

MATCH REPORT



14 - 31



WELCOME TO THE NEW SEASON !!!

Here we go again – this year as the U17's.

We begin our season with a friendly against Wanstead who we haven't played for a couple of seasons.

With so few teams left in Essex playing U17's games are harder to find so we were grateful to our hosts for a chance of some action before the League season gets underway.

With almost our entire squad available – 25 players made the trip – playing time would be limited to a half but everyone would get at least that .

West started brightly enough and had good possession and territory but a break away from Wanstead took them up to our 10m line and from the resulting scrum a simple crash ball move was enough for them to open the scoring. West continued to camo in the Wanstead half and it was only a matter of time before the pressure told – Ryan going over from a yard maybe 2 .

Straight from the restart Wanstead moved the ball and found a mismatch out wide to quickly retake the lead. The game ebbed and flowed with chances for both sides but a nice line from Owen saw him go over to reduce the deficit just before half time.

Some mentions for the new players making their debuts in a Westcliff shirt in the first half – Conor Gibbons, Theo Spittle, Lloyd Chapman, Connor Chapman – all of whom had a great introduction.

HT Wanstead 14 Westcliff 10

The hosts were looking confident at the break but – as those of you know me know I like a quote in the reports – “ I know something you don't know “ . And so we made 10 changes to the starting side and retook to the field.

From the first whistle West had the upper hand and looked likely to score from every possession. Luke went over first with a neat little side step to fool the full back. Ben duly converted . The forwards were dominant in the scrum turning the ball over several times and whilst the backs were enjoying the Sunday sun the forwards kept pressing into the 22 and it was no surprise a forward – Finn came up with the second try. The fact we could have scored 5 minutes earlier if we shifted the ball out wide as usual is wasted on the forwards ! However the backs were not totally outshone – Tyrese scoring the last of our tries which Ben converted from a difficult angle and even factored in a strong wind.

FT Wanstead 14 Westcliff 31

All in all it was a good day for the Maroon and Golds – everyone got a decent amount of game time, in good conditions and we scored a few tries too.

We will not have it so easy away to Brentwood next week in our first League match !