



tantalingly outside the recognised Border rugby circle and has thus never benefited from inclusion in that select group. Strong ties do exist, however, and SRU records for 1931-32 show that Langholm and Dumfries were permitted to play for a long lost medal (dating from 1880) which had recently been recovered.

The medal was subsequently mislaid again, and Dumfries

secretary Mike Galt would be delighted to hear from anyone who knows of the whereabouts of that medal today.

In 1959-60 the senior side lost only nine of its 42 matches, with one of the strongest sides yet to play at Park Farm.

In 1960, Hawick Linden won the club's first sevens tournament. They have lifted the trophy on a subsequent six occasions, with

Hawick YM one behind with five wins, but Gala YM have become almost permanent custodians and this season's victory saw their name appearing on the McDonald Cup for the tenth time.

Dumfries have yet to provide their first internationalist out of the club, but have nevertheless had their share of "weel kent" faces - former president D.J. McMyn, capped eleven times out of Cambridge University and London Scottish; the peerless Arthur Smith; Hugh Duffy, capped against France while with Jed-Forest in 1955; and most recently Alister Biggar, son of Dumfries stalwart Ken, capped 12 times after moving south and joining London Scottish.

During 1963, Chris Mason, today the honorary president of Dumfries, was the driving force behind the setting up of a development fund which led to the club being able, in 1969, to build an excellent clubhouse at Park Farm, having re-negotiated a 21 year lease on two pitches the year before. Changing facilities for 60 players, showers, club rooms, and car park cost £74,000, half of which, due to tremendous efforts by members and players, the club put up.

The new premises were officially opened on September 22 that year by Sir Hector Monro MP. The occasion was celebrated by a Dumfries Select beating the Scottish Border Club 14-9. The teams that night were: **Dumfries:** D. Devlin (Langholm); E. Kerr, A. McCulloch (Dumfries), N. Davidson, E. Beattie (Langholm); I. Davidson (West) and

R.B. Grieve (Langholm); W.D. Hodge (Dumfries, capt), Q. Dunlop (West), J.N. Stevenson (Langholm), V.S.J. Harding (Edinburgh Wands and England), R. McTurk, D.T. Bogie, D.A. Tait (Dumfries), and T.G. Elliot (Langholm and Scotland).

Scottish Border Club: D.S. Cranston; D. Gray (Hawick), G.D. Tweedie (Melrose), C. Scott (Jed), J.R. Fleming (Kelso); J. Dickson (Selkirk) and R.M. Johnstone (Langholm); A. Piercy (Selkirk), M. Laidlaw (Melrose), E. McCallum (Hawick), W.L. Ingram (Melrose), D. Bell (Selkirk), G.G. Lyall (Hawick), E. Allan and J. Sharp (Melrose).

A further clubhouse development in 1984 was described in the programme for the Dumfries v SRU President's XV as: "The culmination of many years planning and hard work by members supported by local businesses and townsfolk. The new clubhouse will provide a focal point for rugby in the area, for both players and non-players, and will stimulate the continued growth of Dumfries RFC."

And so it proved. With the advent of the leagues in 1973-74, Dumfries were mid-table performers in Division 5 (West) for two seasons, in Division 5 for seven seasons, going up to Division 4 in 1982-83 and there, until this year's capture of the Division 4 title, they remained.

A model of consistency they proved to be, collecting, in successive seasons, 11, 13, 12, 12, 13, 13, 9 and 16 points. The 16 points in season 1989-90, although four off

Jock straps - not the only thing supporting Dumfries Rugby Club!

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