



Blandford 17 Puddletown 5

Following a promising pre-season build up the Villagers went into this opening match of their Dorset & Wilts Division 1 South campaign in confident mood, but were narrowly beaten by a newly promoted Blandford side who themselves were keen to put down an early marker on the season ahead.

A scrappy opening quarter saw both sides trying to find some rhythm but it was the home side who settled first taking the lead on 20 minutes with a try out wide following a series of well worked phases. Puddletown fought back well but all too often their attacks broke down, and as the half progressed frustration crept in resulting in a number of penalties against them.

The visitors did however level the scores just on half time when an attempted clearance was charged down by centre Dan Udell and the ball broke to number eight Martin Spicer to cross the line.

The home side immediately took control at the restart and quickly regained their lead with a second try. Using the stiffening breeze clever tactical kicking from the Blandford fly-half saw the Villagers repeatedly pushed back into their own half and whilst they continued to launch a series of counter attacks, the home defence held firm and the breakthrough failed to materialise.

At the other end poor discipline under pressure once again proved to be Puddletown's undoing and in the dying seconds of the game the referee's patience finally ran out as he awarded the home side a penalty try for yet another infringement at the breakdown.

Captain Udell commented "That was a disappointing result. I felt that overall we were evenly matched but we let their forwards dominate us. Our pack needs to be a bit sharper and we certainly need to work on our discipline - we gave away far too many penalties"

Puddletown 1st XV:

1. Jim Talbot 2. Tim Yeatman 3. Jon Wilson 4. Paul Chidley 5. James Perrett 6. Joel Hornby 7. Harry Sealey 8. Martin Spicer 9. Josh Hiscock 10. Tom Yeatman 11. Matt Isaac 12. Dan Udell (capt) 13. Scott Smith 14. Ed Sealey 15. Mark Thomson
Replacements: Adam Geal Toby Musgrove

Scorers:

Tries: Martin Spicer (1)
Conversions: None
Penalties: None

Puddletown Man of the Match: Paul Chidley