

West of Scotland 28 v Hillhead-Jordanhill 38.

Tiaan Wright's try with the last play of the game earned West of Scotland a bonus point, probably all the Burnbrae side deserved from an error strewn performance against near neighbours Hillhead-Jordanhill. The visitors was the more composed side, taking advantage of West's defensive errors and poor decision making to score five tries.

Last Saturday's Man of the Match, Grady Lawrence, was missing from the West side as he is on holiday. Max Bowie and Ronan McLaren were the other changes to the West team, replacing the unavailable John Vasconcelos and Gareth Craig. There was a strange look to Hills-Jills with the absence of A Bunnet, on duty with B Mitchell at Hughenden as the cricket season continues. We look forward to seeing Bernie and Bunnet when we visit Hughenden later in the season.



West did get off to a good start, in six minutes. From a line-out on the Hillhead-Jordanhill 22, Marc Zoma broke the defensive line and set up the the ruck. Captain Scott Cochrane took possession in the open and went over to put his side ahead. Dru Nicholson converted. Two minutes later, the Hughenden's side winger Graham Davidson was possibly fortunate to avoid a yellow card after a late hit on Nicholson.

Poor defence allowed Hillhead-Jordanhill to draw level. Nicholson failed to find touch with a clearing kick. Finlay Keegan took possession to go through a hole in the West defence. He was brought down a couple of yards from the line but Davidson was in support to go over. Rory Harte made it 7-7. Ten minutes later, West went in front again. Iestyn Humphreys broke before feeding Wright who went under the posts. Nicholson's kick was successful.

A serious of errors by both sides eventually saw the visitors draw level again. They kicked to the West 22 from a penalty awarded for not rolling away. From the line-out, West turned over possession before they, in turn, lost the ball. Hills-Jills were driven into touch. The line-out ball was overthrown and collected by Hills-Jills. The forwards drove and Darryl Elvin scored. Harte converted. Just before half-time, West went behind to a try scored in very similar fashion to their opponent's first one. Keegan again went through a huge gap in the defence, flanker Calum Weir being the support who scored on this occasion. Harte's fine performance with the boot continued. Half-time West of Scotland 14 Hillhead-Jordanhill 21.

There was an interesting incident at the start of the second half. West drove over the visitor's line. From the stand, it looked as if the ball had been grounded. The referee

ruled the ball had not been grounded. Fair enough. He awarded a five metres scrummage. One can only assume he didn't receive the e-mail about the drop-out from under the posts.

A penalty goal from Harte put his side ten points clear midway through the half. By now, though, the West forwards were dominating the set scrum. They were driving well, too. After numerous phases they were almost on the Hills-Jills line. The ball was fed through the backs with a try looking certain on the left. Davidson had to gamble on the interception. He was successful, taking possession before running the full length of the park to secure the try bonus point for his side. Harte continued his one hundred per cent record. It was now 14-31.



With nine minutes left, West brought themselves within sight of a try bonus and ten points behind. From a tap penalty, this time the ball did find its way to Calum Booth and he scored in the left corner. Nicholson made light of the difficult kick. The game was gone from West only five minutes later, though, when Harte collected his own chip ahead before scoring under the posts. A simple conversion for the undoubted man of the match.

The game was rounded off with Wright's bonus point securing try at the death after the hard-working forwards set up many phases.

The set scrum was one of the few pluses for the coaching team to enjoy. They have much to work on before next Saturday's trip to Cupar to play Howe of Fife.