

Selkirk v GHA 08.10.22

Saturday saw a mid-table tussle where Selkirk were looking to put their misdemeanours of last week behind them and push forward whilst GHA aimed to get second win away from home.

GHA put the pressure on Selkirk straight away when Callum Smyth knocked the ball on directly from the kick off, giving the visiting side an attacking scrum on the 22m. A steady platform to attack from was the aim however Selkirk showed their pack dominance winning a penalty. The kick to touch by Aaron McColm was missed but a fumble by GHA's Amena Caqusau gave the home side possession and territory. A number of inaccuracies and poor handling meant that the Souter's were unable to convert pressure in to points.

After securing possession from a scrum, GHA were looking to attack but an interception by Jack Hamilton thwarted this and put Selkirk on the go forward as he popped it to Lachlan Ferguson who had Ryan Cottrell for support. A kick through by Cottrell turned the defence and with pressure bearing down them GHA had no option but to make the ball dead by carrying it over their line resulting in another attacking scrum for Selkirk five metres from their try line. When the drive started coming from Selkirk, referee Tom French awarded a penalty as GHA were viewed to have collapsed the scrum. Up stepped Aaron McColm who slotted the penalty and getting the scoreboard moving for Selkirk, 3 –0.

The Glasgow visitors took 25 minutes to make their own mark on the game when Luca Bardelli gathered the ball and made a break down the middle of the pitch skipping past defenders but the pass to Luke McCutcheon was judged to be forward.

The home side were happy to play rugby in the opposition's half. A cross field kick from Ross Nixon to Finlay Wheelans running down the far side had the defence scrambling. A try saving tackle from his opposite number saw Wheelans end up in touch five metres from the line. After securing ball and maintaining possession, Gregor Drummond put in a clearance kick and eased the pressure. Finally getting some time on the ball and building the phases, saw GHA force the home side to give away penalties and when Monroe Job was caught offside this gave GHA the opportunity they were looking for. They secured line out ball and got moving forward when hooker, Archie Falconer broke off and went over the whitewash. Chris Hyde slotted the conversion, giving the visitors the lead. 3 – 7.

Selkirk's ill-discipline continued and saw Bruce Riddell yellow carded after a number of penalties were given away from the home side however the tide seemed to turn just at half time when referee Tom French sent GHA's Gregor Drummond to the side lines for 10 minutes as he was judged to have given two penalties away in quick succession. This allowed Aaron McColm to convert another penalty making the halftime score 6-7.

The second half looked to continue in the same manner as the first with a number of handling errors and poor accuracy resulting in the possession switching between the teams. It was GHA who drew first blood when an attacking scrum on Selkirk's 22 gave them the platform for Charlie Lonergan to crash through the defence and offload to Captain Dario Ewing who strolled under the posts. Hyde giving his team maximum points stretching their lead to 6 – 14.

That was it for the visiting side, as Selkirk seemed to wake up and take a hold of the game. A break from Ross Nixon who passed to winger Lachlan Ferguson in the midfield saw Selkirk enter their opposition's 22 once again. A searching pass to Ryan Cottrell looked to have fallen to the wrong hands but as the ball was fumbled, Ryan Godsmark quickly pounced on the bobbling ball giving his forwards a chance to batter the defensive wall on the try line. Frustration hit the visiting side and after a number of penalties, it was Sean Callaghan who was sin-binned. McColm brought his team back within range, slotting the ball between the uprights.

The momentum was firmly with Selkirk and the sheer dominance of the forward pack was too much for GHA who could only stop the rumbling mauls by collapsing them illegally and that was exactly what Adam Kerr done. This saw Kerr sent to the side lines and GHA went down a man for the third time. The Souter's knew this was their chance to squeeze the pressure. An attacking lineout on the opposition's 5m line resulted in a fast-flowing maul being set up and Zenon Szwagrzak being the man with ball as it rumbled over the line, McColm converted giving his team the lead, 16 – 14.

Things seemed to just get worse for the Glasgow side. A scrum on their 5m line was demolished by the mighty Souter's and Monroe Job was happy to fall on the ball as he controlled it over the line, getting himself an easy first try of his senior career and stretching the lead, 21- 14. Unfortunately, McColm was unable to convert as the ball bounced off the upright.

The home pack were firmly on the front foot and flexed their muscles once more when another pin point lineout was secured and roaring forward at a rate, it was Bruce Riddell who broke off and dived over line. McColm successful converted, giving Selkirk the win.

Final score 28 – 14

Photos by Grant Kinghorn





