

## Selkirk 2<sup>nd</sup> XV v Heriots Blues 2<sup>nd</sup> XV

On a chilly February afternoon both Selkirk 'A' and Heriots Blue 2nds were eager to play rugby, with league leaders Heriots keen to stamp their authority early on in the match. However, it was the home team that outplayed their bigger rivals producing some creative and energetic play in the first half but failed to cross the whitewash. Against the run of play it was Heriots who scored first when hooker Stewart Mustard dropped over from close range from a driven maul. A missed penalty goal by Frazer Cullen kept the Souters in the Blues half but the Philiphaugh men just could not find that elusive touch down. A further converted try by Heriots completed the first half scoring and put the visitors ahead 14-0 at the break. Once again it was Selkirk who started the better team after the whistle, and after the hard yards were made by the forwards, Nathaniel Armstrong floated the ball out to Guy Mallin who, with work to do, managed to squeeze over in the right corner to bring the first score to Selkirk. But this failed to ignite a scoring frenzy for the home team, and a further 5 tries were scored by the impressive Heriots squad to end the game 5-47. Great credit must be given to Selkirk who could only manage to field 15 boys on the day, with each one given their all. Declan Broatch returned to the fray and turned in a first-class performance in the pack, with Fraser Cullen at stand off earning a man of the match award for keeping his back line going throughout.



Report and photos by Bryan Hoggan