



SELKIRK RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Fixture: 1st XV	Glasgow Hawks (Home) 3rd September
Result:	Selkirk 22 – Glasgow Hawks 15

After two rounds of the Tennent's Premiership, Selkirk remain unbeaten with a draw against Hawick in round one followed by a win over Glasgow Hawks on Saturday.

Selkirk started off well having the majority of the possession and territory for the first 20 minutes, however, the first points went to Glasgow Hawks after a steady scrum inside their 22m gave Ross Darroch a good base to run down the wing and score in the corner. Gavin Cruickshank slotted the touchline conversion giving maximum points to his team making the scoreboard read 0 – 7. Selkirk look to hit straight back when Bruce Riddell, who was making his 100th appearance for Selkirk, got a turnover which allowed the back line to show off their handling skills and Josh Welsh room to run down the stand side touchline. A try saving tackle from Glasgow Hawks, Andy McLean, put Welsh into touch and gave Hawks the lineout. Hawks worked their way down the pitch with a mix of big forward hit ups and running rugby from the back line. The pressure of this got to Selkirk as they strayed offside giving Gavin Cruickshank an opportunity to extend Hawks' lead to 0 – 10.

Selkirk were needing to get a foothold of the game and find a way back in. Ross Nixon ran a great line breaking the Hawks defence taking his team into the 22m. With quick ball coming from the breakdowns, Hawks scramble defence were caught offside which gave Matt Reid his chance to pull the kicking boots on and slot three points just before half time, making the half time score 3 – 10.

The struggles of the first half looked to continue for Selkirk as Glasgow Hawks got the first points of the half. After a number of quick rucks and forward dominance, Hawks' flanker Andrew Syme crossed the whitewash giving his team a twelve-point lead.

Selkirk hit straight back with the forwards battering the Hawks' try line and Andrew McColm taking advantage of a lapse in concentration from the defence and fell over the line pulling Selkirk back into the game. This seemed to liven Selkirk up and the crowd, as Callum Smyth made his appearance known with a big tackle halting the Hawks attack at source. Selkirk regathered possession and a break from McColm put Selkirk back on the front foot. Some nice interlinking play between the forwards and backs and some patience resulted in James Head using his brute strength and bulldozing over the line giving Matt Reid an easy kick to make the score level at 15-15. This made for an exciting last quarter and it was Selkirk that continued to put the pressure on Hawks. A pinpoint cross-field kick from Ross Nixon to Josh Welsh and some interlinking play with the forwards and backs resulted in 13 phases of play in which ended with Lachlan Ferguson stepping off his right foot and giving Selkirk the lead for the first time in the game. Reid was successful with the conversion making the scoreboard read 22-15.

As time ticked away, Hawks were giving it one final attack but this was thwarted when Euan Muirhead knocked the ball on over the try line. So, with only a couple of minutes left to play, the forwards packed down for the scrum but a deliberate knock on from Hawks at the base of the scrum gave Selkirk the opportunity to finish the game and take the win.