

West 14-61 Lasswade

West started the campaign with a cup preliminary round against Midlothian side Lasswade, who were relegated from the league above West last year. The visitors had their first selections out, many of whom were much larger than their West counterparts. It was a much changed West team since last season with many players not yet ready for the new season.

Early exchanges were even and error strewn as could be expected from a season opener. Lasswade opened the scoring when the ball was slipped inside for scrum half Russell Gladstone to score. Matthew Smith landed the difficult conversion.



Lasswade were much the more powerful scrummagers and a scrum against the head saw them score through prop Graeme Cook, Matthew Smith converting.

Another good scrum saw the visitors score again, Louis Wichary scoring, Matthew Smith converting again. Lasswade won a penalty and elected for a scrum, the number 8 drove forward, tying up the defence so there was a big overlap and Matthew Smith scored in the corner, uncharacteristically missing the extras, but it was still 0-26 to Lasswade at half time.

Things didn't get much better for West after the break, another elected scrum seeing a pushover try by no 8 Dale Robertson, the impressive Matthew Smith converting yet again.

Good Lasswade passing saw Russell Gladstone scoring his second under the posts, Matthew Smith easily converting. Then a foot race to the line West probably should have won saw full back Andrew Hall make it 0-47 after the inevitable Matthew Smith conversion.

A raft of substitutions saw Lasswade take their biggest players off and West adding some bulk. It worked straight away when a good passing move found Rory Cuthbertson sneaking in to score, Sean Cardin converting.

West scored again when a well controlled scrum marshalled by Fraser Smeaton saw the ball passed out to Tom Smith who muscled his way over. Sean Cardin converted and it was 14-47 and looking a bit healthier.



It wasn't to last as a good Lasswade passing move found Lewis Burns, converted as usual by Matthew Smith. The final try was mystifying when West appeared to have tackled winger Christopher Blackie but let go and he ran in to score, Matthew Smith converting for a 14-61 final scoreline. No cup run for West this year, but the team should be stronger for league matches. Lasswade were well worth their win, Matthew Smith showing some of the best place kicking to be seen at this level.

West team: 1. Douglas Thorpe, 2 Sean Hendry, 3. Dan York, 4. James Harley, 5. Keiron Grant,
6. Tom Smith, 7. Craig McCall, 8. Marc Zoma, 9. Rory Cuthbertson, 10. Sean Cardin,
11. Will Murray, 12. Nicky Sutcliffe, 13 Dylan Matthews, 14. Drew Reddie,
15. Martin Wallace.

Subs 16. Fraser Smeaton, 17. Max Bowie, 18. Graeme Wallace