



Puddletown 3 Bridport 74

by Geoff Puryer 10/10/09

This was a game to forget for a depleted Villagers team comprehensively beaten on the day by local rivals Bridport.

Both clubs were looking to bounce back following defeat the previous weekend, but late withdrawals, unavailability, and a string of injuries meant that the home side took to the field without a recognised scrum-half and with a hastily reorganised back division.

The visitors on the other hand had no such selection problems and showed their intentions within the first five minutes with a well worked try following an overlap on the left.

A similar break just minutes later saw them increase their lead to 10-0, but then Puddletown's forwards started to find some rhythm and mounted a series of attacks, and although they were able to make ground in midfield, further progress was repeatedly frustrated by Bridport's blanket defence.

That proved to be the pattern for the rest of the half with the home side failing to capitalise on any hard won possession, whilst visitors used theirs to full advantage, running in a further three scores to take a 29-0 lead into the break.

Bridport went further ahead straight from the restart with a try in the corner, and although the Villagers did then get on the score sheet with a penalty kick from skipper Dan Udell following a period of pressure from the home forwards, it was the visitors' running rugby which dominated the rest of the match and they finished off with a further six tries to complete the rout.

To their credit the home side competed right up to the final whistle but, with so many key players missing, had no real answers to the visitors' speed and confidence in open play.

After the game Udell said: "No complaints, we were well beaten and we have to take it on the chin. But I take heart from the attitude we showed, heads didn't drop despite the score, and we stuck to our task. So now we'll put today's performance behind us and start looking forward to next week's fixture " .

Puddletown 1st XV:

1. Jon Wilson 2. Toby Boatswain 3. Ed Richardson 4. Matt Williams 5. Jim Talbot
6. James Perrett 7. Martin Spicer 8. Ed Malpas 9. Tom Jackson 10. Dan Udell (capt)
11. Dan Durdle 12. Harry Sealey 13. Gwynne Griffiths 14. Nigel Smith 15. Matt Isaac
Replacements: 16. Scott Rumble (for Matt Isaac - 50 minutes).

Scorers:

Tries: None
Conversions: None
Penalties: Dan Udell (1)

Dorset Piddle Brewery Man of the Match: Toby Boatswain