



Worcester Ladies 1st XV Report, 2009/10

Despite the considerable achievement of finishing 4th in the premiership, there was a disappointing end to the season as the team did not always reach its full potential. The illusive 3rd spot, breaking the stranglehold of the Big London 3 was narrowly missed by one point. None the less, significant home and away victories were recorded against Wasps.

The introduction of new players Helen Fisher, Karen Jones, Amber Penrith, Nollie Waterman, Jenny Brighmore and Amie Millar greatly enhanced the quality of squad and was influential in our improved performances.

Unfortunately the team was once again plagued by injuries to key players which resulted in us never playing a full strength 15 for even one game in the season. Nollie Waterman and Karen Jones were absent for the majority of the campaign and Kat Merchant only available for half of the fixtures. All of these players are full internationals and one can look forward to an enhanced league position next season if we can manage to keep them fit throughout.

The injury situation gave an opportunity for several 2nd team players to experience premiership rugby and they all rose to the occasion, which bodes well for the future and will provide significant competition for a 1st XV place.

The club was honoured to have several players selected for international duties: Amber Penrith, Kat Merchant, Nollie Waterman and Helen Fisher are in the England 2010 World Cup squad and Donna Kennedy is in the Scotland World Cup Squad.

Gemma Sharples, Karen Jones and Samantha Reeve have all represented England during the season in the Six Nations.

Gemma Sharples and Sarah Guest have represented England 7's and are in the squad to play in European Championship in Moscow in July.

Gemma Sharples, Sarah Guest, Jenny Brighmore, Laura Keates all represented England A during the season.

Amie Millar represented England Under 20.

Last, but not least, Donna Kennedy, who will retire from playing to assist with coaching after the World Cup, added to her numerous caps for Scotland and at this juncture is the most capped Ladies player in the world.

With the talent available, we look forward to improving on our 4th position next season.

The season ended on a sad note, with Worcester and England legend, Jo Yapp, who captained England on numerous occasions and was first capped at the age of 18, announcing her retirement, along with husband and head coach, Alan Hubbleday. Their presence and contributions will be greatly missed, the club have been fortunate to have such talent at their disposal over many years.

The new season will start with Alan Hubbleday supporting new head coach, Luke Fisher, AKO, Jersey, assisted by Donna Kennedy.

David Guest