

BORDERS RUGBY

SELKIRK RFC

Although Selkirk Rugby Football Club was not officially instituted until 1907, The "Southern Reporter" newspaper records a Selkirk v. Gala rugby match in 1877, while Selkirk sent a team to the inaugural Melrose Sevens in 1883. The club officially took over its present Philiphaugh ground in 1926, moving from the adjacent cricket field and inaugurated the new stand and pitch with a match against old rivals Gala.

Selkirk has produced a total of 12 Scotland internationalists, the best known being fly-half John Rutherford who gained 42 caps for his country and represented the British Lions in New Zealand in 1983, scoring a try against the All Blacks in the Dunedin Test.

In addition to running two club XV's, Selkirk has an active mini-rugby section called The Rhinos, while its over-35 team - The Vets - has travelled throughout Europe and plays once a month during the season. The club also enjoys close links with Selkirk Youth Club, as well as Selkirk High School, whose rugby teams use the club's Philiphaugh facilities for their Saturday morning matches.

Selkirk Rugby Football Club's first overseas tour was made to Toronto in 1979, with the team winning all five of its matches. Three further trips have been made to Canada.

Over the years Selkirk has enjoyed success in the Autumn and Spring Sevens Tournaments, and the club was invited to represent Scottish Rugby at the Middlesex Sevens held at Twickenham in May 1995, progressing to the quarter-finals.

Visit their website at www.selkirkrfc.com

MELROSE 7s

Rugby 7s was founded in Melrose in 1883. The game of rugby 7s is now played on an international stage from Hong Kong to Scotland and is testimony to its founder in the Scottish Borders town, Ned Haig.

Melrose is most famous as the host of the first ever 7-a-side rugby tournament in 1883, having been the brainchild of Ned Haig, a local butcher. Melrose has consistently been in the upper echelons of the Scottish game and are presently Scottish Cup holders.

Previous years have included sevens guests Randwick and Manly from Australia, Bay of Plenty from New Zealand, University of Free State and Stellenbosch from South Africa. Europe has been represented by guests from England, France, Portugal and Ireland to name a few.