

# DUNBAR RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

1930 - 1931



Dunbar travelled to Berwick on Saturday with a good reputation, having in all their games this season shown an improvement in almost every department of the team. Unfortunately, Berwick had to field a weak side, absentees including Adam

Elliot, D. Riddell, J. and R. Robinson, W. Glahane, J. Brotherston, D. Hodgson, and R. Hogg. The game at Dunbar earlier in the season resulted in a draw, but the prospects of a draw at East Hare Road were very remote.

Dunbar arrived with two players short, and T. C. Fraser played forward for Dunbar. At five past minute W. V. Ross was unable to play and C. Short, Humbleton, deputized.

## Dunbar Attack Strongly.

Playing with the wind in their favour, Dunbar attacked strongly and the ensuing play which was of a scrappy nature took place on the border of the Berwick '25' line. Scrums were frequent, and scarcely any player distinguished himself at this time. Davidson and Clow at scrum half and stand off respectively, gave some fine opportunities to the Berwick forwards, but there was a distinct weakness in the line which prevented attack scoring any fruit.

After a long period of pressing, during which Berwick had to touch down twice, A. S. Davidson relieved with a long kick into touch. A series of throws in eventuated, Nelson of Berwick, and W. A. Davidson being prominent. In the loose rushes, J. Gilchrist and G. S. Davidson were good and the former was responsible for many breaks away. Up to this time Holdstock, the Dunbar clever three-quarter, had little opportunity of showing his skill, but a neat pass from Anderson saw him almost through when Short brought off an excellent tackle.

## Berwick Threes Do Well.

Dunbar were getting the ball from the scrums and considering this the Berwick threes did extremely well. Marking was good and the tackling equally so, but when the home threes got moving, they were inclined to bunch and hampered their own movements. Skelly was bad in this respect and he was slow in passing. A nice movement was started by A. S. Davidson followed on by Clow and W. S. Davidson, and touch was found near Dunbar '25'.

In the next few minutes little or nothing of interest can be recorded except perhaps, for another effective tackle by Short, who appeared to have succeeded in fattening Holdstock's skill with the side step. A. S. Davidson brightened up the play when he tried a drop kick which unfortunately did not rise.

Dunbar's game was unexpected, carrying play from the Dunbar '25'. Holdstock succeeded in getting through a line of Berwick players. He was tackled no fewer than four times unavailingly, and when meeting Berwick's '25' Short came across and pulled him down. Holdstock however got the ball out to Knox, who, when tackled by Gleig, passed it to Wilkie for the latter to run over and score near the posts. Holdstock brought out full points. Half-time—Berwick, nil; Dunbar, 1 goal, 5 points.

## Play Degenerates In 2nd Half.

Though the play had not been up to standard in the first half it degenerated in the second, and at the finish Dunbar were better in the loose than Berwick forwards. It was rather strange that the wind which had assisted Dunbar in the first half had veered round, and in the second half Berwick had still to face this drawback. There were very few movements on the part of Berwick three-quarters and play generally was confined to the forwards. Holdstock made considerable ground for Dunbar shortly after the restart and when Wight fielded badly Berwick line was only saved by the ball running into touch.

The game was very disappointing one from a spectator's point of view and there were few incidents in play worth recording. When close up to the line, Berwick were given a penalty kick for a offside infringement and with this A. S. Davidson scored Berwick's points.

Prominent among the Berwick forwards at this period was G. S. Davidson, and after dribbling through the defence it appeared certain that he would score. In the race for the touch down however Burton won. One of the most effective in the loose, of the Dunbar forwards was T. C. Fraser the Berwick player, who went to assist Dunbar's depleted team. The nature of the play became worse as the game wore on and neither team seemed able to make any headway. Holdstock on one occasion ran through the defence but Wight spoiled his movement.

Some five minutes from the finish T. P. Robertson, a Dunbar forward, had the misfortune of fracturing his left leg, just above the ankle. It happened in a loose scrum when his foot came in contact with Elliot's. He was carried off and there being three doctors present he immediately had his leg placed in splints.

In the last three minutes play was confined to midfield. Result—Berwick, 1 penalty goal (3 pts); Dunbar, 1 goal (5 pts).

## Comments.

Little can be said of the game, other than it was of a scrappy nature. Of the Berwick forwards, Short, Elliot and Gleig were the best; Clow and Davidson played quite well, but there was a weakness among the forwards. The Dunbar back was supported well by his thrives of which Holdstock was the best. Lawrie and Knox played well together, and of the forwards Wilkie, Fraser and Robertson were conspicuous.

Berwick—T. Wight, J. Elliot, D. Short, J. F. Skelly, L. F. Gleig; A. S. Davidson and Clow; W. A. Davidson, J. Nelson, P. S. D. Gleig, G. S. Davidson, W. S. Davidson, and J. Turnbull.

Dunbar—C. Burton; J. Dunn, H. Holdstock, D. Anderson, R. McFarlane; J. Lawrie and R. Knox; W. Wilkie, W. Swann, T. S. Fraser, T. P. Robertson, D. Drysdale, D. Bowe and A. Y. Badd.

Referee—Dr J. C. Mackay.