

## West Ladies Back to Winning Ways

After last week's disappointing defeat at Garioch, it was important West of Scotland Ladies took maximum points from their match with Broughton Ladies. It was a second successive away match for the Burnbrae side but they departed for Edinburgh in their usual confident mood. Their confidence was justified when, after a hard, physical battle, they returned to Milngavie with a try bonus victory by 34-19.

West started with the advantage of the wind and the slope. Just how Broughton like it. They prefer to play downhill in the second half. West had to build a good lead in the first forty minutes. The home side had the physical advantage and West had to defend well in the opening stages. After twelve minutes, Alex Watson put West ahead after a typically powerful run, Mhairi Mack being successful with the conversion. It took Broughton only five minutes to draw level and the West girls knew they would have to step up a gear. But Cometh the Hour, Cometh the Back Row. Before half-time, West had moved into a 24-7 lead with two tries by open side Amanda Paterson and another by blind side Hannah Foster-Rain. The last of these was converted by Mack. During this fifteen minute spell, they had had to work as hard in defence as they did in attack. Grit and determination repelled the home assault on their line. Great link up play between the backs and the forwards saw them score the much-needed points at the other end. 24-7 was a good lead to take into the interval but the match was far from over.

Broughton were on the attack from the restart with West having to repeat their efforts of the first half. Eight minutes into the half, Broughton did score, narrowing the gap to twelve points. The psychological blow was struck by Paterson just five minutes later when she got her hat-trick, restoring the gap of seventeen points, three scores ahead. The Broughton forwards continued to drive forward but the West defence look as secure as it had in the first half. It was almost the seventieth minute before the home side scored again, giving them a glimmer of hope of a losing bonus point. These hopes were finally extinguished when Erinn Foley completed the scoring and joined her back row colleagues on the scoresheet.

It was a fine victory and an important one. West remain in second place in the National League table, four points behind Garioch who have to visit Burnbrae later in the season. Stewartry Sirens provide the opposition at Burnbrae next Sunday, 10 October. Kick-off will be at two o'clock. We would be delighted to see a good turn-out of spectators.