

## Selkirk 2<sup>nd</sup> XV v Boroughmuir 2<sup>nd</sup> XV

After a 6 week layoff Selkirk 'A' returned to Rugby looking for that first home win in the Tennent's East Reserve League Division 1. And it was the young Souters who came away with a well-deserved bonus point win against Boroughmuir 2nds 30-10 to ease their relegation worries. The Philiphaugh men were first to get points on the board when returning scrum half Callum McEwan kicked ahead.



Forwards Robert Cook and Player Coach Neil Darling inter linked before sending winger Archie Penman over in the corner for the first try of the day. In difficult under foot conditions both teams continued to play rugby with the Meggetland outfit maintaining the majority of the ball in the first half. And they were rewarded with an unconverted try just before halftime through their forwards to level the scores 5-5 at the break. With the stiff breeze at their backs, it was Selkirk who took the initiative and powered their way down field with Fraser Cullen instrumental in keeping the back line moving at stand-off. An offside decision by the referee against 'Muir gave veteran David Cassidy a chance of 3 points, and from 35 metres out, the comeback king slotted the ball between the sticks to take the lead once more, 8-5. The Selkirk pack were gaining clean lineout ball, and after a series of pick and drives, Navy man Mohsin Aziz emerged from the pile of bodies to claim his second try of the season to put the Souters 15-5 ahead with Cassidy converting.



Selkirk were now on a charge with gaps starting to appear in the oppositions back line, and after being held up just short, Frazer Easson claimed his 6th try of the season to increase the Borderers lead to 20-5. Conditions were tricky with the pitch getting heavier as the game went on, but it was Selkirk who adapted better and the Souters were awarded a try through full back Guy Mallin who danced away over the line to claim the try and the bonus point. A tricky touchline conversion was made to look easy as Cassidy swung the ball over to make the score 27-5. A further penalty by Cassidy and a late try by Boroughmuir left the score at the final whistle 30-10 for the home side. "We asked for a full week's training, and a performance today, and that's exactly what we got" said a jubilant coach, Darren Clapperton. "Conditions weren't great, and we were missing a few key players, but this was a great team effort, producing our just deserts. It's been a long time coming but we knew we had it in us." Once again, the Selkirk 'A' pack produced a great platform for the ever-willing back line to test the opposition out throughout. Archie Penman impressed the spectators with his tackling and ball in hand, with Nathaniel Armstrong contributing much the same in the opposite wing. However, it was Captain Liam Cassidy who gained a richly deserved Man of

the match for a gritty performance and leadership throughout the 80 minutes.



Report by Bryan Hoggan

Photos by Grant Kinghorn