



Southern Comfort: The Story of Borders Rugby

Neil Drysdale

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For the last 140 years, the south of Scotland has been a powerhouse of rugby union. Despite the area's small population, it has produced clubs in the mould of Hawick, Gala and Melrose, whose names are known wherever the sport is played. And from these organisations has sprung a sublime string of world-class players, which includes the likes of Jim Telfer and Hugh McLeod, John Rutherford and Roy Laidlaw, Jim Renwick and John Jeffrey, Craig Chalmers and Gary Armstrong. Off the pitch, the Borders bequeathed the game of Sevens to the world, and individuals such as Telfer were at the forefront of Scotland's twin Grand Slams in 1984 and 1990, and the British and Irish Lions' success in South Africa in 1997. Including interviews with many of the leading protagonists, including Telfer, Rutherford, Laidlaw, Renwick, Chalmers, Colin Deans, Doddie Weir and the most-capped Scotsman in rugby history, Chris Paterson, Southern Comfort paints a vivid picture of how the South thrived on the mustard-keen rivalry between their communities, bolstered by pioneering individuals with radical ideas, whose efforts were complemented by the peerless tones of 'The Voice of Rugby', Bill McLaren, who spread the union gospel to every corner of the globe. Proudly published in association with the Bill McLaren Foundation



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