

The Orkney Voles canoe polo team travelled south to Glenrothes this weekend to play their first Scottish Division 3 league matches of the season. Injury and other commitments meant that only 4 Orkney players could travel so 3 honorary Voles were appointed to make up the team.

The Voles' team fielded had not played together before so went into the matches with some trepidation, as after our first season in the league last year, we knew that all 3 teams we were to face would be tough opposition.

The Orkney Voles team of Peter, Mary, Paddy, Adam and Freddie jelled well and opened the match with a shot off the post. Fife Canoeing Activities Group (FCAG) were mainly kept in their own half and the Voles had several shots on goal. FCAG had more of the play in the second half but Peter in goal wasn't troubled and Orkney Voles took the match 4 - 1 which was a great start.

The next game was against Strathclyde University, who in their first match, had been seen to play well and had soundly beaten the opposition. The Orkney Voles, this time fielding John and Neil as subs, played well and although the match was tough, managed to win 1 - 0. The Strathclyde team were even seen to have an Orcadian playing for them.

The game against Glasgow University was quite heated with everyone playing hard. Once again Orkney played well as a team with Adam and Paddy striking well and Mary causing bother in support. The game ended in some chaos with Glasgow awarded a penalty which they failed to convert before the full time whistle. The final score was 4 - 1 to Orkney Voles.

Finally Orkney Voles faced Stirling University who were a well organised and disciplined side. Everyone again played hard, with the Orkney Voles fielding their strongest side for this final match. Adam and Paddy were again on target with good support from Freddie and Mary and excellent keeping from Peter. The final score was 2 - 1 to Orkney Voles.

The Orkney Voles were the only team on the night to win all four matches which should place them in the top half of the league. Their next and final round of league matches are on the 12th February and the team hopes to have the captain back from injury in time for those games.

Orkney's other canoe polo team, Orkney 'A', will play their next Division 2 matches on the 29th of January and 19th February.

Canoe polo training takes place in the Kirkwall Pool 9 - 10pm Fridays, with anyone who can roll welcome to join in. To learn to kayak (and to roll) come along to Kirkwall Kayak Club on Tuesdays 8.30pm to 10pm.

Northern Kayaker.