

## West 33-25 Murrayfield Wanderers

A sunny but showery day saw West's first home game in the league, having beaten Murrayfield two weeks ago in the Cup. A difficult away win against Orkney had started the league campaign nicely for West, and the Edinburgh side returned to Burnbrae with a fuller complement of players.

Wanderers opened the scoring with a successful penalty shot by Lachlan Lee, but West missed a penalty a few minutes later so were right in it.

West were showing more attacking intent and went into the lead when a run through the middle by Jamie MacAulay split the defence and when he passed to Nicky Sutcliffe a touch down under the



posts was converted by Dru Nicholson and West led 7-3.

After a strong scrum West were about to score when they dropped the ball and flying winger Calum Marshall broke out and won the foot race to the line. The conversion was missed but the visitors were back in the lead at 7-8. If that seemed a fluke, Marshall proved otherwise when he won another foot race to the line after a defensive clearance,

again unconverted. West suffered a yellow card to Ally Doull for a punch and it was 7-13 at half time.

After the break it was West winning a foot race with Rowland Ossi breaking clear and scoring, with Dru Nicholson converting to put West back in the lead 14-13.

Murrayfield's best tactics appeared to be to pass to Calum Marshall and when they did just that, he scored a deserved hat trick, again no conversion but Wandies were now ahead again 14-18.

West weren't happy with affairs, however, and hit back, banging away at the Murrayfield line until a catch & drive was converted by Scott Cochrane at the base. No extras, but West led 19-18.

West pushed on and after another powerful catch & drive Danny Dineen grounded. Dru Nicholson converted and it was 26-18, with West's try bonus in the bag.



This was always a close match and Murrayfield won their own try bonus when yet again Calum Marshall broke clear, this time passing to full back Michael Pomphrey who scored in the corner. Lachlan Lee landed the difficult conversion and it was close again at 26-23.

West weren't finished though and after a passing move Alex Fiskin battled through the defence and scored under the posts, Dru Nicholson finishing the scoring at 33-25. It had been an enthralling game between two clubs who have been playing each other since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A Borders visit to St Boswells away next week awaits but West have started well.

West team 1. Neil Fullarton, 2 Dylan Dawson, 3. Andy Love, 4. Scott Cochrane, 5. James Harley, 6. Ally Doull, 7. Craig McCall, 8. Jamie McAulay, 9. Jacob Siems, 10. Dru Nicholson, 11. Rowland Ossi, 12. Nicky Sutcliffe, 13. Mark Sim, 14. Dylan Matthews, 15. Alex Fiskien. Subs 16. . Danny Dineen, 17. Jack Gemmell, 18. Harry Brewster, 19. Matthew Irvine.