

## Selkirk 'A' v Peebles Reds – 08.09.23

Selkirk travelled to Peebles on Friday night in hope of securing their first win in the new look Border Junior League. However, it was the 'Reds' who just proved to be the winning side, coming away with a 20-5 win in the end. It was Peebles who scored first when a missed tackle in midfield led to an unconverted try after 5 minutes. However, the Souters hit back with some enterprising play by the pack to get within 5 metres of the Peebles try line. Quick ball by scrum half Finn Mallin released winger Nathaniel Armstrong on the short side who drew two men to then send hooker Sam Clark over in the corner for his first try of the season. The game remained pretty even throughout the first half with both teams probing for that elusive try to get their noses in front. And it was the Philiphaugh men whose defence sadly broke first when a line break up the left wing caught Selkirk snoozing and Peebles took their chance and touched down once more for another unconverted try to take the lead 10-5. Fraser Cullen at stand-off was clearly enjoying the night with clean ball coming to him all night with a workman like performance from his pack, but the back line failed in their attempts to break a strong 'Pees' defence which included Ex Selkirk player David Reives. Further injuries to Matthew Mackey which required stitches to his head brought the introduction of Thomas Bradbury to the fray for his first game for Selkirk, and the fencer put in a hard shift in his inaugural match for the club. Ross McFadzen at prop lit up the pitch under the flood lit skies as well with some telling carries throughout with Captain Liam Cassidy steadying the ship throughout. However, two further tries in the dying minutes brought Peebles their bonus point win and a conclusion to the night with a 20-5 win in an entertaining match at The Gytes. Special mention must go to Matthew Stanners who played a full 80 minutes at prop against a well drilled pack, and to Kyle Stillie who donned the Navy Blue for his first game in many years for Selkirk. "While disappointed with the result, there was glimpses of some of the structure we have been working on at training tonight' answered Manager Bryan Hoggan at full time. 'Fitness was definitely an issue, but there was no lack of enthusiasm from the boys, and we now move on, to focus our attention for our next game versus Hawick Force next week, where we won't get away with the mistakes we made tonight." Injuries to Guy Mallin (dislocated knee) and Andrew Davidson (torn muscles in thigh) didn't help the plans for the Souters on the night but the return of Connor Ward was a welcome sight and also of Robert Cook after a work injury proved crucial in Selkirk maintaining a strong hold on the game throughout the night.

