



WASHINGTON RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



Statler & Waldorf Game report

Competition:	Candy League Division 3 Central	
Teams:	West Hartlepool 3rds [Bucks]	Washington 1sts
Date:	6 th December 2025, KO14:00	
Venue:	West Hartlepool Rugby Club, Catcote Rd, Hartlepool TS25 4HA.	
Match Official:	Guy Taylor, West Hartlepool R.F.C.	
Result:	24	24

No.	NAME & SURNAME	SCORERS				JUDICIARY	
		Tries	Conv.	Penalty	Drops	Yellow	Red
1	Ollie O'Conner						
2	John Cocker						
3	Jack Asbery						
4	Michael Bishop						
5	Josh Davison						
6	Michael Reilly	1					
7	James England						
8	Dean Ryan						
9	George Alley (Capt.)						
10	Matthew Clark		2				
11	Andre Marrah	1					
12	Ben Emmerson	1					
13	Jay Cunningham						
14	Peter Hardy	1					
15	Scott Oliver						
Penalty Tries							

RESERVES

16	Sean Monaghan						
17	Joshua Carter						
18	Joshua Hardy						
19	Darren Mason						
20							
21							
22							

Shirt numbers on the player list may not reflect the number shirt on the field.
Apologies for any names missed off the players list.

OPPOSITION	4	2				
------------	---	---	--	--	--	--

Scoring Sequence			
Minute	Player [team number or opposition]	[T, C, P, PT, DG.]	Score
23	Andre Marrah	T	0 – 5
30	Peter Hardy	T	0 – 10
31	Ben Emmerson	T	0 – 15
31	Matt Clark	C	0 – 17
42	West Hartlepool	T	5 – 17
45	Michael Reilly	T	5 – 22
45	Matt Clark	C	5 – 24
52	West Hartlepool	T & C	12 – 24
76	West Hartlepool	T	17 – 24
83	West Hartlepool	T & C	24 - 24
Timings are approximate.			

Weather Conditions:

7°C, damp underfoot (soft to firm), slight wind.

Noteworthy Information:

Many thanks to Guy Taylor, from West Hartlepool RFC, for refereeing the game today. Due to the ongoing issue of the lack of available referees, no referee was allocated this game.

Game Summary:

First Half;

Washington Kick Off the game with a high ball into the West Hartlepool half, where it is cleanly caught and taken into the chasing defensive line to form a ruck.

West Hartlepool kick the ball into the Washington half, where Scott Oliver gathers the ball and runs at the West Hartlepool defence. Washington go through a number of phases to take the ball to the West Hartlepool 10-yard line. Ball is fed to Matt Clark who kicks the ball over the West Hartlepool defence and it bounces into touch on the West Hartlepool 22-yard line.

3 min. West Hartlepool line-out, Washington win ball from a poor throw in. Forwards form a ruck and the ball is passed out to the backs. Referee calls play back for a penalty to West Hartlepool. The kick finds touch, giving West Hartlepool a line-out on the half-way line.

A good catch and drive by West Hartlepool see's the ball taken beyond the gain-line. Penalty to West Hartlepool for a high tackle.

5 min. Kick to touch good for a West Hartlepool line-out on the Washington 22-yard line. Ball goes loose from the line-out, and the referee awards a scrum to Washington. A strong drive by West Hartlepool disrupts the scrum, but the ball emerges and is passed to Matt Clark who kicks into touch from the 22.

West Hartlepool line-out near the half-way line. The ball goes loose from the line-out and is gathered by Washington. Ollie O'Connor drives the ball at the West Hartlepool line making ground passed the gain line. Ball into Matt Clark's hands who kicks into the West Hartlepool 22. Cleanly caught by West Hartlepool fullback who returns the kick. Referee calls play back, West Hartlepool players off-side from the kick. Matt Clark finds touch for a Washington line-out in the West Hartlepool 22 area. West Hartlepool win the ball and pass to the backs, who kick the ball into touch to clear their lines. Washington line-out on the West Hartlepool 10yard line.

8 min. West Hartlepool win the line-out and pass the ball to their backs, who run the ball at the Washington defence to form ruck. Ball is lost by West Hartlepool and Washington gather it up and take it into the West Hartlepool 22 area with some good rucking and ball retention. Jay Cunningham kicks the ball forward for Scott Oliver to run onto. Unfortunately, the kick is long and goes into touch for a West Hartlepool line-out.

10 min. West Hartlepool win clean ball at the line-out, which is passed to their #10 who kicks into touch giving a Washington line-out on the West Hartlepool 22-yard line. Washington wins good ball at the line-out and pass to the backs, where the ball is knocked-on for a West Hartlepool scrum. A good tackle on the West Hartlepool scrum half puts pressure on the West Hartlepool ruck, where the referee award a penalty to Washington for not-releasing the ball. A quick Tap & Go see's the ball driven at the West Hartlepool defensive line. Matt Clark receives a pass and is immediately put under pressure by the West Hartlepool defence., but manages to kick the ball forward behind the West Hartlepool defensive line. West Hartlepool gather the ball on their 22-yard line. Good chasing by the Washington players see's West Hartlepool makes a hurried kick that fails to reach touch. A good clean catch by Scott Oliver allows him time to take the ball into the chasing West Hartlepool defence. Penalty for Washington about 24-yards from the West Hartlepool posts.

13 min. Kick for 3 points by Matt Clark narrowly misses and goes out of play, giving a 22 drop out for West Hartlepool. From the kick the ball bounces into touch for a Washington line-out. West Hartlepool win ball at the line-out but the ball goes loose with Washington gathering the ball. John Cocker drives the ball at the West Hartlepool defensive and takes the ball beyond the gain line. The ball however goes loose from the tackle. Referee calls play back for a scrum to Washington.

16 min. Washington scrum, reset by referee after speaking to both front rows. Ball from scrum passed to Washington backs and ran into tackle. Penalty to West Hartlepool for Washington going n from the side. A good kick finds touch on the half-way line for a West Hartlepool line-out. West Hartlepool wins clean possession and drives the ball forward. Washington awarded a scrum by the referee.

20 min. Ball from the scrum to Matt Clark who chips the ball over the West Hartlepool defence, ball possession regained by Washington, ball again in Matt Clark's hands who kicks and finds touch on the West Hartlepool 22-yrd line. West Hartlepool line-out who take a clean catch and drive, but the ball goes loose and is gathered by Washington. A kick by Matt Clark see's the ball goes over the West Hartlepool dead ball line, for a drop-out from under the posts.

23 min. Dean Ryan takes a clean catch on the West Hartlepool 22-yard line, and drives into the West Hartlepool defence. Clean ball from the ruck sees the ball into the hands of Jay Cunningham, who grubber kicks the ball forward for Andre Marrah to gather and go over for the first try of the game. Conversion missed. Score 0 – 5.

West Hartlepool restart caught by Ollie O'Conner and taken into tackle. From the ruck the ball is delivered to the backs. Washington go through a number of ruck-phases and make ground beyond the gain-line. Matt Clark kicks into the West Hartlepool 22 area, where the kick is returned. Matt Clark gets the ball and returns kick to West Hartlepool. West Hartlepool have possession of the ball on the West Hartlepool 10-yard line.

25 min. Washington turn over the ball, but the ball goes loose and is gathered by West Hartlepool, who kick the ball into the Washington 22. Scott Olivers makes a clean catch and clears the lines with a good kick into touch. West Hartlepool line-out is disrupted by the Washington forwards who win good possession. Ball passed to backs who drive into the West Hartlepool defence and go passed the gain-line to make good ground to the half-way line. Referee calls play back for a penalty to Washington.

Penalty kick misses touch. West Hartlepool take possession and their backs take the ball into tackle and form a ruck. Turnover by Washington sees George Alley give a good pass to Peter Hardy who runs over the try line and touches down for a try on 30 mins. Conversion missed. Score 0 – 10.

West Hartlepool restart the game with a good kick into the Washington 22 area. Ball caught by Ollie O'Conner [again], who gets tackled on the Washington 22-yard line. Washington go through ruck phases but are unable to break past the West Hartlepool defence.

31 min. Matt Clark kicks the ball into West Hartlepool territory, where a great chase by Andre Marrah results in the ball going loose. Washington gets possession of the ball which leads to Ben Emmerson going over for a try. Conversion by Matt Clark good. Score 0 – 17. 31 mins.

West Hartlepool restart the game, John Cocker attempts to catch the ball but knocks-on for a West Hartlepool scrum. West Hartlepool take the ball from the scrum and run it down the blind-side. West Hartlepool penalty for a high tackle by Peter Hardy.

33 min. A quick Tap & Go by West Hartlepool taking the ball tackle and forming ruck. Good ruck work by Washington is rewarded with a penalty. Matt Clark kicks to touch for a Washington line-out on the West Hartlepool 10-yard line.

35 min. Good line-out call and jump by Micael Reilly see's clean ball to George Alley who passes the ball to the backs. Matt Clark kicks the ball high into the West Hartlepool 22 area, where it is caught cleanly and ran into the chasing defenders. The ball goes loose and is gathered by Washington and taken into tackle. The ball is lost and West Hartlepool gain possession. Some good tackling by Washington means that West Hartlepool are unable to make any ground beyond the gain line. Eventually West Hartlepool are awarded a penalty. Kick to touch is good for a West Hartlepool line-out. Poor line-out throw means the ball goes loose, but West Hartlepool gather-up the ball who take it to the Washington 10-yard line. Another penalty to West Hartlepool for Washington going off their feet at the ruck.

38 min. West Hartlepool kick the ball into touch giving them a line-out deep into the Washington 22 area. Good work by the Washington forwards disrupts the West Hartlepool throw in and wins the ball. George Alley releases the backs with a good pass. Matt Clark kicks the ball into the West Hartlepool half, where the West Hartlepool full-back takes the ball and returns the kick. Josh Davison catches the ball and kicks into touch for a West Hartlepool line-out.

40 min. Ball not straight at the line-out gives a scrum to Washington, referee blows the whistle for half time. Score 0 – 17.

Both teams giving their all. Good line-out work by Washington forwards against the head is reaping dividends with good possession. West Hartlepool are dominant in the scrum, but Washington is fighting hard and are getting good ball for George Alley to release to the backs.

Second Half;

West Hartlepool kick off the second half with a high kick into the Washington 22, knock-on by Dean Ryan [unusual for such a safe pair of hands] gives a scrum to West Hartlepool. Drive from the West Hartlepool scrum means clean quick ball for West Hartlepool down the blind side. Some poor tackling by Washington means West Hartlepool make good ground well beyond the gain line.

42 min. This results in a West Hartlepool try. Conversion missed. Score 5 – 17.

Washington restarts the game with a high ball into the West Hartlepool 22, good kick chase and tackling by Washington keeps West Hartlepool in their 22 area. Good defence by Washington, not allowing West Hartlepool to break past their 22-yard line, forces West Hartlepool to kick to touch for a Washington line-out.

44 min. Washington win good ball from the line-out, despite West Hartlepool efforts to 'disrupt' the catcher. Matt Clark kicks the ball into the West Hartlepool half. A good kick chase see's Peter Hardy gather the ball off the bounce. Through good ruck work and vision Washington takes the ball into the West Hartlepool 22. Dean Ryan breaks through the West Hartlepool defence but is brought down by a high-tackle.

Penalty taken quickly by Michael Reilly, who dances through the West Hartlepool defenders to touch down for a great individual try. Conversion good by Matt Clark. Score 5 – 24.

Restart by West Hartlepool results in a poor catch by John Cocker, loose ball gathered by West Hartlepool who drive the ball towards the Washington line. Penalty to West Hartlepool taken quickly with a Tap & Go, ruck formed and ball delivered to West Hartlepool backs. West Hartlepool drive towards the Washington try line, but are held on the Washington 5-yard line. Good tackling by Washington stops West Hartlepool getting any closer. Penalty for Washington under the posts. Kick to touch is good giving Washington a line-out on the 22-yard line.

48 min. Washington win good clean ball once again from the line-out and deliver ball to the backs. Sean Monaghan breaks through the West Hartlepool defence but is tackled, and the ball goes loose from the ruck. West Hartlepool gathers the ball and drives it into the Washington defence. High Tackle by Washington gives West Hartlepool a penalty. West Hartlepool with Tap & Go take the ball towards the Washington try line. Good tackling by Washington sees the drive stopped on the Washington 5-yard line. West Hartlepool break through defence but are again held short of the line. Penalty to West Hartlepool. Tap & Go taken and ball passed to backs who drive towards the Washington try line. Good tackling again by Washington holds up the drive. Referee stops play for a Washington man down. Game restarted with a West Hartlepool scrum. A strong push by West Hartlepool allows good ball to be delivered to the West Hartlepool backs, who take the ball into the tackle and form ruck. Referee calls play back for another West Hartlepool penalty. Another Tap & Go by West Hartlepool sees the ball driven to the Washington try line.

52 min. Despite Washington putting up a good defence, West Hartlepool go over the try line and touch down. Conversion good. Score 12 – 24.

Washington restart goes long and over the dead ball line. Scrum to West Hartlepool on the centre spot. From the scrum West Hartlepool get the ball to the backs, who pass ball through the hands and make ground beyond the gain line and into the Washington 22.

58 min. West Hartlepool awarded a scrum on the 22-yard line. Strong scrum by West Hartlepool sees the ball given out to the West Hartlepool backs. Referee calls play back for a forward pass, giving Washington a scrum 11-yards from the Washington try line. Scrum reset by referee. Scrum collapses from strong push by West Hartlepool. Referee stops play for an injury to Washington player.

Game restarts with scrum, that Washington win. Ball from George Alley, to Matt Clark and into the hands of Jay Cunningham. Sees metres made beyond the gain line. A high tackle by West Hartlepool gives Washington a penalty. Kick to touch good for a Washington line-out.

60 min. Washington win the line-out ball but it goes loose, gathered by Washington forwards who get the ball to the backs. Washington backs take the ball into the tackle and form good ruck. Penalty to West Hartlepool for Washington off-side at the ruck. West Hartlepool choose to have a scrum. A good push by Washington disrupts the scrum, but West Hartlepool get the ball out to their backs. Good tackling and ruck work by Washington results in being awarded a penalty (West Hartlepool not releasing the ball). Matt Clark with a good kick finding touch for a Washington line-out.

64 min. At the line-out referee blows for a West Hartlepool scrum, not a not-straight throw-in. Despite West Hartlepool not competing for the ball. Strong drive by West Hartlepool in the scrum. Referee has the scrum reset. West Hartlepool win scrum ball and deliver the ball to their backs, who take the ball into the tackle and form ruck. Penalty to Washington for West Hartlepool players off-side at the ruck.

66 min. Matt Clark finds touch with a good kick, giving Washington a line-out. Clean ball from line-out goes through backs hands to Josh Carter on the wing. Who is shoulder charged into touch. Referee goes down after collision with a player on the field { 🍌 🧑 🤖 }. Clock off and referee receives treatment. Referee restarts game with a line-out to West Hartlepool. [clearly did not see the shoulder charge, but will let him off as he was on the floor. He did recover quickly though 😊.]

The ball goes loose from the West Hartlepool line-out thanks to disruption by the Washington forwards. West Hartlepool gather the ball and kick to touch for a Washington line-out. Clean ball from the line-out is passed to the backs. A grubber kick through the West Hartlepool defence by Matt Clark is gathered by their full-back in the West Hartlepool 22. The ball is kicked into touch for a Washington line-out. Washington wins good ball and passes it to the backs; Matt Clark kicks the ball into the West Hartlepool half. The ball goes loose and is gathered up by Washington and taken to the West Hartlepool 22-yard line. West Hartlepool win the ball, and retain possession over a couple of phases. Washington turnover the ball and deliver it to the backs, where a deliberate Knock-On by West Hartlepool gives a penalty to Washington on the West Hartlepool 22-yard line.

70 min. Kick finds touch for a Washington line-out. Good ball from line-out sees the ball into Matt Clark's hands who runs into tackle to form ruck. The ball goes loose and is 'booted' forward by West Hartlepool. Washington gathers the ball and form ruck. Matt Clark with a high Up-&-Under into the West Hartlepool 22. West Hartlepool full back catches the ball and calls for a "mark". Referee gives free-kick to West Hartlepool.

72 min. A quick Tap & Go from the "mark" by the full back catches the Washington players by surprise. West Hartlepool retain possession over a number of phases and take the ball into the Washington 22 area. Poor tackling by Washington sees West Hartlepool drive forward towards the Washington try-line. Washington gets the ball after it goes loose but a bad pass by Washington winger sees the ball go over the try line, where it is touched down. Giving West Hartlepool a scrum on the Washington 5-yard line.

West Hartlepool win good ball from the scrum and their forwards go through phase driving the ball ever closer to the Washington try line. Washington off-side at the ruck, gives West Hartlepool a penalty on the 5-yard line.

76 min. A quick Tap & Go sees the ball driven to the try line, and finally go over to score a try. Conversion missed. Score 17 – 24.

Restart kick by Washington goes high and deep into West Hartlepool's 22. Kick is caught and returned going into touch for a Washington line-out on the half-way line. Washington win line-out ball, but referee calls play back for a knock-on by Washington.

West Hartlepool win ball off their own scrum and take the ball into tackle and form ruck. West Hartlepool retain possession over a number of phases, gaining ground beyond the gain line. West Hartlepool player tackled into touch for a Washington line-out.

40 min. West Hartlepool win ball at the line-out and drive at the Washington defence, good tackling by Washington prevents West Hartlepool from gaining any ground around the ruck. Penalty to West Hartlepool for Washington off-side at the ruck. A quick Tap & Go sees West Hartlepool drive the ball towards the Washington try line. Good tackling by Washington defence means West Hartlepool are held short. Another penalty to West Hartlepool on the Washington 5-yard line. West Hartlepool use the Tap & Go and drive into the tackle.

43 min. eventually the pressure pays off for West Hartlepool and they drive over the try line and touch down for a try. Score 22 – 24. West Hartlepool need the conversion to tie the game. Conversion good.

Final Score West Hartlepool 24 V 24 Washington.

What a game. Two well matched teams playing their hearts out and giving those on the side lines a great game to watch. Washington took the honours in the first half breaking out with a 0 – 17 score line. But West Hartlepool came back in the second half and fought their way back into the game. I think that this was a well-deserved draw for both teams. Well done West Hartlepool and Washington for a very entertaining game. No doubt the coaches will have points to go through during the next training session.

Comment from Dave Addison [Director of Rugby].

"I'm really proud of the lads... that was one hell of a performance against an excellent Bucks side full of some handy older players and some talented younger lads from their youth teams. It was a game of two halves... 0-0 for 25 mins until we broke the deadlock and then we cut loose and certainly Ben's try was one of our best this season. The second half was a different tale but I'm chuffed with our defensive effort we fell just short for the win but had to endure an onslaught from west who I thought were the best side we have faced this season. So next week we travel to Stockton having lost and drawn last 2 games after going unbeaten... another test but isn't it great to see a league where games are a contest. Makes for some exciting rugby and a challenge for the boys."

Comment from Andy Stephenson [Head Coach].

“Washy legends 🍌

What an afternoon!! a real away-day arm wrestle against a well-structured side. West Monkey Hangers has always been a difficult place to go at any level, but we prepared well and started the game with real intent. We exploited gaps and weaknesses in their defence, and our lineout functioned superbly for large parts of the first half. Unfortunately, that extra try we needed just didn't materialise in the second half. However, for at least 30 minutes after the break, your defensive effort was outstanding. You consistently came off the line, worked together, and battled for everything.

There's a huge lesson for the coaching team too, and it's one we'll be implementing in training: we need to kick long, play in their half, and defend higher up the pitch rather than on our own 22. It may feel like a loss, but honestly lads, that was a top performance. A draw, with clear lessons learned, is exactly what we need as a club — especially as we've shown we can put 40-plus points on teams when things click.

Bring on the remaining games and training sessions. We should be hungry to improve.

Top effort from everyone — thank you.”

Yours Statler and Waldorf:



THE TWO OLD FOGIES

