GARIOCH RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB (Inverurie)

During school session 2009 - 09, through its full time Rugby Development Officer (RDO) and part time Community Coach, Garioch RFC has given free rugby coaching to 26 Aberdeenshire primary schools and given coaching and game assistance to Kemnay and Meldrum academies, with Inverurie unable to join the party due to the lack of a champion within the school. Our RDO worked full time in the schools for the complete session with our part time Community Coach coaching 2 days per week for the first 2 terms.

This catered for all 8 primary schools feeding into Inverurie Academy, all 4 in the Kemnay Learn and all 11 in the Meldrum Learn with Dunecht and Monymusk thrown in for good measure. For terms 3 and 4 we also gave rugby to St Andrews Special Needs School. St Andrews is indeed our closest school! More than 2200 children therefore received a 6 week block of ripper tag rugby where the tag is attached to a Velcro waist band -- when ripped off a "tackle" has been made.

The Club's *November is "TRY" Rugby Month* this session coincided with the Scotland v Canada game at Pittodrie, with visits from Scotland squad pairings to Kintore Primary school and Kemnay Academy on Community Thursday, just before the Saturday game. We held a festival for P6/6P7 pupils at Kellands Park, the home of Garioch RFC. 440 school-children attended and we had 80 games of ripper tag rugby played that morning, 10 games running simultaneously.

Also in November, we held our tri-academy rugby tournament. With Inverurie unable to supply any teams at all, Westhill was invited to join Kemnay and Meldrum academies, with Meldrum running out winners at U18s, U15s and girls levels.

At the end of Term 3 after concentrating on coaching the P4 / P5 pupils, we organized festivals for that age-group at Oldmeldrum, Inverurie and Kemnay. Over 640 children attended on these 3 mornings.

At the end of Term 4, the Club organized and ran a very successful S1 / S2 sevens tournament amongst 5 squads from Westhill, Kemnay and Meldrum academies. (Inverurie Academy was again unable to respond.)

As well as the above, the following are worthy of note:

we ran After (Primary) Schools Clubs in our 3 main centres,
ran our first Street Rugby session in Kemnay,
gave curriculum rugby to Kemnay Academy,
ran a 2-day Easter camp and will do again in Summer,
work very well with the Active School Coordinators
participated in the Food Standards Agency HHEAPS initiative

Finally – congratulations to the GRFC trained P7 squad from Kellands Primary school which was invited to go to Murrayfield to play in the Scottish Primary schools tournament and returned to the Garioch as winners.

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