



Puddletown 5 North Dorset 2nds 26 by Geoff Puryer 13/02/10

After two successive heavy defeats away from home in Dorset & Wilts Division 1 South the struggling Villagers gave their flagging confidence a boost with this much improved performance against second placed North Dorset 2nds at Greenfields.

With the return of several key players, captain Dan Udell was, for the first time in weeks, able to field his strongest side including a full bench of replacements, and but for a poor start which enabled the visitors to build an early advantage, Puddletown looked the equal of their high-flying opponents for much of the game.

North Dorset showed their class straight from the kick off and with the hosts slow to settle, their back line, orchestrated all match by an impressive young fly-half, was able to breach a hesitant defence to run in three quick tries and build a 19 point lead by the end of the first quarter.

The Villagers then responded to this wake-up call by tightening their defensive line, and with the forwards stepping up a gear they started to compete on equal terms. Long spells in possession saw them gain plenty of territory, but as so often this season, the final moves broke down and disappointingly it was North Dorset who increased their lead with a breakaway try right on half time.

The second period saw Ed Richardson and Rob Jameson replace Jon Wilson and Justin Owers in the front row, and the home forwards, refreshed by these changes, carried on where they left off by immediately putting the strong visiting pack under pressure again. Good control and powerful ball carrying kept the Villagers deep in opposition territory, and their patient build up play was eventually rewarded when second row Paul Chidley peeled off the back of yet another Puddletown ruck to dive over the line.

Udell's conversion attempt hit a post, but undaunted the home side were now in full flow and held the advantage for the rest of the half. Only some desperate defending from the visitors prevented the Villagers from adding to their score, and whilst they rightfully claimed the second period 5-0, they were nevertheless left to rue how different things might have been had they not given away those three early tries.

Next Saturday the Villagers travel to Westbury, just one place above them in the league table, eager to build on the improvement they showed in this game.

Puddletown 1st XV:

1. Jon Wilson 2. Tim Yeatman 3. Justin Owers 4. James Perrett 5. Paul Chidley
6. Toby Boatswain 7. Martin Spicer 8. Harlan Hill 9. Dave Davies 10. Tom Yeatman
11. Jack Foot 12. Dan Udell (capt) 13. Barry Dovell 14. Matt Isaac 15. Mark Thomson

Replacements: Rob Jameson (for Jon Wilson - 40 mins) Ed Richardson (for Justin Owers - 40 mins) Jim Talbot (for Toby Boatswain - 60 mins) Gareth Price (for Dave Davies - 65 mins) James Green (for Paul Chidley - 70 mins) Rob Franks (for Matt Isaac - 75 mins)

Scorers:

Tries:	Paul Chidley (1)
Conversions:	None
Penalties:	None

Dorset Piddle Brewery Man of the Match: Paul Chidley

Next Match:

Saturday 20th February 2010

Dorset & Wilts Div.1 South - Westbury v Puddletown - kick-off: 2:30 pm