



Poole Run The Villagers Close

Puddletown Club XV 10 Poole 7

by Geoff Puryer

With Puddletown 2nds and Poole playing their final Dorset & Wilts 3 South games next weekend both clubs were keen to use this Easter friendly fixture to keep their players focussed and to try out a few different combinations and moves from the training ground.

The visitors, although arriving with plenty of players, had announced in advance of the game that they would be short of a recognised hooker so Villagers 1st XV captain Martin Spicer sportingly agreed to fill this position for them thus ensuring that the game could go ahead with contested scrums.

Puddletown themselves had 22 players available and skipper for the day Tom Yeatman was able to ring the changes throughout the eighty minutes to give everyone a run out.

The game itself was evenly contested throughout and whilst defences dominated, both sets of players kept working hard to create openings. Half time saw Poole turn round 7-3 ahead through a converted try to Yeatman's successful penalty kick, but the home side just shaded it in the second half with a trade mark Paul Chidley drive over try in the corner (his third in as many weeks), and a splendid conversion kick from replacement Dan Udell.

After the game 2nd XV captain Kevin Voss said "I'd like to thank Poole for coming over to us to play this fixture at such short notice. It was a very enjoyable game, suitably competitive, but all the time played in a manner as befits a club friendly."

His Poole counterpart echoed those sentiments, singling out Spice's contribution as evidence of the sporting nature of the contest.

The captains stopped just short of a full embrace before naming their respective men of the match, who for the Villagers was Paul Langdon "For demonstrating yet again the finer arts of flanking. Many aspire to playing in that position, but few achieve such excellence in doing so, and in getting away with it!"

Puddletown starting XV:

1. Jon Wilson 2. Dan Durdle 3. Matt Williams 4. Ian Vincent 5. Jim Talbot 6. Toby Boatswain
7. Paul Langdon 8. Paul Chidley 9. Mike Ball 10. Kevin Voss 11. Andy McIntyre 12. Stuart Mead
13. Tom Yeatman (capt.) 14. Chris Thomson 15. Mark Thomson

Replacements (all used): Luke Barwick, Peter Gordon, Chris Musgrove, Toby Musgrove, Ray

Stephens, Matt Symes, Dan Udell

Replacement (not used): Scott Price - still basking in the glory of his try against Salisbury last week, he conveniently forgot to bring his kit!

Scorers:

Tries:	Paul Chidley (1)
Conversions:	Dan Udell (1)
Penalties:	Tom Yeatman (1)