

## DEVIZES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Affiliated member of  
Dorset & Wilts. RFU



Member of the RFU  
and England Rugby

**Chairman**  
Mark Shepperd

**President**  
Mark Hill

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Keith Butler

### LADIES SECTION REVIEW- APRIL 2024

Women's NC 2 South West (South)												<a href="#">Download table</a> as image
#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts	Adj
1	Amesbury Ladies	10	10	0	0	411	58	353	0	0	50	
2	Devizes Ladies	10	8	0	2	300	145	155	0	0	44	
3	Melksham Ladies	10	6	0	4	308	173	135	0	0	38	
4	Southampton Ladies	10	2	0	8	158	445	-287	0	0	25	
5	North Dorset Women	10	3	0	7	142	291	-149	0	0	21	-5
6	Oakmeadians Ladies	10	1	0	9	105	312	-207	0	0	5	-10

Looking at the table above, Devizes ladies were pleased to come 2nd in NC2 South West South. Our aspiration at the pre-season players meeting was to end the league within the top three, so this put us in good stead to achieve this throughout the season with the ladies' fantastic games record. We won 8 games including an away walkover, and lost two games both to Amesbury ladies who came top of the league and have been promoted. Total points scored were 300 and total points conceded were 145. In contrast to last year, our away game stats of points scored and conceded were similar to our home stats. This may be due to the growing confidence of players during away games, or travelling less miles to other clubs which has negatively impacted our players performance in the past when they have had to travel further afield. It may also be due to a large number of our supporters also travelling to cheer the squad on at away games which we know positively impacts the team.

Our top try scorers were tied between skip Denny Jones and number 8 Lanaa Plummer, and our biggest victory margin was against Oakmedians away where we scored a stomping 79-7. On a personal note, it was also nice to be the only team in the league who stopped Melksham ladies gain any points with a score of 22-0, something Amesbury were unable to do.

Coming 2nd in the league is a major achievement for the ladies, especially with losing some experienced impact players to significant injuries which prevented them from seeing the season through.

In terms of league, Devizes ladies played against familiar opposition apart from North Dorset who were promoted to the NC2 league this season. The opposition appeared fierce with Amesbury being a strong contender for 1st place and having a team of army players, Melksham having come on strength to strength and beating us in the previous season, and Oakmedians who used to dominate NC1 South West when we were in the same league a few seasons back. The ladies however took it in their stride and had five consecutive wins before losing to Amesbury at the final game. Being in the current league however has its downfalls with fewer teams being available to play which is primarily due to other teams folding. This is something the ladies found frustrating, particularly as opportunity to play friendlies was sparse due to opposition availability. Not being promoted this season however will allow the team to continue to grow, and put them in a comprehensive position to consider promotion when they are feeling more established as a versatile squad. This may be at the end of next season if they continue to play as they have in 2023-24.

In terms of player base, we had 35 registered players at the start of 2023-24 season, which included some new players joining us this season but did not include coaches, TMs and players who would normally be registered but were unable to play for multiple reasons. Two players left during the season due to relocating or moving clubs, and 9 players were unable to play the full season due to health reasons and injuries. Despite this, we still recruited 3 players later in the season who have attended training in 2024 and also retained the remainder of our squad. Having a stronger team and larger numbers has meant we were able to start the season in good stead and support the newer players to become more confident in their game knowledge and ability that much quicker. The team have been jointly supportive alongside the coaches with new players, showing them skills in the game and practicing positional techniques which has had a hugely positive response and contributed to reasons why newer players have been retained throughout the season.

Off the pitch, our team have been the most sociable and active they have been in several seasons. Morale, enthusiasm, and general team spirit cannot be faulted, and the team have been encouraging and supportive of each other throughout. We have also enjoyed success at County Level with Denny Jones, Chloe Hounslow, Lanaa Plummer, and Chelsea Butler all being selected to represent the county.

From a "One Club" perspective, our social rep Els has been working collaboratively with the senior men to incorporate events at the club on game days which has been widely received well by players and supporters alike. The support shown by the Senior Men and senior committee to the ladies on game day has been much appreciated and fully reciprocated as well.

In terms of coaches, Kieth and Abi happily remain onboard for another season but we shall be losing the services of Den Warbutton for next season as she is fully retiring from rugby. Den has brought a wealth of knowledge and passion to the team from her own experience as a player, captain, and coach. A suitable replacement for backs coach is being considered, with initial conversations having taken place but nothing been formalised by way of replacements for next season. We shall also be losing Sarah Levy as S&C coach and ladies chair as she is also fully retiring. Alternative options for S&C are already being considered by the club and we are fortunate to have Amy Cotts who is also a level 2 qualified personal trainer within the ladies who has shown an interest in taking over (in some form) the S&C classes Sarah ran. Elanor Harvey has also been elected as ladies chair for 2024-25 season and will be taking over presently.

Our Team managers are on the case to organise some pre-season friendlies, and will likely contact Supermarine ladies to organise a return friendly fixture that will likely go ahead later in August/September. The next season is looking to be a positive one for the ladies, and the continued support from the club will be hugely appreciated especially if we seek to work towards promotion into NC1.