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## GAME CANCELLED

*Carrick 1st XV Vs Accies 1st XV Sat 13th October*

Ladies

## ACCIES GIVE VISITING LADY DICKS A TOUGH GAME

A tremendous effort from the Accies ladies saw them come agonisingly close to their first ever league win. Scoring four tries and having two more chalked off for no clear grounding, they lost 20-26 to the Royal Dick Vets, in conditions better suited to windsurfing. The wind and horizontal rain whipping in off the sea meant this was always going to be a game for the forwards. The opening exchanges were about hard running and support at the breakdown, not extravagant passes wide – but it played to the Accies' strengths. Accies showed their intent from the off, a midfield scrum the platform as number 8 Debbie Lee picked up off the base, feeding scrum-half Shelagh Milligan who shifted play out to fly-half Marie-Ann Wales. Full-back Rachel Skimming came up into the line and took the ball into contact. The ball was recycled and Hooker Gilbert Walker broke tackles to charge over. Both sides were coughing up possession as the wind and rain made even the simplest pass a high risk strategy. Accies tried to run out their 22 but lost the ball. Royal Dick attacked off a five metre scrum and were stopped just short of the line twice before they eventually smashed through just left of the posts. The try was converted – given the conditions, where the ball was touched down was going to be pivotal.



Accies' intensity and link-up play was reaching a new level. There were big carries from Walker and Loosehead Prop Phillipa Abernethy. Tight head Prop Eilidh McCreadie was getting through a power of work at the breakdown to shore up the ruck. Half backs Milligan and Wales were getting the ball away quickly to the strike runners. They thought they had their second try when Milligan spotted a gap round the fringes and dived over but the referee ruled it hadn't been grounded. Royal Dick responded with a break up the left wing which was stopped around the Accies 10 metre line by Wales. But the Vets were soon back in possession, shifting play right and scoring in the corner to give them a half time lead HT Accies 5 – Royal Dick 12 The home side came charging back after the break, direct running by Walker and Abernethy getting the Accies over the gain line consistently. Milligan darted off from the ruck from a couple of metres out and threw out a strong hand to hold off the defender on her way over for the try. Accies were back within touching distance – but now they had to defend. Royal Dick took a quick tap penalty only a few metres out and barrelled over for the score. It was under the posts and was easily converted. It was another setback but the Accies showed great resilience and determination – they hit



straight back, Lee going over for the score after a big carry from second row Annie Hallam. Accies were back in the red zone almost immediately, more strong running from Hallam setting up substitute Stephanie Murray for the bonus point try. Accies had put in a tremendous effort to put themselves in front – but could a team more used to chasing games hold a lead? Their discipline let them down, a series of penalties at the breakdown and one for dissent, marching them all the way back inside their own 22. Accies managed to turn the ball over, Wales launching a long touch-finder from in-goal. The Accies were now defending desperately just metres out from their own line and there was an air of inevitability about the Royal Dick try after yet another penalty. With only a couple of minutes remaining it looked like the game was over and done with – but again Accies refused to give up. The forwards worked tirelessly to get the team back into position. They were under the posts – and had to be for the crucial conversion – when Hallam appeared to have got the ball down on the line. But the referee ruled it hadn't been grounded. Accies had one more chance from the scrum but a knock-on brought their hopes crashing down. Coach Brian Reid will be pleased with the step up in intensity and the fluency of their link up play and work at the breakdown – less so with the penalty count. But it certainly ranks as their finest all round team performance so far – despite the sting of the final score.

FT Accies 20 – Royal Dick 26

*Accies Ladies Vs West of Scotland, Sun 14th October*



# ACCIES RUGBY CLUB NEWSLETTER

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## 2nd XV **Try-Fest as Two's Topple Uddingston**

The 2nd XV were boosted in the morning of the match as depth was allowed to be added to their squad by the addition of some first team players who had seen their match called off earlier in the day. This helped keep the legs fresh and the tries flowing in what was simply a masterclass in attacking rugby on the Accies part – even if that meant some lapses in defence at times. The match itself was virtually over as a contest within the first 40 minutes with the simply sumptuous play of the Accies backline being far too hot to handle for a very stuffy Uddingston side. 50 points were scored in that first half with the home side only being able to muster a mere 12 in return. Perhaps it was this seemingly unsurmountable lead which created a 'job done' mentality in the second half which allowed Uddingston to score a number of tries under very little pressure. The game descended into a try-for-try contest in which there was no real winner. However, even if defensive responsibilities had been put to one side it certainly made for an entertaining game of rugby. Stepping up to play for the 2nd's this week was man of the match Gordon Telfer who showed excellent attacking flair going forward in the centre but was also more than willing to put the hard work in the defensive effort. Going forward this result helps to build good momentum and the boys will want to keep pushing on into next week's home clash with Annan – although defensive work will possibly be the priority on the training ground!

Point Scorers: Wilson (40), Telfer, Finnigan, MacDonald (10), Grant, Anderson (5) and Kirkwood (2)

Final Score: Uddingston 42-82 Accies

*Accies 2nd XV Vs Annan , Sat 13th October*

## U15s **Effort Evident but Accies Fall to Birkmyre**

This was a top of the table clash where the Accies would have really fancied their chances however, conditions did not suit the slick style the young guns usually play with. They started the game away slow but gradually built themselves into the game showing excellent defensive effort despite having to play some real back against the wall stuff. When they were in possession as well they showed the try scoring ability which has been the undoing of several other opponents this season. Despite not taking many of their opportunities always looked more than capable of putting points on the board. Unfortunately it was just one of those days for the boys as Birkmyre seemed to get the break of the ball on many occasions and played some fantastic rugby to their credit – making some offloads that many senior players would be proud of! It was not all doom and gloom however, as in the end the boys in blue gained something to show for their resilient performance after some strong attacking from Andrew Buchanan leading to the teams only try of the game. It was the least the Accies deserved in what was a tire-some effort from start to finish – an effort that didn't go unnoticed from coaching staff and those on the side-lines – especially in such brutal conditions. The top five players picked out from this match were Andy Buchanan, Eben Cairns, Carson McFie, Adam Monaghan and Cal-lum Bowie. The boys will be hopeful this result does not keep them down and the push on again to make amends in their next match!

Final Score: Accies 5-51 Birkmyre





# ACCIES RUGBY CLUB NEWSLETTER

Contact : [rugbydev@ardrossanrugby.com](mailto:rugbydev@ardrossanrugby.com)

## Accies Rise to the Challenge at Cumnock *Micro & Minis*

Ardrossan Accies Minis and Micros braved the elements on Sunday 7th October and headed down to local rivals Cumnock for a fixture against their hosts and joint visitors Marr RFC. Despite the winds and rain, the youngsters had a blast, playing some fantastic rugby in front of a healthy crowd of spectating parents.

The Micros in P1-P3 took on Cumnock in three successive games, drawing one and narrowly losing two. Their youthful enthusiasm was a joy to behold as they tried mastering the art of passing, side-stepping and supporting each other during open play. Stars of the day were Lewis Anderson and Kara Preesapati, both of whom happily darted around the pitch all day long.

P4 had a slow start but grew into the games against both teams as the day wore on. As their confidence grew, their performance soared with the youngsters producing some of their finest rugby to date courtesy of neat offloads from the tackle, switches and clever use of the open spaces. Stars of the day were Adam Blake – who bagged a hat-trick of tries - along with debutant Daryl Smith, who made a brilliant impact during his first taste of competitive rugby. In fact, the latter was described as a “fearless, tackling machine” by his coaches and duly deserved his award.

P5 were less prolific and struggled to match the intensity as well as the organisation of their opposition. Both games were lost, but not without a fully committed defensive effort from Callan Tyler – who topped the tackle count by a considerable amount.

Ryan McCulley was another Accie willing to take on the opposition and race to the try line, also collecting a star of the day award.

P6 put in two splendid performances against Ayrshire’s strongest teams. After starting slowly against Marr, they came into the game thanks to the attacking play of Marcel Emmery, whose jinking runs and tenacious attitude saw him pick up a star of the day award.

The game was ultimately lost, but the Accies more than did themselves proud. The second game against Cumnock started with bang as the Accies raced into an early lead. Joshua Bleakley was imperious with ball in hand and at the ruck. His leadership skills were also seriously impressive and there was no denying him a star of the day award. Cumnock eventually fought back to win the game, which turned out to be quite the thriller.



The club would also express its extensive gratitude towards the Christie family who have very kindly donated the donations from Jim’s funeral to the rugby club which they would like to be put towards youth rugby.

The club has chosen to use this for new kits for the under 13’s team something Jim himself worked very hard to try and receive sponsorship for.

Yet again we want to say a huge thank you to the Christie family and to Jim for all the hard work he always put in.

We at the Accies will be forever grateful for this, from a true legend at the club.