

Grosvenor travelled to Ballynahinch with a six new faces in their line-up from last year including school leavers James McMaster and Jordan Brown, new signings 'Pumba' Bennett, Matt Elliot and Tim Emerson, plus Matt Johnston making a welcome return to club colours.

The warm up was disrupted by a torrential downpour and the game started in wet, slippy conditions. Hinch started strongly, bossing the opening quarter and only some stout defending by Grosvenor kept them at bay, restricting the home side to three points for their efforts. Grosvenor's set piece dominance allowed them to build some momentum and they laid siege to the Hinch line with Andrew Kelly, Conor McKee and Matt Elliot coming close to getting over the whitewash. A penalty brought the scores level and from a breakdown on halfway Emerson moved the ball along the line to right winger Brown who made good yards. The ball was quickly recycled and Brown again got involved, darting through a gap to scorch over for a debut try in the corner. Conversion missed. 8-3. Another torrential downpour brought a lively first half to a close.

Grosvenor had their tails up and started the second half brightly with scrum half Neil Adams and the Grosvenor strike runners creating all sorts of problems for the Hinch defenders. After another siege on the line the ball was whipped wide to the left and a beautiful pass by Kelly sent Farquhar in for a great try in the corner. Conversion missed 13-3. Grosvenor failed to deal with the restart and Hinch surged forward with their scrum half diving over for a try from a quick tapped penalty. Conversion added 13-10. Both sides battled hard but neither could add to their tally and despite some terrific running and attacking around the park. In the last minute Hinch launched a counter attack from deep and their winger was hauled down just short of the line. Following a Hinch five metre scrum Grosvenor managed to repel the attack with some whole hearted tackling by forwards and backs alike.

An impressive win for Grosvenor and there were a number of worthy claims for MoM including McKee, Elliot and Adams but captain Andrew Kelly gets the nod following another blockbuster performance.

