

Selkirk 'A' v Gala A – 23.09.23

Saturday rugby returned for Selkirk 'A' as they entertained Gala 'A' at Philiphaugh. But unfortunately, winning ways did not, and a depleted Selkirk team were comprehensively beaten 14-64. As is too often the case for the Souters this season it was the opposition who claimed the first score with the Netherdale outfit touching down between the posts in the first 5 minutes to take the lead 0-7. But not to be outdone, Selkirk came back at the Maroons and after a series of pick and drives Ex Youth Club Captain Daniel Main claimed his first try for the club from one metre out to level the scores with Finn Mallin claiming the extras. Basic errors were proving costly for the home team which allowed Gala to take the lead once more with a converted try to take the score line to 7-14. Selkirk introduced 48-year-old Alan Clark to the fray, which added a bit composure to the back line and Selkirk were finding yards out wide, with both Craig Bruce and veteran David Cassidy making the hard yards up the middle. However, it was the visitors who finished the scoring off in the first half with another converted try to increase their lead 7-21 at the interval. A converted penalty at the start of the second half stretched Galas lead to 7-24 before a further 3 tries were scored against a tiring Selkirk side to take the Maroons to 7-48. But the Souters rallied and from enterprising work from the forwards once more, hooker Sam Clark claimed Selkirks second try of the match with Mallin converting once more to take the score to 14-48. But a further 3 tries finished off any chances Selkirk had of a try bonus with the game being concluded at 14-64 to Gala at the final whistle. Special mention must go to the front row of Mathew Stanners, Clark and Max Bury who shored up the scrum throughout, with an industrious back row of Declan Broatch, Blair Shiell and Liam Cassidy working tirelessly for the 80 minutes. Half backs Mallin and Frazer Cullen continue to cement their working relationship on the field, with Nathaniel Armstrong deserving his Man of the Match award with his abrasive tackling and clever feet work around the pitch throughout. 'It's the basics and fitness which dog us every week' was coach Darren Clapperton's words after the game. 'We burn out after 30 minutes which doesn't help, and fitness cost us points, especially in the 2nd half when more holes appeared in our defence. But we made Gala, at times work hard for their points, and there were spells throughout the match where we showed glimpses of what we have worked on at training. But we move on now, and our focus moves to Kelso next week which won't be an easy task.'





Report and photos by Bryan Hoggan