

## Women's Section Report July 2017

“Can you just help us get some playing kit and we want to have a Summer Fete” - This is what got me into this position, I could have said NO, but how much fun would that be? So within five weeks the Women's Team had kit, and we ran a Summer Fete! That was the easy part...

The team played a couple of Sevens and did well. Had a Coach and with a combination of locals and Army players a good team. Due to different views the team then went down to 2 members in August over night.

Since last September we have been fighting to carry on in the face of adversity. After many promises of a Coach externally which didn't materialise we still pushed on. With the excellent help and support of **Geoff Wilman** – who is a Saint and Superhero we have moved forward. We must be here to allow progression of his strong Girls section – we must ensure we keep them within our Club. They are talented and dedicated and deserve to have a progression route. I am sure that Geoff will tell you about their continued success and growth.

After mixed results in the PitchUp and Play and Inner Warrior Campaign we now have a group of 10 eager players - getting them all in the same place at the same time though is challenge our next Inner Warrior event in September we hope to gain some more!

Thanks must go to **Harry Jones** who also stepped up mark to Coach the Girls on Tuesdays – even when we have had five turn up! We welcome **Sami Quinton** on board who was able to complete her Level 2 Coaching course but due to her work commitments with the Army can only train us on a Sunday. The dedication, support and encouragement these guys have shown towards the team is awesome. They have kept me believing – and the players we have that we can make this work!

We have had some great success with the newly reformed Dorset & Wilts County Team. After only a matter of months training we sent were able to secure two places in the Main Squad – Gemma Snell and Gemma Holton, a big well done to Gemma S who also scored a Try. We also have players in the Development Squad.

We have secured Radio Interviews, Newspaper and Magazine articles – anything to get some media coverage to secure interest. Thanks must go to **Anoushka Twining** who have produced some great posters and helped with Facebook. It's been a roller coaster, frustrating, very emotional, very stressful but to see the Women Train and put the firm foundations down for a great team makes it worth while. We are in need of another Coach, 10 more players, some friendlies but hey after the last year that should be a walk in the Park.

We hope that we have persuaded the rest of the Club that there can be a place for a Women's Team in Salisbury. We ask you to support us with Coaching – anyone want to step up? Recruiting, putting up Posters, spreading the word – all would be appreciated.

Thanks to the team members who do turn up in the wind, rain and weekends even when we have four or five players you give it your all! Our goal is to have a good Inner Warrior on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – we have invites for some friendlies, offers to train with other Clubs but I personally want to see us in being the preferred choice for Women's & Girls Rugby in the southern part of the County!

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