



## ***East Dorset 5 Puddletown 2nds 0*** by Geoff Puryer 21/11/09

A Villagers' development squad, which included no less than three father-and-son pairings and saw the welcome return of both Peter Gordon and Andy McIntyre after long term injuries, battled well throughout in this closely contested friendly at East Dorset, with just a single score from the hosts separating the two teams at the final whistle.

With the home side currently sitting unbeaten at the top of Dorset & Wilts Division 3 South, Puddletown's scratch side, a real mixture of youth and experience, knew that they could expect a stiff examination and that certainly proved to be the case.

Equally though, and despite being reduced to 14 men for the last half-hour when McIntyre was forced off with a neck injury, good performances throughout the team largely contained East Dorset and the visitors themselves threatened with some good attacking play on a number of occasions.

In the end though it was an opportunist try in the corner, right on half-time, that sealed the narrowest of victories for the hosts, but the Villagers could nevertheless return home satisfied, particularly with the promise shown by the youngsters in the side.

Given the honour of naming the Man of the Match by club skipper Dan Udell, this correspondent had to weigh up a number of excellent performances, not least of which was the fearless display by debutant scrum half Gareth Price, despite obvious concern for his father who had to retire at half time after a blow to the head.

Then there were the other teenagers, with James Green and Dan Durdle both doing excellent work in the forwards, while Chris Thomson put in some big tackles out on the wing. Playing out of position in the second row, Udell too put himself in contention with a solid performance, whilst the two Ed's, Malpas and Richardson, both deserved serious consideration.

In the end however it was Tom Yeatman's skill and attacking flair which earned him the accolade, with his good vision, excellent handling and passing, and strong running being at the heart of every Puddletown opportunity.

*Puddletown 2nds Development XV:*

1. Rich Green 2. Dan Durdle 3. Ed Richardson 4. Pete Gordon 5. Dan Udell (capt)  
6. Scott Rumble 7. James Green 8. Ed Malpas 9. Gareth Price 10. Scott Price  
11. Tom Jackson 12. Tom Yeatman 13. Nigel Smith 14. Andy McIntyre  
15. Mark Thomson.

Replacements: 16. Chris Thomson (for Scott Price - 35 mins)

*Scorers:*

Tries: None  
Conversions: None  
Penalties: None

*Dorset Piddle Brewery Man of the Match: Tom Yeatman*

*Next Match:*

Dorset & Wilts Division 1 South, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November, kick off 2:30pm

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