

## West 36-12 Murrayfield Wanderers

West started the season against another old rugby club, Murrayfield Wanderers. Wanderers are in some ways the Edinburgh equivalent to West, having been an open club when the other clubs were tied to various schools.

Conditions were bright and calm, the pitch perfect – ideal conditions for running rugby which is exactly what both teams were set on delivering. There were a lot of new faces for West with players moving up from the 18s and a new coach.

Murrayfield started best, and after some scrappy initial exchanges first missed a penalty then opened the scoring when a break through the middle resulted in a 2 on 1, captain Livio scoring under the posts. Lee converted and it was 0-7.



West weren't long in hitting back. Firstly they were held up on the line then a series of passes saw a smart flip pass from new out half Nicholson found winger Matthews who scored under the posts. Nicholson converted to even the scores.

Then West, who had been dominant in the scrums, stole a Murrayfield scrum and the ball reached Matthews who forced his way over for his second score. The conversion was missed but West led 12-7.

West repeated the dose when a passing move found Matthews again who stormed over the line for a hat trick in his first match for the 1s, having come up from the 18s last year. He looks a terrific prospect as does Nicholson, who converted to make it 17-7 for West.

Yet another good West passing move released flying winger Ossi who scored under the posts. Nicholson could hardly miss and he didn't, making it 24-7 to West.

The visitors clawed a try back just before half time when they found an overlap and winger Golding scored in the corner unconverted and it was 24-12 at half time.

The Murrayfield score seemed to stop West running away with things as the second half was far more even.

Both sides pegged away without success until Nicholson converted a penalty to make it 29-12 and keep Wanderers out of two try range. Then West scored their final try when a good passing move including club stalwart Fullarton making a good miss pass uncharacteristic of a hooker to find Sutcliffe who scored in the corner to make it 36-12 after Nicholson converted.



That was it for the scoring but a promising West side are through to the next round of the cup, which hasn't happened for a few years. Next up is a long away trip to Orkney for the first league match before a home return against Murrayfield in the league.