

Clifton 106 Westcliff 17

The long trip to Bristol based Clifton was made, by what again, was a much-changed match day squad. Half of the squad in fact, were changed from the previous week, omitted for various reasons were Barnett, Dane, Jones, Barham, Whiting, Hogarth, Coetzee, Webster, Meakin and Miller. Into the squad came a mixture of inexperienced but willing youngsters, semi-retired stalwarts and a couple of welcome faces new and old. Making 1st team debuts for the club either from the start or the bench were Doyle, Gladdish, Brenton and Moss who will no doubt long remember the occasion.

The game commenced in overcast though mild conditions, but Westcliff were, perhaps understandably, disjointed from the outset. In possession they struggled to make any great impression and out of it their defence was too easily breached. Early scores for the hosts took the game away quickly and game ending injuries to Dellas and Duplessis compounded the visitors' problems. A Try mid half from the energetic Dufficy created by a break from the impressive Gladdish closed the scores momentarily to 24-10 but the respite was short lived, and Clifton pressed on to establish an 45-10 half time lead.

After two quick fire home side tries at the start of the second half Marrant scurried through to score but the visitors remained unrelenting adding further tries regularly and in truth too easily. The final score of a comprehensive defeat came in the games final play and with the visitors reduced to 14 men after one too many injuries.

It wasn't an afternoon upon which any of us will wish to dwell but was clear evidence of the difficult moment we are currently in. Few positives to take but other than the obvious disappointment the outcome should be viewed in that light.

Marrant, Ajeigbe, Bannister, Gladdish, Duplessis, Sexton, Comber, Brown, Lynch, Binneman, Anderson-Brown, Scogings, Doyle, Dufficy, Dellas REP Brenton, Redding, Willsher, Lane, Moss