

President's Message

Our excellent away form continued at Selkirk last Saturday where we bounced back from a poor performance at home to Currie the previous week with a bonus point victory, our 3rd in a row away from Bridgehaugh. It wasn't all roses however as our lineout wasn't great again, we also really struggled with our kick off receptions where we only secured one in the whole game; what we did do was score some cracking tries to earn our bonus point against a gutsy never say die Selkirk who pulled the score back from 31 7 to 31 21 in the last 5 minutes.

Today we extend a warm welcome to Hawick, their President Ross Cameron (whose son propped for us a few seasons back) committee and supporters who have made the long trip from Hawick, Hawick are in a rich vein of form, they possess a formidable lineout run by recent Scotland cap Scott MacLeod as well as a set of backs who can be a right handful, Rory Hutton is one of my favourite players in the Premiership and will take some watching this afternoon.

I also welcome John Thorburn the Hawick Vice President, John is also Secretary of the fabulous Bill McLaren Foundation. The 3 main aims of the Foundation are to develop and promote the sport of rugby union and its values, to encourage and provide sporting opportunities for young people, to create an educative centre which will include the Bill McLaren Archive. Bill used to love his trips to Bridgehaugh especially as he had grandchildren living in Dollar. <http://www.billmclarenfoundation.co.uk/>

The Ladies lunch 2 weeks ago was a big success with numbers growing, I know they all had a good time as I witnessed the carnage late into the day, the chosen charity Town Break provides person-centred services to support people with dementia and their carers using the skills of trained, supportive and committed staff and volunteers, I'm pleased to announce that we raised a whopping £1,700....great effort by all.

John Wright
Club President

Adamson's Analysis

Following our undefeated October, we were brought back down to earth with a bump with a fairly lackluster display against Currie. However, the team bounced back well this week with a reasonable display against a resurgent Selkirk side. Selkirk had been going well of late, so to achieve another bonus point victory away from home was very satisfying. It was a good weekend for the club, with the 2nds and U18s also winning, with only the weather denying our 3rds their chance of victory to add to the list.

For the 1st XV, another victory means we should now be focusing our attention to the top half of the league. Despite Ayr running away with it slightly at the moment, a top 4 finish is all that is required to be in the mix come the end of the season. Something that we feel is now very achievable, despite our early season form.

The change in fortune has come through a positive ethos and approach to how we train and play. Despite having conceded the second most points in the league, whilst frustrating, it isn't something we're overly concerned about as we know that we can score tries to win games. Think Newcastle United under Kevin Keegan and you get the gist. The positive outlook to how we play has been epitomised by the players who have joined the club from overseas. Whilst the core of the team remains local boys, the overseas players have brought

a freshness and positivity to the team that perhaps has been missing the past couple of seasons.

At this level, the game still remains mainly amateur, so enjoyment has to be the biggest driver for players to play. So, with this in mind, how we train and how we play needs to reflect this. The other coaches and I have embraced the refreshing outlook to the game displayed to us by our antipodean players. Sure, winning is important, but by playing the game with a bit of freedom and an air of “risk and reward”, it has allowed our players to express themselves, which in turn gets the best out of them, which hopefully means our performances will be of a winning standard too.

And so to today, we welcome a Hawick side who have put in a string of very impressive performances of late, and who themselves seem to be playing with a bit more freedom. Having already made reference to Kevin Keegan in this article, I wouldn’t then want to quote him. But with this in mind, we will be doing all we can to keep our good form going, and get the win against a good Hawick side to keep our ascent up the table and so really challenge for a top 4 finish.