



SELKIRK RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Fixture: 1st XV	Hawick vs Selkirk (Away) 27 August 2022
Result:	Hawick 20 – Selkirk 20

What better way to kick off the Tennent's Premiership League than with a Border derby? With Hawick aiming to finish in top four of the league again this season and Selkirk looking to do better than last year this was set up to be great game.

The start of the game was quite scrappy with both teams not taking advantage of their possession. After 20 minutes the scoreboard read Hawick 0 Selkirk 3, with the points coming from the boot of Matthew Reid.

Selkirk were made to work hard in defence by the Hawick forwards who were battering up but they held up strong, pushing Hawick back and winning possession. Then, Hawick suddenly changed tactics and started playing a more open expansive type of rugby with Ronan McKean going over the whitewash after Kirk Ford made a fantastic break.

Hawick's lead was short-lived, when their ill-discipline allowed Matthew Reid to successfully convert another penalty. With the half time whistle imminent, Selkirk threw away their advantage with an ill-timed pass which Kirk Ford was happy to intercept and stroll over the try line. His successful conversion meant Hawick went in at half time 12-6 ahead.

Selkirk responded quickly with a try from Ross Nixon after the forwards hammered the Hawick try line pulling in the defenders. Reid's conversion kick put Selkirk back in the lead by one point.

Hawick answered back with a penalty goal by Ford, however Selkirk had their tails up and were determined to get lead back. They did just that, with a try from Polish international Zenon Szwagrzak which was successfully converted by Reid giving Selkirk five-point advantage.

Hawick were frustrated at allowing Selkirk back in the game and were determined to regain control. They threw everything at Selkirk and were rewarded when a well worked backline move off a set piece allowed Ronan McKean to cross over for his second try and bringing the score line to an even 20-20. Up stepped Kirk Ford, who had been successful with all his previous kicks, but unfortunately the touchline conversion rebounded off the upright.

The last few minutes were an anxious time for both teams, Hawick desperately trying to win the game and Selkirk's scramble defence holding out. Hawick had the final opportunity when they swung the ball out wide but the pass from Andrew Mitchell to an open Lewis Ferguson fell just out of reach and rolled into touch.