

Great progress made in Conference campaign

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Fylde Hockey Club's ladies' first team completed their Women's Conference North season with a 1-0 defeat away to champions Pendle Forest.

Their performance showed how much progress Fylde have made in finishing fourth, level on points with third-placed Durham University 2.

A very competitive and intense game was played with the right attitude, Pendle scoring the only goal through Charlotte Hartley.

Pru Lindsey and Dawn Child had chances for Fylde, who also won a couple of corners before half-time.

Both teams had opportunities in the second period, though Fylde keeper Katie Barker prevented Pendle from scoring again.

Fylde 2 are safe from relegation in North West Women's Division One and drew their penultimate fixture 1-1 at home to Formby 1.

They were on top for the first 15 minutes and led through Keira Tones. Formby hit back and levelled with 15 minutes remaining, setting up an end-to-end finish.

Fylde 3 lost 5-2 at South Lakes 1 in NWTwo North. Jess Jennings was on target but Fylde were 2-1 down at half-time. Charlotte Lavin netted the second for Fylde, who can still climb out of the bottom two with a game to play.

NW Four North (Central) when concluded on Saturday, when already promoted Fylde 4 won 3-0 against Pendle For-



The promoted Fylde ladies' fourth team, who ended their season on a winning note Photo: FYLDE HOCKEY CLUB

est 3. Hermione Edwards and Ellie Hope scored in the first half, with Liz Johnson on target during the second for the runners-up.

Fylde 5 lost 4-1 to champions Windermere, Lauren Appleyard scoring from a short corner.

Fylde Men beat Garstang Development 5-0 in their final NW Four North match. Phil Hope scored both first-half

goals and took his tally to four in the second half. Jay Mayne scored Fylde's third from a penalty corner.

It meant Fylde ended a successful league season with 10 wins, two draws and only four losses as a development side.

They are now looking forward to fighting for points next season but first will contest next month's Lancashire Development Cup.

Outstanding league games for Fylde teams will be played on April 6.

Lytham St Annes Hockey Club's men's seconds were 2-0 winners over their Leyland and Chorley counterparts in their penultimate NW Three North fixture.

LSA pressed from the start and took the lead after 15 minutes, when Joe Briggs found Michael Robbins and he slot-

ted home.

Continuing to push for more goals before half-time, LSA were thwarted by a mixture of good goalkeeping and missed chances.

With the wind behind them in the second half, LSA continued to have the upper hand and Steve Osborne flicked home a penalty corner 20 minutes in to complete a good team performance.

The ladies' first team lost 16-2 away to a Wilmslow side who sealed the NW One title.

LSA were four down before Lucy Bridges pulled one back and Lucie McNally scored their second before half-time from a short corner.

LSA fought to the end and have one more opportunity to add to this season's one win. The final games take place a week on Saturday.

Exciting finish after rally's slow start

There was no shortage of drama in the lanes around Garstang when the Legend Fires North West Stages Rally hosted the opening round of the 2024 British Rally Championship.

Following Friday evening's ceremonial start on Garstang's High Street, where thousands of spectators soaked up the pre-rally atmosphere, Saturday saw competitors embark on the

closed-road special stages to the east of the town in an event run in partnership with ND Civils and Kelmere.

Accidents, safety concerns and delays forced stages to be cancelled. Thankfully all of those involved in the accidents were unscathed.

Fortunately the afternoon's five stages all took place, albeit later than scheduled, and the VW Polo GTi R5 of Chris Ingram and Alex Ki-

hurani was declared the winner.

They finished almost half a minute clear of William Creighton and Liam Regan's Ford Fiesta Rally2, with the Toyota Yaris GR Rally2 of Meirion Evans and Jonathan Jackson completing the podium places.

There were some impressive performances from local drivers. Neil Roskell, from Preesall, co-driven by

Welshman Dai Roberts, finished fifth in his Fiesta Rally2, while Hambleton's Simon Bowen and Bispham's Craig Simkiss brought their Ford Fiesta S2000T home in 13th place.

Quernmore's Darren Atkinson and Blackpool's Matty Daniels took the Class D Award as the fastest two-wheel drive competitors in their Ford Escort Mk2, finishing 17th overall.



Ingram and Kihurani in their VW Polo GTi R5 Photo: www.pro-rally.co.uk