



# Villagers Finish With A Flourish

Puddletown 34    Salisbury 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 5

by Geoff Puryer

In their final Dorset & Wilts Division 1 South game Puddletown ended their season on a high note with a fine victory over mid-table Salisbury 2nds at Greenfields, scoring six tries for the second week running.

Looking to build on last week's success at Wimborne, a full strength Villagers team showed their intentions straight from the kick off enjoying the majority of the early possession and putting together some good attacking moves through the forwards.

Salisbury however always prove strong opposition and their experienced defence held firm under this sustained pressure. Eventually an excellent clearing kick by the visitors took play right up field and it was Puddletown's turn to defend their line, with some big tackles being made right across the park.

Having tested each other out for the first quarter both sides settled down to play some good attacking rugby, helped in no small part by excellent refereeing from John Reid, and it was the visitors who took the lead when their fly half chipped the ball over the home defence, and following up his own kick managed to beat full back Mark Thomson to the line.

Two minutes later the Villagers were level when after some excellent forward play second row Paul Chidley drove over to score, and then just on half time a similar attack saw Puddletown's forwards again go through the phases before setting up the ball for fly half Scott Price to cross the whitewash.

Despite holding a 10-5 lead, captain Martin Spicer's half-time team talk clearly asked for even more effort in the second period. His players responded in splendid fashion, and within five minutes the home side had increased their lead. Winger Dan Udell fired a long penalty kick into touch inside the visitors twenty-two, the ball was cleanly won at the resulting line-out and in a move straight off the training pitch was passed out through the backs for outside centre Tom Yeatman to score.

Salisbury did have several more attacking opportunities as the half progressed but the home defence was in no mood to give away any further scores, with Thomson particularly atoning for his earlier error with a couple of fine try saving tackles.

The home pack were now starting to dominate Salisbury's forwards both in the set scrum and at the line-out, where Spicer and second row James Perrett were winning everything, and it was no surprise when ten minutes later Puddletown's forwards drove their opponents over their own line.

Scrum half Josh Hiscock had the easiest of tasks touching the ball down behind his pack.

With confidence running high and the visitors looking beaten the Villagers scored twice more in the last quarter. Firstly Udell running hard from deep beat three tackles before electing to chip over the last man. He safely grounded the ball before finally kicking a successful conversion.

Then with just minutes remaining, Puddletown's now rampant forwards set up the perfect platform for the backs and in another textbook move the ball went all along the line to replacement centre Barry Dovell who ran in to score. Udell added the two points to seal a comprehensive victory.

Captain Spicer chose hooker Toby Boatswain as his Man of the Match "for his excellent line-out throwing which enabled us to get so much possession, and for his overall work rate throughout the match, in defence, in the set scrum, and in the loose"

The victory lifts Puddletown above Westbury in the league table. Only if the Wiltshire club win at Bridport on the final day of the season will the positions be reversed.

## Scorers

Tries: Paul Chidey (1) Scott Price (1) Tom Yeatman (1) Josh Hiscock (1) Dan Udell (1) Barry Dovell (1)

Conversions: Dan Udell (2)

Penalties: None

## Puddletown 1st XV

1. Jon Wilson 2. Toby Boatswain 3. Ed Richardson 4. James Perrett 5. Paul Chidley 6. Tom Foot 7. Martin Spicer (capt) 8. Harlan Hill 9. Josh Hiscock 10. Scott Price 11. Dan Udell 12. Toby Musgrove 13. Tom Yeatman 14. Matt Isaac 15. Mark Thomson

Replacements: Barry Dovell (for Scott Price - 40 mins) Roly Park (for Jon Wilson - 60 mins) Matt Symes (for Paul Chidley - 60 mins)