

Former team coach is back to haunt Fylde side

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The final home game of the season for the ladies' first team at Fylde Hockey Club brought a 2-0 defeat by a Timperley side coached by ex-Fylde boss Ali Ghazanfar.

Knowing that anything but a win would mean relegation from Women's Conference North, the second-bottom visitors came out fighting and took the lead from a penalty corner.

Fylde had plenty of possession but couldn't connect in the final quarter, while Timperley gained in confidence and scored their second. Fylde slip to fourth but aim for a big finish away to champions Pendle Forest on Saturday.

Fylde 2 also lost 2-0 in North West Women's Division One away to Brooklands-Poynton 2, who took the lead with a penalty flick and scored again before half-time.

Fylde, who improved but found the keeper in great form, have two to play and host Formby 1 on Saturday.

Fylde 3 defeated Kirkby Stephen 2 3-2 in NW Two North at Mill Farm. Sophia Murray opened the scoring inside 10 minutes but it was 1-1 by half-time.

Fylde regained the lead as Murray's switch from defence to attack paid off. Emily Greenwood scored too after good work by Charlotte Lavin. Fylde visit second-placed South Lakes 1 for their penultimate game on Saturday.

Fylde 5 lost 3-1 to Clitheroe & Blackburn Northern 3



The Lytham St Annes Hockey Club men's first team

in NW Four North (Central) despite an excellent debut from goalkeeper Jenay Gucver, Camilla Wyles pulled one back from Dawn Perruzza's wonderful through-ball.

This league concludes on Saturday with home games for Fylde 4 against Pendle Forest 3 and Fylde 5 against champions Windermere 1.

Fylde 6 started their game at Leyland & Chorley 2 with

just seven players but finished with a full 11 and with a 4-2 win in NW Five North (Central). Fylde scored first through Ellie Hope but were 2-1 down at half-time.

Leah Richmond moved up front in the second half and scored a hat-trick. Fylde are away to the Leyland & Chorley Development team on Saturday.

■ After last weekend's win,

Lytham St Annes HC men's first team lost 7-2 at home to unbeaten champions Kendal in North West Three North.

Adam Dixon pulled one back from a short corner to make it 3-1 at half-time.

LSA couldn't prevent a first home defeat of the season but scored again from a short corner through Andy Copeland and were unlucky not to add more. They must

wait until after Easter for their final league game and cup semi-final against Southport.

LSA 2 also faced the leaders in NW Fourth North and lost 5-1 away to Preston 5.

The visitors frustrated Preston for 25 minutes but it was 2-0 by half-time. Michael Robbins pulled one back for LSA, who host Leyland & Chorley 2 on Saturday.

There were heavy defeats for the ladies as the first team went down 10-0 at home to Preston 1 in NW Division One but never let their heads drop. Saturday's penultimate match is away to a Wilmslow 1 side out to seal the title.

Lytham 2 hosted joint-leaders Preston 2 in NW Three North (Central) and lost 9-0, though Katy Townsend was outstanding.

Fired-up for rallying's NW Stages

The Legend Fires North West Stages Rally arrives in Garstang this weekend as the elite of British and Irish rally crews contest the opening round of the 2024 British Rally Championship.

The rally, staged in partnership with ND Civils and Kelmor, begins with a ceremonial start on Garstang's High Street on Friday evening around 6.30pm.

Saturday's action starts

from rally headquarters at Myerscough College at 8.40am as competitors then head to the closed-road special stages.

These includes the Nicky Nook Stage, to the east of Garstang, which gets underway at 11am and is repeated at 3.30pm. Spectator parking is available on Ray Lane.

For the Long Knotts Stage, at 9.20am and 1.45pm, parking is provided at Chipping

Show Ground. Spectators are advised to arrive 30 minutes before scheduled stage times.

Leading the field away as Car 1 is 2022 winner Chris Ingram from Cheshire and his American co-driver Alex Kihurani in a Volkswagen Polo GTi R5.

They will be followed by Ireland's Keith Cronin and Mikie Galvin and Welsh duo Osian Pryce and Rhodri Evans, both crews competing

in a Ford Fiesta Rally2.

Another to look out for is Max McRae. The Australian belongs to Scotland's most famous rally family. Max is the son of Alister, nephew of Colin and grandson of Jimmy, all former British champions.

Max is also competing in a Fiesta Rally2 and is seeded Car 21, just ahead of the Volkswagen Polo GTi R5 of Blackpool South Shore Motor Club member John Stone.



Neil Roskell and (inset) James Ford Photo: www.pro-rally.co.uk