

Greenock Wanderers 27-42 West

West made the trip down the Clyde to Greenock, whose Fort Matilda ground must have one of the best views in Scottish rugby, with a vista stretching to the Arrochar Alps and the Kilpatrick Hills. Conditions were sunny but cold, fairly still and the level pitch held up well.

West were well structured from the off and opened the scoring early on with a Dru Nicholson penalty after a strong scrum. Greenock hit back quickly, finding an overlap to score in the corner after some pick & drives. The conversion was missed.



West replied with a great run down the wing by Martin Wallace leading to a West scrum and pushover try from Tom Smith, unconverted. It was tit for tat at this stage when ex Hawks player Brendan McGroarty scored in the corner, unconverted, to make it 10-8.

West were definitely winning the forward battle and scored another pushover try, Fraser Brand dotting down to score, Dru Nicholson converting. West then stretched the lead when Scott Cochrane scored from another strong West scrum, Dru Nicholson adding the extras.

West were in a scoring spree and ran up the try bonus before half time when a good tactical kick from Dru Nicholson found Greenock bogged down in their own 22. Scott Cochrane collected the ball and Tom Smith was in the wide awake club, picking it up and running in uncontested. Dru Nicholson duly converted to make it 10-29 at the break.

Greenock worked hard to pin the score back after the break and managed it when M Knapton snuck out of the back of a ruck to score, A Guthrie converting to make it 17-29.

West held out relatively comfortably despite a lot of Greenock pressure. It was West who added to the score when Greenock threw a lovely intercept pass to Sean Carden who gratefully accepted it and ran from his own 22 to touch down, Dru Nicholson converting to make it 17-36. More good West work gave West a kickable penalty which Dru Nicholson scored, then after another good breakout they won another kickable penalty. Dru Nicholson wasn't missing much and extend the lead to 17-42.



West took the pedal of the gas a bit in later stages. Greenock were desperate to get something out of the match and ran in two unconverted tries. First winger G Bannerman ran in from a tap penalty

then they ran in another try at the end. But it was too little too late even though the home side had managed their own try bonus.

West are now mid table not in the lower reaches. This was a good performance by any measure and if they can keep it up they will be hard to beat in the later stages of the season.

West team: 1.Neil Fullarton, 2. Dylan Dawson, 3. Andrew Love, 4. Scott Cochrane, 5.Marc Zoma, 6 Craig McCall, 7. Max Bowie, 8 Tom Smith., 9. Jamie Carruth, 10.Dru Nicholson, 11. Mark Sim, 12. Gareth Hopkins, 13. Sean Carden, 14. Martin Wallace, 15 Rory Cuthbertson.

Subs 16. John Vasconcelos, 17. Dan York 18. Josh Geddes, 19.Fraser Brand