

SPORT

LEARN TO SWIM WEEK Youngsters get their certificates P47

League chances dashed on the home turf

RUGBY

Caledonia League Division One
Orkney 9, Aberdeenshire 20

by JOHN ROSS SCOTT

ORKNEY RFC's league hopes were dashed at home on Saturday when they floundered 9-20 to a strong and defiant Aberdeenshire side.

It was the first time the visitors had won on Orkney soil and the result struck a coffin nail into the local team's chances of promotion.

As a disappointed Orkney Captain, Al Watson, told Orkney Today after the match: "I think that's it as far as winning the league is concerned. It was a good hard game and there were a lot of chances missed. It's the fourth game we've lost so that is it."

One salvation for Orkney would be a win in their Scottish Cup clash against Waid Academy at Anstruther in Fife on Saturday.

"It would be great to get through another round of the cup and get another big team up here to Orkney," Al admitted. "We have a few boys missing for Saturday's game at Anstruther but we are not playing that bad, we just need our confidence restored. To do that we need another win under our belt."

What made Orkney's defeat on Saturday even more soul destroying was Aberdeenshire naming their two Orkney squad members Malcolm White and Martin Snell as men of the match.

The duo, both students at Aberdeen University, played their hearts out in the visiting squad, but their presence in the opposing side emphasised the difficulty Orkney has as the most Northerly League side in retaining its young blood.

The match itself was always going to be a tough one, but Aberdeenshire looked sharper from the start and throughout the match won most of the ball from the lineout and scrum.

With a 4pm kickoff, to fit in with the Aberdeenshire travel schedule, the floodlights were taking effect from the start, and the soft conditions underfoot appeared to hamper open play.

'Shire took the lead in the eighth minute when, after a concerted effort by them after a scrum close to the line, Shaun Mountain darted through to touch down.

It proved to be the only try of the match and one person who showed delight in the small crowd of spectators was the try scorer's father Jeff Mountain who had travelled back to the UK for the first time in 50 years from South Africa to see his sons play in the match.

The visitors' celebrations were short lived, however, as two minutes later



ATTACKING FROM ALL ANGLES: The Aberdeenshire team close in on Orkney scrum half Roger Hall in a game where the home side were under constant pressure from the visitors.

James Linklater narrowed the scoreline with a perfectly executed penalty kick.

The ball then swiftly made its way to the other end of the pitch and it was 'Shire's captain Graeme Fergusson's turn to impress with a dropped goal taken from near the posts, which swelled the visitors scoreline to 3-8.

Cries of 'Patience, Patience, Orkney' from the sidelines seemed to help bring more control to the home side's play. Young Linklater showed supreme confidence in his kicking, and Orkney had a near chance of a try after a good run by Roger Hall.

In the end it was Linklater who, again, bolstered the score with another superbly taken penalty kick from over 30 metres out, and five minutes later after a drive forward by Al Watson was stalled,

Linklater again thumped the ball over the post to put Orkney ahead 9-8 in the 34th minute.

From then on niggles started to show and with tempers frayed and the odd punch being thrown after a scrum, referee Stephen Anderson advised both captains to give their teams 'calm down' talks.

Orkney started the second half more confidently with that one point lead, but slowly their advantage was whittled away.

Out of the blue Fergusson dropped another goal for 'Shire and the visitors again started to pile on the pressure as torrential rain started to fall. The struggle got harder and 'Shire's No 3 Bekker had to leave the pitch with blood streaming from a head wound.

■ continued on Page 46

Caledonia League Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	PD	Pts
Strathmore	6	6	0	0	181	78	4	0	103	28
St Andrews University	7	5	0	2	184	90	4	2	94	26
Mackie Academy FP	7	5	0	2	191	130	4	1	61	25
Aberdeenshire	7	4	0	3	199	134	4	2	65	22
Alloa	7	3	0	4	158	106	3	3	52	18
Kinross	6	4	0	2	108	124	1	0	-16	17
Crieff & Strathearn	7	3	0	4	153	197	3	1	-44	16
Orkney	7	3	0	4	246	138	2	0	108	14
RAF Lossiemouth	6	0	0	6	82	224	0	1	-142	1
Panmure	6	0	0	6	27	308	0	0	-281	0



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A hard fought match played in the right spirit

■ continued from Page 48

A further penalty was awarded to the visitors when Orkney tried to bring a man down in the scrum and Fergusson, after taking the kick, groaned 'No. No', but the ball miraculously slithered over the bar for a further three points.

Although Orkney No 8 Andy McGill almost made it to the line on two occasions after this, Orkney's lights appeared to have gone out and Aberdeenshire took control as the downpour ensued.



VICTORY FOR ORKNEY or rather the two Orcadians in the Aberdeenshire team, from left Malcolm White and Martin Snell. ORKNEY PHOTOGRAPHIC

Before the final whistle Fergusson slotted over a further two penalty kicks to take the final score to 9-20.

As they left the pitch, while putting on a good show of comradeship to the Aberdeenshire squad, it was clear to see that the Orkney boy's heads were down. Their league chances had been dashed.

Orkney's Al Watson, Glen Thomson, Andy McGill and Roger Hall battled well against adversity; Linklater - who sadly will be leaving the squad to visit

Australia during the second half of the season - put on a scintillating display of kicking; and the team's choice for man of the match was Derek Sutherland.

Referee Stephen Anderson, from Dyce, summing up the game said: "It was an exciting hard and fast-flowing match in which both sides piled on sustained pressure."

The hero of the Shire side, Captain Graeme Fergusson - who notched up 15 of his team's 20 points - told Orkney Today: "We are over the moon. This was a big game for us. We came to win and no one would argue that it was the right team who won on the day. After a couple of silly defeats we still have a chance of promotion."

As a comfort to the Orkney team he added: "The game today was played in the right spirit and we have every respect for the Orkney team. Having travelled this far today, I don't think we could survive making such a journey every two weeks as your team does."

The point on travel wasn't lost in the match programme on Saturday when Orkney Club chairman Mike Girvan stated: "We have drawn Waid Academy away in the next round of the Cup. This is unfortunate as it means four weekends away on the



SO NEAR AND YET SO FAR: Trevor Spence pushes forward, with assistance from Raymond Moodie and Edward 'Rambo' Russell but the Aberdeenshire defence holds. ORKNEY PHOTOGRAPHIC

trot for our lads. A tough month and in my view unnecessary. We will be contacting the SRU to express our annoyance at the way this has turned out and why it is necessary to have three away trips in a row in the league.

"Common sense would dictate otherwise and surely there would be a free weekend during a home international when the fixture could be combined with a trip to Murrayfield."

The final word on Saturday's

match, however, went to Malky White, one of the Orkney men in the Aberdeenshire squad.

He told us: "This was my first game of the season for the 1st team and the first time I've played on the wing, I usually play scrum-half. While I find it a bit awkward playing for another side on Orkney soil I was out there to win. I really wanted us to win. I came up in the Shire team last year and lost. It was important this time that we won."

Badminton youngsters travel south

BADMINTON

A TEAM of 30 Juniors is travelling to Caithness this Saturday October 28 2006 to play against Caithness Juniors. Good luck to all competing.

Youth Development Coaching

Open nights for all children P5 and upwards (Born 1994 and later) - Sunday October 29, 6.00 - 7.30pm, and Sunday November 5, 6.00 - 7.30pm, at KGS.

Open nights for all juniors (Born 1989 and later) - Sunday October 29, 7.30 - 9.00pm and Sunday November 5, 7.30 - 9.00pm, at KGS.

For further information telephone Moira Nicolson on 751276 or Elaine Gray on 875160.

Club League

Orkney Badminton Association is asking for entries for the Club League. A team will consist of two men and two women. Teams play each other home and away. Each team is required to submit a named contact along with contact details and indicate where and which night home matches will be played.

If members of your club or workplace are interested you can get more detail or enter by contacting Kathryn Sclater on 811242 or 077900 617 895. Please have entries in by Friday 3rd November.

Fixtures

Friday October 27 - Inter County training 6.30pm at KGS.

Wednesday November 1 - Eddie Fraser Electrical League 7.20pm prompt at Picky.

Recognition

A PRESS release issued by Orkney Islands Council - featured in our lead sports article last week - implied that the decision to allow Octopush and Darts status as a sport worthy of inclusion in the local award ceremony rested with sportsScotland. The Sports Awards Committee wish it to be known that the final decision to include the sports in the awards rota rested firmly with them, after consultation with sportsScotland.

And a surprise stranger from South Africa was on the sidelines

RUGBY

THERE was a surprise guest from South Africa at Saturday's Orkney-Aberdeenshire match at Pickaouy, in fact the guest himself got quite a surprised when he learned he was coming to Orkney 24-hours after arriving in the UK.

Jeff Mountain arrived in Aberdeen from Capetown on Friday morning to visit his sons Shaun and Ryan, but they had other plans for him.

The brothers, both natives of South Africa, had told their club that they could not play in Saturday's key match because of their father's first visit to the UK in 53 years. But the club management decided that was not on and invited 57-year-old Jeff to travel by bus with them on their trip north.

Speaking from the touchline on Saturday, Jeff told Orkney Today: "I haven't seen the boys play rugby together for three years. This has been a huge surprise for me.

"I've never been to Orkney before, in fact I've never been in Scotland. I was born in Bristol and left there when I was three-years-old so I have not been north of the Equator since 1953.

"I played rugby at school level and I am a keen rugby fan, I suppose now I am really only an

armchair follower but support local Capetown teams and, of course, The Springboks. I encouraged the boys in their early days then they were enticed to Aberdeen after local rugby scouts saw them play three years ago.

"Ryan came home two years ago and I watched him play then, but I haven't seen Shaun play in three years. I am staying overnight with the team. It is just great."

While the torrential rain was a slight hazard to his enjoyment of the game, he was jubilant when Shaun ran over for Aberdeenshire's only try and was shouting "Come on 'Shire" loudly from the sidelines throughout the match.

Flanker Ryan and hooker Shaun were delighted to once again have their father's support.

In the clubroom after the match Ryan told us: "We knew this was an important match and we are glad the club agreed to him coming along. It was good to have him shouting for us from the sidelines again."

Shaun added: "He has always given us a lot of encouragement in our sport. He used to say he was never really impressed with our performance and that forced us to try harder. He is brilliant on the sidelines."



A SOUTH AFRICAN CONNECTION: Jeff Mountain, centre, with his two sons Ryan and Shaun. ORKNEY PHOTOGRAPHIC

Stromness Club presents golf trophies



TROPHIES NIGHT: Stromness Golf Club held its annual dinner dance and trophy presentation ceremony at the club on Saturday night. Pictured above are the stars of the season with their trophies. MICHAEL MOAR

No pirates as netball organisers name their Caribbean teams

NETBALL

ORKNEY Senior Winter League teams are as follows (please note a few changes to the teams):

ANTIGUA - Karen Wood (Capt), Karen Burns, Tracey Mathieson, Catherine Foubister, Gemma Cursiter, Jane Barbour, Vicki Cursiter, Laura Wood, Sonja Wishart.

TOBAGO - Evie Donaldson (Capt), Laura Leonard, Caron Bews, Angela Hancock, Tanya Leslie, Mhari Wards, Carrie Stockan, Rose Rendall, Susan Hill.

BARBADOS - Rachal Thomson (Capt), Kari Taylor, Caroline Walter, Shona Slater, Betty Stanger, Kirsten Grieve, Jackie Bruce, Karen Miller, Shannon Robb.

TRINIDAD - Gina Tait (Capt), Amy Cromarty, Kirsten Learmonth, Claire Wilson, Jennifer Alexander, Tanya Craigie, Emma White, Jordan Cooper, Morag Ewing.

JAMAICA - Julie Tait (Capt), Helen Mathieson, Helen Cromarty, Julie Campbell, Laura Sinclair, Jessica Harris-Jones, Donna Tulloch, Sarah King, Cheryl Thomson, Senga Taylor.

DOMINICA - Kirsty Gilbert (Capt), Lianne Henry, Joanna Sinclair, Katrina Seatter, Emma Stephen, Jennifer Scott (Snr), Cheryl Leask, Leah Thomson, Caroline Stevenson.

ARUBA - Laura Foulis (Capt), Hannah Nixon, Kelly Nicolson, Catherine Johnson, Ruth Drever, Lisa Barnett, Lianne Sutherland, Lorraine Harvey, Beverly Campbell.

ST LUCIA - Christine Kemp (Capt), Laura Swanney, Emma Drever, Helen Johnstone, Laura Garrioch, Karin Flett, Katell Roche, Lorraine Sinclair, Jennifer Scott (Jnr).

Could everyone please turn up at 7.15pm tonight at the Pickaouy Centre. Subscriptions must be paid on the first night: £15 each half plus affiliation £10 Seniors or £2 Juniors (although some members may have already paid affiliation). For those who put their names in late, you have to be added to a waiting list. Any queries please contact league co-ordinator Helen Cromarty (Tel: 07786 751 154).