

West 18-34 Greenock Wanderers

On a wet and damp day, conditions were actually good when West faced league leaders Greenock Wanderers. It didn't actually rain during the match, breezes were light and the pitch was in excellent condition. Greenock have been upgrading their team as their promotion last year and league position show.

Greenock were slick from the outset, with a lot of dummy runners and a high defensive line. It paid dividends early when centre Jack Dale found a hole in the West defence, running in easily to score, converted by Andrew Guthrie.



West nearly scored but were held up over the line, and it was Greenock who increased their lead with a penalty from Andrew Guthrie.

It was West who were piling on the pressure forward passes stopping two likely tries. The West forwards were well on top with a strong scrum and driving maul.

Eventually the pressure told and West won two scrum penalties, converted by Sean Carden, the second from long range. Greenock were looking rattled at 6-10.

Then the Greenock no. 8 Matt Gray burst through against the run of play to score unconverted, and then a Greenock breakout from defence saw their winger Calum win the foot race to score in the corner, again unconverted to give them the lead at half time 6-20.

Greenock came out hard after the break, a passing move finding a gap in the centre. A West missed tackle didn't help and the visitors notched up their bonus point try when Callum Harrison scored, Andrew Guthrie converting.

Greenock scored again with an overlap, Andrew Guthrie converting to make the score 6-34. That was unfair to West, who worked hard to get back into the match.

Scott Cochrane burst through the Greenock defence but the pass didn't go to hand, and then a good passing move went through the hands to find John Vasconcelos who scored, Sean Carden converting, to peg it back to 13-34.



Greenock were trying to score another try and were passing the ball about, but were risking interceptions, which Calum Booth duly delivered, running the length of the pitch to score. The conversion was missed and it finished 18-34.

If West can match the forward power with quality in the backs then this will be a good side but the day was Greenock's.

West team: 1. Peter Rhodes, 2 Dylan Dawson, 3. Andrew Love, 4. Scott Cochrane, 5. Josh Geddes, 6 Stephan Birkmyre, 7. Max Bowie, 8. Marc Zoma, 9. Jamie Carruth, 10. Dru Nicholson, 11. Graeme Wallace, 12. Blair Smith, 13 Calum Booth, 14. Drew Reddie, 15. Sean Cardin.
Subs 16. John Vasconcelos, 17. Dan York, 18. Ronan McLaren, 19. Rory Cuthbertson