

## Royal High School FP win the Melrose Sevens

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### MELROSE "SEVENS" ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL (F.P.) WIN KELSO BEATEN IN FINAL

The annual seven-a-side tournament of the Melrose Club proved as great an attraction as ever, and 10,000 spectators, including a big contingent from Edinburgh, enjoyed a long afternoon's sport. There was rain at times, but on the whole the conditions were quite good, though early in the proceedings the wind was strong enough to affect the play.

There were 16 teams competing, and it was appropriate that the joint-holders of the Scottish Club Championship, Royal High School (F.P.) should emerge winners. They were a sound and clever combination, and there was never much doubt of their superiority over Kelso, whose presence in the final was due more to dogged determination and the unflagging energy of J. Graham, who was making a return to the "sevens" game, than to any notable cohesive qualities. The Schoolmen, who recorded the biggest win of the afternoon in the final, were an exceptionally smart company, though their play in the final was superior to any of their earlier displays. Following a first-round win against Heriot's (F.P.), they were hard put to it to overcome Melrose, and then their semi-final success over Hillhead High School (F.P.), the other joint-champions, was anything but impressive. A "snap" try by R. C. Logan, who intercepted a pass by J. L. Cotter, took the Edinburgh side through there. W. D. Emslie and J. Park struck a brilliant vein against Kelso, their co-operation being a delight to watch, and D. Murray also did valuable work at scrum-half. Park showed his best form then, and more than once spectacular flying tackles by him accounted for Kelso's fast man, R. F. Kennedy.

Hillhead High School (F.P.) made many friends right away by their first-round win over Hawick, the winners of the tournament last year. The Borderers were outpaced and out-mancuvred behind the scrum, but the weight of their forwards enabled them to get on level terms in the last minute of the tie. Hillhead, the better team, snatched a try by I. F. Dawson, the cleverest scrum-half playing, after a minute's extra time, and went on to beat Gala, who had rather luckily accounted for the Watsonians, the winners of the Murrayfield tournament, in decisive fashion, thanks to the splendid handling and running of Cotter and W. A. and A. Ross. By the time the Glasgow men were ready for the semi-final their light forwards had tired, and the seven were never able to reproduce their early sparkle.

Of the other teams engaged, Dunfermline, for whom H. Lind was outstanding, shaped extremely well, and clear-cut victories by them over Stewart's College (F.P.) and Edinburgh Wanderers suggested an all-round finish that would take them far, but they were distinctly out of luck in their semi-final tie with Kelso. The Fife men were the cleverer team, and though they put in a gallant finish they could not get ahead. There was a cleverness about the Fifers that suggested they might have been better finalists than the Borderers.

In the final Royal High School (F.P.) took an early lead, Murray breaking away from a scrum and starting a movement which ended with W. D. Emslie making the running for Logan to get over for a try, which T. R. Mitchell converted. After Murray had just been unsuccessful in turning a free kick to account, a long run by J. Park took the Schoolmen up to the Kelso line, where the internationalist passed in to Emslie, who scored a second try, Mitchell again converting. Kelso made a bold bid to decrease their deficit shortly after the change over, and R. Service was going strongly for the line when Park managed to get him from behind. Another tackle by Park stopped R. F. Kennedy, and then Emslie dribbled clear and finding the ball bounce favourably for him scored an easy try. Mitchell again added the extra points. Before the finish the tie had become so one-sided as to lose much of its interest, and R. Bisset emphasised the School's superiority when he rounded off the scoring by getting a runaway try. Mitchell again kicked a goal.

First Round:—Melrose, 2 goals, 1 try (13 pts.); Jedforest, 0. Royal High School (F.P.), 1 goal, 1 try (8 pts.); Heriot's (F.P.), 0. Gala, 1 goal (5 pts.); Watsonians, 1 try (3 pts.) Hillhead High School (F.P.), 2 tries (6 pts.); Hawick, 1 try (3 pts.) (after extra time.) Edinburgh Academicals, 2 goals, 2 tries (16 pts.); Langholm, 0. Kelso, 1 goal, 2 tries (11 pts.); Edinburgh Institution (F.P.), 1 try (3 pts.) Edinburgh Wanderers, 2 goals, 3 tries (19 pts.); Selkirk, 1 goal, 1 try (6 pts.) Dunfermline, 1 goal 1 penalty goal, 1 try (11 pts.); Stewart's (F.P.), 0.

Second Round—Royal High School (F.P.), 3 tries (9 pts.); Melrose, 2 tries (6 pts.) Hillhead High School (F.P.) 2 goals, 1 try (13 pts.); Gala, 1 try (3 pts.) Kelso, 2 goals, 2 tries (16 pts.); Edinburgh Academicals, 1 goal, 1 try (8 pts.) Dunfermline, 1 goal, 2 tries (11 pts.); Edinburgh Wanderers, 1 goal (5 pts.)

Semi-Final—Royal High School (F.P.), 1 try (3 pts.); Hillhead High School (F.P.), 0. Kelso, 1 goal (5 pts.); Dunfermline, 1 dropped goal (4 pts.)

Final—Royal High School (F.P.), 4 goals (20 pts.); Kelso, 0.

Royal High School (F.P.)—J. Park, R. C. Logan, W. D. Emslie, D. Murray, T. S. Brotherstone, T. R. Mitchell, and R. Bisset.

Kelso—R. Service, R. F. Kennedy, J. Bennet, T. Chalmers, G. S. Cottingham, J. Graham, and J. H. P. Blackadder.

A mile handicap race, open to amateurs, was carried through during the proceedings. There were 19 runners, and the result was:—1, J. Cairns, Gala Harriers (owes 120 yards); 2, W. Smith, Teviotdale Harriers (140 yards); 3, G. Armstrong, Teviotdale Harriers (140 yards.) Cairns won on the tape; time, 4 mins. 34 5-5 secs.

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