

# MATCH REPORT



## 12 - 12



And so we moved onto our next League fixture of the season with a tough looking fixture away to Brentwood. The prospect of the slopy pitch , strong wind and even the afternoon kick off all concerned me ! We were without a couple of players again this week as the injury list continues to grow – OC taking things a bit far to have an extended Xmas break by having appendicitis and having to undergo an operation - we wish him a speedy recovery.

The game started at 1pm but I was right to worry as Westcliff didn't start playing till at least 1.10pm ! The hosts started brightly and despite being up the hill took the lead with the first try of the match. Slowly the West boys started to wake up and get involved in the match and with some good work through the forwards and good possession Will went over from 5 metres out. Ben unable to convert with the difficult wind. This was the catalyst West needed and they began to dominate the game with good pressure in the Brentwood half. A set move of the back of a scrum with a great line from Tyrese who burst through from 25 yards out this time Ben converting. For the remainder of the half we camped in the Brentwood half and despite the pressure and possession we could not add to the scoreline.

HT Brentwood 5 Westcliff 12

Whoever scored first in the second half was likely to win was my opinion and when Ben won a footrace for a ball over the try line I thought it would be our day only for the Ref to adjudge the defender getting there first and awarding a 22 drop out. We were having the better of things but then an injury to Dylan C meant we had to shuffle the backs once more . We lost our momentum and Brentwood capitalised with a score of their own this time converting to tie the score with 10 to go . The hosts with the slope and wind were now pressing hard for the win and the last 7-8 minutes were extremely long . Twice they had the ball over the line only to be held up with some outstanding defending from Westcliff. Brentwood were throwing everything at West but they stood firm and pushed them back to about 15 yards only to give a penalty away. It looked a certain 3 points but Brentwood tapped and went got the ball over the line ..... but had knocked it on !! Game over.

FT Brentwood 12 Westcliff 12

Brentwood will feel they should have won finishing as they did – I feel we let points go at end of first half and second half try would have put us way ahead – all in all a draw probably was the right result . It felt like 2 points won not 2 points lost especially with our injuries.

Great defence at the end and we need to take that as the benchmark for future tough games – we need to work out how to start better – but overall we are moving forward as a team . One day soon it will click for 70 mins and we will put together an outstanding performance and beat a very good side . ( Next round of the cup please ! ) .

Next week we are at home to Wanstead in the league – our last match of 2018. Lets hope we end on a high and can enjoy the post match Xmas feast !