

## **Selkirk 2<sup>nd</sup> XV v Edinburgh Accies 2<sup>nd</sup> XV**

After suffering a heavy defeat the week before, questions were asked of the young Selkirk A team to produce the goods against the might of Edinburgh Accies. And although the scoreline finished 12-23 to the visitors, the coaches were pleased in the manner of response from the Souters. 'Our shape was much better this week, and we were unlucky not to be further in front by half time' was the response from Backs coach Darren Clapperton. 'We're still a young, developing team, but things are coming together and our first league win isn't far away, I'm sure of that'. The game started well for the home team. Secured line out ball by captain Liam Cassidy gave the platform for the backs to carve up the Accies defence, with Frazer Cullen and Cameron Easson combining to trouble their back line. An offside resulted in a penalty and Easson slotted the kick between the posts to put the hosts in front 3-0. Accies hit back with a penalty of their own but a high tackle on Sam Clark who continues to impress each week as hooker, gave the opportunity for Easson to increase the lead which he took, extending the lead to 6-3. The work rate of the home pack, including Veterans Jamie Turnbull and Ruaridh MacKessack-Leitch, was producing the platform for the backs to show their worth, and both Finlay Wheelans at centre and Thomas Martin at full back were causing the visitors problems with their attack runs and deft feet work. A further 2 penalties by Easson again extended their lead to 12-3 with half time approaching but it was Accies who finished the scoring with an unconverted try just before the break to bring the interval to 12-8 In Selkirk's favour. A game of two halves was indeed the case, with Accies starting to take the ascendancy through both their industrious pack and back line. A converted try put the Edinburgh outfit in front for the first time in the match at 12-15 with time running out. The introduction of Frazer Anderson sparked life in the back line and some enterprising play from deep in their own half nearly brought a try for winger Nathaniel Armstrong, but the referee judged that the winger was just held up on the line. With Accies scoring another unconverted try to extend their lead to 12-20, time was slipping away for the Souters to gain any advantage from the game, and a final penalty goal by Accies completed the scoring with the away team heading back up to road with a 12-23 win. Selkirk 'A' were unlucky not to get anything out of this game. Declan Broatch was instrumental throughout with his work rate, with both Matthew and Tam Stanners at props giving their all. Liam Davidson at scrum half produced a first class display with man of the match Thomas Martin dancing his way through the Accies defence on more than one occasion.

Credit to Bryan Hoggan for report

Photos: Grant Kinghorn

