

Barnes 46 Westcliff 12

Westcliff were further encumbered for the trip to Barnes by injuries picked up in the defeat to Leicester. Smith and Parmenter were ruled out, both for the medium term and Ford was unavailable due to personal commitments. Campey and Ajeigbe were recalled, as was for the first time this season, available again former skipper Buster Reynolds.

Westcliff were caught on their heels at the start of the game for which they paid a heavy price. From the kickoff they conceded a penalty at the games first break down which was duly converted. Westcliff made some inroads and threatened to breach the home defence, but the final pass went astray allowing the hosts to escape up field and on 10 minutes they scored the games first try which they converted. The next 10 minutes were calamitous with key injuries in the front and back row which saw both Lane and Pedro leave the field unable to return. Their misery was compounded by conceding a further try and penalty to trail 18-0 after the first quarter. Although hampered by the injuries Westcliff did come more into the game for the rest of the half and threatened to cross the line on more than one occasion. Again, these ultimately came to nothing and instead, as the half drew to a close, they were forced to defend their own line once more. A technical offence by Bannister saw the referee brandish a yellow card and the hosts took immediate advantage with a converted try to lead 25-0 at the break.

Despite still being a man down at the start of the second half Westcliff showed adventure which perhaps may have been better served had they awaited their return to a full player compliment. This proved to be the case in the opening minute when a ball which had been rapidly shifted through hands to the wing was picked off and subsequently run in unopposed under the posts. Trailing 32-0 and now afflicted by another significant injury to Sexton the game realistically had gone, and they went on to concede a further 2 tries before a late rally saw them score 2 tries of their own through Campey and O'Brien. A final score of 46-12 reflected a luckless and testing 80 minutes.

It was a game that will not live long in the memory and even then, only for the destabilising injuries that derailed our efforts. There are lessons to take from the game and we will, but also we will be putting it behind us quickly and focusing on preparing the team for the visit of Henley at the weekend.

Bannister, Hogarth, Campey, Cummins, Ajeigbe, Sexton, Richmond, Meakin, Lynch, Lane, Weston, Scogings, Webber, Dufficy, Pedro REP O'Brien, Reynolds B, Reynolds S, Miller, Dane