



Puddletown XV 7 Crewkerne XV 26 by Geoff Puryer 22/08/10

The Villagers kicked off the new season with a friendly game at Greenfields against old rivals Crewkerne, and whilst the home side played some excellent rugby in parts it was the more experienced visitors who ran out winners by four scores to one.

Puddletown's starting line-up included new boys Tom Evans in the forwards and Ben Hull at outside centre, whilst Matt Hallett, playing in his first ever game of rugby, came on in the second half for a splendid debut.

The game also saw the welcome return of Ben Carter in a Puddletown shirt and he quickly demonstrated that he has lost none of his power and aggression with several surging runs and some fine tackling.

Martin Spicer too deserves credit for bringing all his experience to bear in the role of scrum-half, particularly as Crewkerne's pack were stronger in the set pieces throughout the game, often giving him little or no time on the ball.

Nevertheless he did well to regularly set up his backs with some fine distribution and, with Tom Yeatman's constant prompting, they responded with both speed and inventiveness in attack.

Puddletown's score came in open play after a fine Yeatman run sliced open the visiting defence and Toby Musgrove, taking a short outside pass at speed, cruised through to cross the line. Yeatman added the conversion.

Musgrove said afterwards: "Clearly there is plenty of work to do before the season starts in earnest, with improving our defensive duties a high priority, nevertheless for a first run-out this was a creditable performance, with the promise of some good running rugby to come as the confidence and belief continue to build."

Puddletown XV

1. Jon Wilson 2. Toby Boatswain 3. Tom Evans 4. Jim Talbot 5. Peter Gordon
6. Harry Foot 7. Tim Yeatman 8. Ed Malpas 9. Martin Spicer (capt.) 10. Tom Yeatman
11. Matt Isaac 12. Marcus House 13. Ben Hull 14. Chris Thomson 15. Mark Thomson

Replacements: Ben Carter (for Peter Gordon - 30 mins) Toby Musgrove (for Marcus House - 40 mins) Matt Hallett (for Jim Talbot - 60 mins)

Scorers:

Tries: Toby Musgrove (1)
Conversions: Tom Yeatman (1)
Penalties: None

Dorset Piddle Brewery Man of the Match : Tom Evans