

MATCH REPORT



We attended the Brentwood Golden Boot Festival this week and in true festival tradition teams dropped out last minute, didn't show on the day and the weather was awful ! Credit to Brentwood and the organisers they overcome all the obstacles (apart from the weather but they did lend us a gazebo !) .

We would have the luxury of an extra game following the regroupings which with a large squad in tow would be handy for game time.

Westcliff V Sudbury

Some new opposition and we were under way. West started brightly and were dominating possession it was no surprise when Charlie B scored our first of the day. The only surprise was we didn't score again before HT. The second half and Sudbury found themselves in our 22 and duly scored and converted . And in very quick time did exactly the same 2 mins later. The next 10 minutes was all Westcliff and despite Haydn going over for a try we somehow couldn't get the try we needed to win. A frustrating start to the day.

Westcliff 10 Sudbury 14

Westcliff V Brentwood

Not much of a rest and we were off to play hosts Brentwood who were clearly intent on trying to win their own tournament. We made some changes to the starting 15 and straight into action. Brentwood were quick to get going and their plan was to play through the forwards. They duly scored twice in the first half as West were pinned in their own half for much of it. The second half was a far more even affair and we should have got back into the game a couple of times only for bad luck to stop us scoring.

Westcliff 0 Brentwood 14

Westcliff V Eton Manor

The last of our pool games and more changes to the line up. We were looking to end the group stages with a win . EM were however in the same position and seemed more adapt in the conditions and took an early lead – West came back but struggled to convert their chances and were duly punished when EM scored before HT. The second half was going to be tough and we needed a good start – we didn't get one ! EM scored and despite a late rally which saw Charlie B score it was too little to late.

Westcliff 5 Eton Manor 21

Because of the lack of teams the ceding took a while to decide and despite our losses as they were narrow defeats compared to some we were ranked 8th and put into the plate to play 5th place Braintree – who only lost to eventual overall winners Westcombe Park. Why do we always seem to draw Braintree !!!

Westcliff V Braintree

This was by far our best performance of the day – and showed our true ability -that had been lacking for much of the day. Was it's the pre match karaoke sing song I don't know but whatever it was it was much needed.

Braintree looked strong and full of running and took an early lead which was surprisingly uncovered. But West were growing into the half and put some good phases together before eventually finding Owen wide for a well deserved try. Chances for both sides but no more scores. Again Braintree started the stronger but West kept them out for a while until the pressure eventually told – again the conversion missed. West needed to score and upped the tempo and performance for the last 10 minutes pressing constantly . With Braintree conceding penalties the forwards kept the ball superbly and finally it fell to Haydn to force himself over for the score. There was no time to restart and we had won through to the final .

Westcliff 14 Braintree 10

PLATE FINAL - Westcliff V Eton Manor

The final saw us play group opposition EM again with a chance for revenge. The team had watched their semi final and decided to treat them to their finest rendition of Sweet Caroline from the sidelines – see the video on the FB page !

The final itself was on the main pitch prior to the Golden Boot final so plenty of people watching .

Westcliff were clearly in the mood to take home some silverware and were dominant from the first whistle. Tyrese scored our first try with a great burst of pace and power which set us under way. EM were trying their best to get some possession but found a brick wall of a defence and it was only some poor execution that prevented us extending our lead before HT.

The second half was a repeat of the first with EM unable to get into our 22. Some good phases of play saw us deep into the EM 22 and when Michael spotted the ball out he pounced on it leaving Harry H an easy pick up and over the line for a try. West were in full flow and with the last play of the game Charlie B went over for his 3rd of a day.

However it did not end there – once again the boys let Harry take the drop kick in front of the posts and yet again he missed ! Props don't kick for a reason boys and Harry is a perfect example !

Westcliff 17 Eton Manor 0

Overall it was a great result in winning the Plate – the boys seemed to enjoy the day and have a fair amount of fun – certainly vocally ! Hopefully this will give us a good attitude and performances to go into next weeks league encounter at Maldon.