



promotion, laid the foundation for last season's efforts.

Promotion was virtually guaranteed with a memorable 19-16 victory over Hutchesons/Aloysians at Park Farm, the visitors having come back from 19-3 down in a match which will pass into club legend, then the title clinched with

victory over Greenock Wanderers.

Skipper Micky Hunt was full of praise for the level of commitment which coaches Tom Kennedy and Jack Davidson engendered among the players, and with the forwards' ability to win good ball, the more expansive game played by the backs created the opportunities for the vital

contributions by stand off Colin Barbour and winger Peter McGill.

The most telling factor of all, however, had to be achieving the fourth lowest points against any side in the national leagues, and the midfield defence of Gordon Erkstein and Barry McGuire, with the total commitment of young Otago flanker Hamish McKay, can take the kudos for that.

Cup rugby has brought a lot of satisfaction in recent seasons, with, in 1988-89, a semi final place in the River Series Cup where Stewarts/Melville were made to work hard for their 22-13 win and two Glasgow and District Cup finals in the last three seasons, both lost to close rivals Wigtownshire.

Perhaps the most refreshing development at Park Farm in recent years has been the growth of mini rugby. I remember talking to Tuck Rennie some years ago when he was about to bring sides to the well established Ayr tournament and the doubts he expressed about exposing his inexperienced lads to boys who

had been playing for three or four years. Changed days!

Not only do Dumfries regularly lift trophies around the country, their own tournament goes from strength to strength and a foundation has been laid for a solid youth section which will be invaluable in years to come.

An annual fixture with Seven Sisters, fixtures with Hartlepool and Cockermouth, and a successful two match tour of Holland this season have ensured a variety of opposition, and the unique Octocentenary Cup has seen the Co-Optimists, Scottish Border Club, Glasgow XV (twice), Saltires (1989 in aid of the Lockerbie Disaster Fund), and a Dumfries and Galloway Select visit Park Farm in recent years.

A further clubhouse development is well ahead, and with their forward thinking and hard working committee backed by an enviable sponsorship network in the town, Dumfries have proved that even away from the traditional rugby centres, you can still be successful.

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