

## Match report 07.10.18

### Roaring Success for the Westcliff Lionesses!

After a rainy Saturday the ground was soft as the Dartfordians were hosting their first league match on Sunday at home against the Westcliff Lionesses. After a disappointing start to the league for the lionesses they were enthusiastic and ready to put their learning from their previous loss into action.

A few minutes into the game Vice Captain Susan Cripps sprinted towards the try line to only run past the lines. Their faux pas only made the ladies laugh and make them more determined to ground the ball when they had their next opportunity. Lucky for the lionesses their next break was only moments away as second row player; Sarah Milligan forced her way through the tackles and scored their first try just inches over the line.

Head Coach Glen Cripps commented " All the hard work working on the defence put in by the ladies over the past few weeks has paid off with the solid performance they put in today. It makes me proud how much the ladies are striving to improve their game."

An exciting match was to continue as the ladies powered through with many impressive scrums. A further five tries were scored by Patch (Pamela) Davies, Sian Jenkins, Carla Kraken and two scored by captain Kay Edwards. Late during the second half the Dartford ladies were a mere few meters from scoring their first try however the lionesses held their defensive line firmly and were strong enough to power through and gain ground. Flanker Carla Kraken, who has recently moved from being a winger, managed a fantastic kick and chased the ball up to then sprint and score her try.

Fitness coach Norbertas Radzevicius stated "All the girls played really well and their defence was a key part today as it has been something they lacked in the previous game. After weeks of training working on their defence the girls have become more confident and put their learning into practise. The score clearly reflects their efforts."

Sian Jenkins, P.E. teacher at Southend High School For Girls had her debut match playing for the lionesses today and showed her great kicking skills when she managed to convert three out of their six tries.

Coach Dave Read had his own challenge as whilst the ladies were playing he was across the pond in Chicago running a marathon but that did not stop him from supporting the team. Dave said "I'm really proud of all the girls and their win. I'm looking forward to seeing the photos and hearing all about the game in detail!"

This fantastic win of 36-0 to the Westcliff lionesses has given the ladies a great confidence boost but despite this win they are going to continue to improve their game and refine the existing skills they have been working on in recent weeks ready for their upcoming games in November. The Lionesses play their next league match away against the Old Caterhamians on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Written by Poppy Smith**