



## *Bridport 56 Puddletown 0*

by Geoff Puryer 16/01/10

Any hopes that Puddletown harboured of avenging their heaviest defeat of the season in Dorset & Wilts Division 1 South were quickly dismissed as a rampant Bridport side raced to a five-try lead by the end of the first quarter of this match.

The game started badly enough for the visitors when, after just two minutes, the ball was spilled from a defensive lineout on the five-metre line. The home scrum-half was quickest to react, gathering up the ball and diving through a gap to open the scoring.

That set the pattern for the whole of the first half as Bridport's confidence and control allowed them to dominate play and to punish the Villagers' handling errors and poor tackling almost at will. The scores continued to come thick and fast, and having opened up a forty-one point lead at the break the hosts might have expected to continue the rout in the second period.

But a battered Puddletown outfit nevertheless refused to roll over, and after some stern half-time words from both skipper and coach, they produced a far more spirited second half performance, not only restricting the league leaders to just three further tries, but as importantly ensuring that they were able to leave the field at the final whistle with their heads up.

For the visitors the back row of James Perrett, Martin Spicer, and in particular Paul Chidley worked tirelessly in defence, whilst fly-half Tom Yeatman and centres Toby Musgrove and Dan Udell repeatedly searched for the gaps in Bridport's defence with what little ball they had to work with.

And in the dying minutes it was one such break from Yeatman that provided their only real opportunity of scoring a consolation try, but sadly the final pass that would have put replacement winger Jack Foot clean through just went astray. It was simply that sort of a day for the luckless Villagers.

Captain Udell said after the game: "I warned against showing Bridport too much respect, but I'm afraid that's exactly what we did, certainly until half time. We gave them much more of a test in the second half though, and at least we salvaged a bit of pride by the end".

"There's no doubt that they are playing some excellent rugby and we wish them good luck for the rest of the season. However we've got our own priorities to focus on and I'm more concerned about getting away from the relegation zone. We've got a lot of hard work to do and that starts again in training this week ready for Saturday's game against Frome 2nds".

*Puddletown 1<sup>st</sup> XV:*

1. Jon Wilson 2. Tim Yeatman 3. Ed Richardson 4. Matt Williams 5. Jim Talbot  
6. James Perrett 7. Martin Spicer 8. Paul Chidley 9. Josh Hiscock 10. Tom Yeatman  
11. Rob Franks 12. Toby Musgrove 13. Dan Udell (capt) 14. Matt Isaac  
15. Mark Thomson

Replacements: 16. Justin Owers (for Matt Williams - 50 mins.) 17. Jack Foot (for Rob Franks - 50 mins) 18 Chris Thomson (not used)

*Scorers:*

Tries:	None
Conversions:	None
Penalties	None

*Dorset Piddle Brewery Man of the Match: Paul Chidley*

*Next Game:*

Dorset & Wilts Division 1 South, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, kick off 2:30pm

*Puddletown 1<sup>st</sup> XV v Frome 2<sup>nd</sup> XV*