

Kirkwall Kayak Club's canoe polo season started on 11 December with 'Orkney A' team travelling to Glenrothes in Fife to play 4 fixtures in Scottish division 2. Orkney were unfortunately demoted from the top flight last year after finishing second bottom in Division 1. Orkney come out of last season gaining valuable experience against Scotland's best players and overall looking stronger in boat skills, ball control and tactics.

Immediately it was evident that having come from the top tier in Scotland, 'Orkney A' were the team to beat in Division 2. First game was against recently promoted Aberdeen Kayak Club who despite looking strong against other teams on the day seemingly crumbled under Orkneys aggressive attacking play G Summers starting an early attack with a goal in the first 30 seconds. A Strutt and T Clyde also scoring in a game that Orkney comfortably won 7-1.

Next up Fife Devils always a very well organised and disciplined team that Orkney have struggled against in the past. This time Orkney over came the Fifers usually strong defence winning 5-1. League leaders St Andrews next who came on with determination, forcing mistakes from the Orkney side and capitalising on them by opening the scoring. During a nice passage of passing play from Orkney K Cooper equalised sneaking a shot in goal through a tight defence. Despite some heroic defending from keeper A Vinke late in the second half the students scored the winner, St Andrews 2 Orkney 1.

Dundee Uni' also looked to upset the orcadians and seemingly upped their game considerably. In the end though the score line slightly flattered Dundee in a game of a few off target shots from all out field players. It was G Summers' constant pressure on the defence that he eventually 'poached' a goal from, T Clyde then won a penalty and coolly slotted it away to give Orkney a 2-1 victory.

Overall a good start to the season from a team that will no doubt improve over the season. Team; Ansgar Vinke, Adam Strutt, Kristian Cooper, Graham Summers and Torquil Clyde.

Kirkwall Kayak Club's B team AKA 'The Voles' open their season in January to play in Division 3.

Canoe Polo Training is on Friday evenings in Kirkwall Swimming Pool, the ability to roll a kayak is desirable but full training can be given and spectators are welcome.

KKC also have pool training on Tuesday nights 8.30-10 and anyone interested should contact Kristian: 07708271108. All information can be found at www.kirkwallkayakclub.org or follow us on Facebook by searching Kirkwall kayak Club and clicking 'Like'.

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