



Puddletown XV 24 Manor Park 12

by Geoff Puryer 01/05/10

In an entertaining and well matched friendly at Greenfields the Villagers ended their season with a confidence boosting win over Midlands League visitors Manor Park.

The Puddletown squad, in the true spirit of a touring game, elected to start the match playing out of position, so that amongst the many changes the usual front row of hooker Tim Yeatman and ever-present props Jim Talbot and Jon Wilson lined up in the backs, whilst scrum half Dave Davies, fly half Tom Yeatman, and full back Mark Thomson formed a rather unlikely back row.

Skipper Dan Udell put himself at scrum half while number eight Paul Chidley, making a welcome return after injuring a knee back in February, was keen to try his hand at full back.

Although not without its amusing moments, this obviously resulted in a somewhat disjointed first half performance from the Villagers, and whilst they looked particularly strong in defence their attacking options were rather limited and it was the Nuneaton based tourists who enjoyed the better scoring chances, taking the lead with an unconverted try after twenty minutes.

Puddletown reverted to a more conventional line up after the break and with Manor Park having also blown away the cobwebs of the previous day's travelling, the game stepped up a gear and both teams enjoyed plenty of attacking opportunities throughout the second period.

The home side struck first when Chidley, now back in his more familiar role, picked up the ball from the base of a ruck and powered over to level the scores, then five minutes later second row Peter Gordon broke a couple of tackles and with a splendid reverse pass released Tim Yeatman to run through and cross the line. Brother Tom added the extras.

The visitors were quickly back on level terms though when they intercepted a wayward pass to score under the posts with the conversion a formality, but by then the Villagers could sense victory and after some patient build up play from the forwards the powerful Chidley once again forced his way over to restore the lead.

The game continued to open up for the hosts in the final quarter and with the hard working duo of Davies and Tom Yeatman increasingly calling the shots it was no surprise that the final try came as a result of some excellent passing through the centres, with Marcus House's pace beating the last two defenders to the line. Yeatman added the conversion to seal a welcome win.

Puddletown XV (starting line-up)

1. Adam Geal 2. Chris Thomson 3. Harlan Hill 4. Peter Gordon 5. Dave Phillips
6. Dave Davies 7. Mark Thomson 8. Tom Yeatman 9. Dan Udell 10. Jon Wilson
11. Jim Talbot 12. Tim Yeatman 13. Harry Foot 14. Marcus House 15. Paul Chidley

Replacement: Harry Chidley (for Chris Thomson - 40 mins)

Scorers:

Tries:	Paul Chidley (2) Tim Yeatman (1) Marcus House (1)
Conversions:	Tom Yeatman (2)
Penalties:	None

Dorset Piddle Brewery Man of the Match : Paul Chidley

Next Matches:

The 2010 -11 season will start in late August 2010 with a couple of pre-season friendlies.
Watch this space!