

West 7 – 33 Newton Stewart

Burnbrae was drizzly and wet when 2nd place Newton Stewart came to play 3rd place West.

Newton Stewart started scoring straight away, when they found a hole in defence with a pass slipped to lock Alan Ferrie who scored under the posts, David Gow converting.



West were scrummaging strongly, but it was the visitors' tactic of offloading to a fast runner coming from deep which worked on the day. David Gow intercepted a West clearance to run in under the posts and convert his own try, and West had a mountain to climb early on.

West were trying hard to get into it. A great passing move was dropped at the last minute, before a Newton Stewart breakaway was slipped to scrum half Robbie McCormick who extended the lead this time unconverted, but it was 0-19 to the visitors.

West dropped the ball just short of the line once again before playing an advantage after a penalty for a high tackle, banging at the Newton Stewart line until an overlap found Scott Cochrane who grounded, Dru Nicholson managing a difficult conversion to bring the score back to 7-19.

It was the visitors who scored next to collect their bonus when a speculative chip forward had a lucky bounce and centre Fraser Morton collected it to run in under the posts, David Gow converting to make it 7-26 at half time.

West tried to hit back in the second half and were totally dominating in the scrums and strong at the breakdown. However, they gained no reward for the good work and no matter how hard they tried could not breach the visitors' defence.

Newton Stewart finished the scoring when a quick free kick found number 8 James Wallace who scored, Fraser Morton converting to end the scoring at 7-33.



West's inexperience probably told on the day, but a bit more luck would have made matters closer. Old acquaintances Perthshire visit next week at Burnbrae when West will be hoping for a better result.

West team 1. Pete Rhodes, 2 Andy Love, 3. Daniel O'Connell, 4. Scott Cochrane , 5. James Harley, 6. Marc Zoma, 7. Craig McCall, 8. Jamie McAulay, 9. Alexander Fiskien, 10. Dru Nicholson, 11. Rowland Ossi, 12. Nicky Sutcliffe, 13. Mark Sim, 14. Jacob Siems, 15. Harry Brewster. Subs 16. Donald Wilson, 17. Max Bowie, 18. Dylan Matthews.