

## West 13-12 Howe of Fife

On a day with constant rainfall, West faced Coupar side Howe of Fife. Howe have produced some notable players in recent years including the Horne brothers, Chris Fusaro and Matt Fageron.



It was obvious from the start that it was not a day for silky passing moves and both sides had to work hard to get things moving. West opened the scoring when they won a penalty in front of the posts. On another day West might have kicked to the corner but margins were going to be tight so Dru Nicholson took the shot and converted to make the score 3-0.

West took another penalty but this time it hit the post, and Howe managed to clear. The visitors from Fife were the ones to score next after out half Sam Rowlands ran a superb line, jinking through the defence to score, missing his own conversion and it was now 3-5.

Howe were winning the breakdown with some impressive work, although West were winning nearly everything else, dominating the scrums and defending well. Lineouts were not working for either side until the Fifers managed to set up a driving maul near the line, James Lawrie grounding the pushover try, converted by Sam Rowlands so it was 3-12.

West didn't let the score run away on them and hit back quickly. A good passing move didn't quite go to hand before a surging break by Drew Reddie created some space and after some pick and drives, John Vasconcelos grounded under the posts, Dru Nicholson converting to make it 10-12 at half time.

Readers of the scoreline will quickly realise that scoring wasn't happening much in the second half. Conditions were even worse, with the wind getting up and the rain getting heavier. The pitch stood up well, but handling was very difficult.

Both sides plugged away, with margins very fine. Every time West thought they had a break they were pulled up for some technical offence or other, Howe couldn't gain much ground either as West were defending well.



Full time was approaching with West trailing by 2, and they won a long range penalty but the shot missed. Then they won another penalty a long way up and Sean Carden stepped up. This one sailed between the posts much to the relief of the West fans as well as the players. West defended to the final whistle and ran out 13-12 winners, which solidifies their mid table position.

West Ladies had a thumping play off win as well so it was a happy if rather damp clubhouse at Burnbrae.

**West team:** 1.Peter Rhodes, 2. John Vasconcelos, 3. Andrew Love, 4. Scott Cochrane,  
5.Josh Geddes, 6 Tom Smith, 7. Max Bowie, 8 Mark Zoma., 9. Jamie Carruth,  
10.Dru Nicholson, 11. Fraser Brand, 12. Drew Reddie, 13. Sean Carden, 14. Mark Sim,  
15 Rory Cuthbertson.

**Subs:** 16. Dylan Dawson, 17.Ronan McLaren 18.Martin Wallace