

Hawick Force v Selkirk 'A' - 15.09.23

The Selkirk 'A' team travelled to Hawick on a miserable wet night hoping to dampen the spirits of their opposition. But it was the Souters who found themselves in deep water from the start, conceding a try from the kick off to trail 5-0 after only 2 minutes with James Delaney scoring in the left-hand corner for Hawick. Undeterred Selkirk took the game back to Hawick, with the forward pack pounding away at the Greens defence. Further drives by Declan Broatch and Liam Cassidy in the pack took the game deep into the Teries half, but as too often throughout the game, any momentum was snuffed out by a well drilled back line by the home team. A further converted try by Hawick increased their lead, with the weather conditions making attractive rugby near impossible, but with both teams willing to make a game of it. But was Hawick who would finish the half on a high with another try and 7 points to make the half time score 19-0. The second half kicked off once more in torrential rain driving down the Mansfield pitch, but the Philiphaugh men continued to try and find that elusive first try. Telling runs by full back Archie Penman and wingers Craig Bruce and Nathaniel Armstrong failed to produce any points and it was Hawick who would be first on the score sheet with Bailey Donaldson kicking over a penalty in the 60th minute to extend Hawicks lead to 22-0. A further 2 tries by the Green Machine concluded the scoring for the night bringing the final score to 34-0. The score however did not reflect the determination and courage showed by the young Souters team. Once again Finn Mallin showed up well at scrum half, with new prop Max Bury playing well for his first game for Selkirk. The return of flanker Blair Shiell was a welcome sight as well, as was that of David Donaldson who produced some powerful carriers throughout the game. Special thanks must go to Rory Monks for coming out of retirement to help fill a gap in the back line and to all the lads for playing in such atrocious conditions. Man on the match could have gone to many a soul on the night, but for his aggression in both attack and defence the award went to send row Ruaridh Murray.



Report and photo by Bryan Hoggan