve, some recruitment is required to strengthen our team this has already started we also have several players from our very successful U18's team who will definitely push for positions in first team, I'm looking forward to a successful season.

Second XV Gryphons

Well what a difference a year makes, only managing 3 wins last season to winning 11 this season and only losing 3 (2 against Crieff and 1 against the Grangemouth first team !) and finishing in second place in league, a fantastic effort from all involved but has to be said this had a great deal to do with Darren Davies, Stefan Elertowicz and Les Coupar, who have coached the side to a much higher standard something they all should be very proud of. Next season looking good with a number of u18's moving up to senior teams, hopefully this will further strengthen the Gryphons.

Women's

After being put into Caledonia Mid/East League 1 this was always going to be a much harder season against a higher quality of opposition, however the woman's team held their own in most games and that was great to see.

Played 12, Won 4, Lost 8 (2 of these due to not having sufficient players)

Also played in cup competition this being a league situation with Howe, West of Scotland, Orkney, Inverness and Corstorphine seconds, Orkney didn't play us due to lack of players, the team travelled to Invergordon to play Inverness however game got abandoned due to an injury, this was disappointing as Strathmore were well up at the time it was stopped and SRU decided the game would be replayed still at Invergordon the next week but we had insufficient players for that, on a positive finish Strathmore played Howe away and took a first victory over them 22-24.

Thanks to James Kiely and Hugh for coaching the woman's team over the last few years, we are now in the process of looking for a new coach.

Summary

Overall, it's been a good season, and look forward to seeing all teams improving next season and hopefully some promotions to celebrate.

Mark Feighan VP Rugby Strathmore