

Berwick 20-19 West

West travelled to England to play Berwick on the day England lost to South Africa in the World Cup final. This may seem odd but much of Berwick's catchment area is in Scotland and they are situated North of most of the Borders teams. Many of their members were actually happy at the RWC result. Berwick have been doing well, having won a cup final at Murrayfield last season and are riding high in the league.

West started well in the forwards, but it looked as if recent defensive failings were continuing when Berwick scored early on, finding an overlap from a driving maul, winger Adrian Rosie scoring in the corner, converted by Jack Webster.



West won a kickable penalty converted by Dru Nicholson to peg the score back to 7-3. Berwick's hospitality was excellent off the pitch, and their players lived up to that by gifting an interception to Calum Booth who ran in under the posts, Dru Nicholson converting to make it 7-10.

A strong West scrum led to another penalty converted by Dru Nicholson, before Berwick attempted to hit back. Their tactics focussed on the driving maul, which West defended admirably. Berwick dropped the ball when about to score, before a good West passing move ended up in another penalty converted by Dru Nicholson, making it 7-16 at half time.

West missed a long range penalty just after half time and then won a breakdown penalty converted by Dru Nicholson. Berwick won a penalty and at last decided to kick at goal, this time successfully through Jack Webster. It was 10-19, and West sniffed a victory.

The rest of the half saw Berwick camped in West's half. West managed to hold out defensively until at last a pushover try converted by Webster saw them narrow the gap to 17-19.

Berwick brought on some powerful replacements and had a try disallowed, before a maul collapse gave Berwick a penalty. Jack Webster scored to give Berwick the lead 20-19.

West were now realistically trying to hold on to a losing bonus point, and Scott Cochrane sacrificed himself to a yellow card keeping Berwick out. Sean Carden suffered a red card at the end for dissent but West managed to at least gain a point from proceedings.

West really wanted more points but the defence was much better, and this could just be a turning point for the season.



West team: 1. Peter Rhodes, 2 Dylan Dawson, 3. Andrew Love, 4. Scott Cochrane, 5. Josh Geddes, 6 Grant Bowie, 7. Max Bowie, 8. Tom Smith, 9. Jamie Carruth, 10. Dru Nicholson, 11. Fraser Bland, 12. Nicky Sutcliffe, 13 Blair Smith, 14. Calum Booth, 15. Sean Cardin.
Subs 16. Dan York, 18. Drew Reddie, 19. Graeme Wallace.