

West 8 ; Berwick 26

West hosted Berwick from across the border - who nevertheless play in the Scottish Leagues.

The weather had moderated from the storms of the last few weeks to a mild gale so the game was able to be played on the main grass pitch at Burnbrae. Berwick sit clear at the top of National 3 so it was going to be a big ask for the home side to gain the points. However apart from a poor start and a 20 minute period towards the end of the first half West gave as good as they got.



Playing with the strong wind in the first half West's clearance kick from the start was charged down and they were immediately under pressure. A penalty however allowed them to clear their lines with a kick to touch. Throw-ins were a bit of a lottery with the wind and the visitors stole the West ball, again encroaching into the West half. A knock on by Berwick saw West gain a scrum penalty and the kick to touch finally took them into the Berwick half. A series of penalties for both sides finally saw West within kicking distance of the posts

and Dru Nicholson succeeded with the 3 points. The game was fairly even at this point with West making good breaks into the visitors half. The pace of the game was fast, even frenetic at some points, but the weather played its part as well with handling difficult and knock-ons frequently breaking the game up.

In the second quarter Berwick had the upper hand, scoring three tries in that period. The first followed from some confused play on the West 10m line resulting in an overlap by Berwick on the stand wing allowing their winger James Thomson to touch down. Converted by their stand-off Jack Webster. Shortly thereafter this was repeated on the other wing with the touch down by Gareth Hill. Conversion missed. Then pressure on the West line finally saw a break through the middle with centre Aiden Rose touching down under the posts, duly converted. This took the half time score to 3 – 19.



The second half was much more even with a try apiece. West pressured the visitors line on several occasions, crossing the line three times but each time adjudged held up. More aggressive play by West despite playing into the wind and good line breaks by Scott Cochrane and Alex Fiskien was giving the visitors problems. It was disappointing therefore that it was Berwick that scored first with a break

from a scrum on West's 22m line saw their full back Rory Hindhaugh touch down. Converted by Webster. The final play saw West again pressurising the Berwick line and finally Dan York found the gap for a consolation try. Final score West 8, Berwick 26.

West can take a lot of positives from this game. Against a less well organised defence they would have had a more satisfactory result. Next game is at home to Perthshire on the 21st March.

West team: Peter Rhodes, Dylan Dawson, Daniel York, James Harley, Scott Cochrane, Max Bowie, Craig McCall, Marc Zoma, Jamie Carruth, Dru Nicholson, Fraser Brand, Gareth Hopkins, Alex Fiskien, Mark Sim, Sean Carden.
Subs: Andrew Love, Ronan McLaren, Rory Cuthbertson