



## *South Wilts 7 Puddletown 25*

by Geoff Puryer 27/03/10

The recent promise of better fortunes from the battered Villagers became a reality as they emerged victorious in this keenly contested Dorset & Wilts Plate quarter-final tie.

A division lower but only seven league places behind Puddletown, South Wilts will have studied the form book and backed themselves for a win, but the visitors' steely resolve, honed by a long season of adversity, saw them continue in the form of recent weeks and in the end their class and organisation proved too much for the home side.

Both teams started brightly and after weathering an initial Villagers' onslaught the hosts worked their way up field. The visiting defence held firm with the back row of Toby Boatswain, Harry Foot, and Harlan Hill making an early impact with some fine tackling, but the pressure told and with ten minutes gone the referee spotted a player offside. However despite kicking with the wind the South Wilts penalty attempt drifted wide.

Back came the visitors, and with the forwards steadily gaining control of the midfield battle, scrum half Gareth Price and fly half Tom Yeatman were increasingly able to bring their backs into the action and midway through the first period good hands right along the line ended with winger Barry Dovell sprinting into the corner for an excellent opening try.

Dan Udell missed the conversion attempt but Puddletown were soon back on the attack and five minutes later a short pass from Yeatman saw centre Marcus House take the ball at speed, break several tackles, and touch down under the posts.

Udell's kick added the extras for a 12 point lead but the hosts replied almost immediately, catching out the Villagers with a quickly taken tap penalty releasing their winger to score in the corner.

A fine conversion kick from the touchline shortened the half time lead to 12-7, but the visitors quickly regained the initiative after the restart with a Udell penalty and from that point onwards the result never looked in doubt.

Ed Malpas came on for prop Jim Talbot but despite this reshuffle the Puddletown pack continued to dominate, whilst out wide replacement winger James House quickly showed his pace with both himself and Dovell going close as the home defence became more and more stretched.

Udell added another penalty then in a fitting climax, playmaker-in-chief Yeatman scored the try of the game. Scott Price, on at scrum half for his son, tapped a quick penalty, Yeatman took the pass, and running onto his own chip over the defence, beat the last man to score under posts. Udell duly converted and Puddletown's victory was complete.

After the game a delighted Puddletown captain said:

“That performance has been on the cards for the last few weeks and I’m so pleased for everyone involved. Perhaps the fact that it was a cup match took a bit of the pressure off, but whatever the reason, it was an excellent win and it will do our confidence no end of good as we look forward not only to a semi-final clash at home to either Poole or East Dorset, but also to our last two league games against Wimborne Seconds and Blandford, again both at home”.

The date of Puddletown’s Plate semi-final tie has yet to be confirmed, but if Poole and East Dorset manage to play their match during this week as requested, it could be scheduled for Easter Saturday 3 April. The club is already on standby for this eventually.

In the other half of the Plate draw Swindon College Old Boys beat Supermarine 48-10 in the semi-final.

### *Puddletown 1<sup>st</sup> XV:*

1. Jon Wilson 2. Tim Yeatman 3. Ed Richardson 4. Jim Talbot 5. Peter Gordon  
6. Toby Boatswain 7. Harry Foot 8. Harlan Hill 9. Gareth Price 10. Tom Yeatman  
11. Barry Dovell 12. Dan Udell (capt) 13. Marcus House 14. Matt Isaac  
15. Mark Thomson

Replacements: 16. Ed Malpas (for Jim Talbot - 50 mins) 17. James House (for Matt Isaac - 50 mins) 18. Scott Price (for Gareth Price - 70mins)

Not used: Nigel Smith

### *Scorers:*

Tries: Barry Dovell (1) Marcus House (1) Tom Yeatman (1)  
Conversions: Dan Udell (2)  
Penalties: Dan Udell (2)

*Dorset Piddle Brewery Man of the Match: Harry Foot*

### *Next Matches ( both to be confirmed - see website) :*

Easter Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Dorset & Wilts 1<sup>st</sup> XV Plate Semi Final - Puddletown v Poole or East Dorset

Easter Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April

Friendly - Puddletown Club XV v Pegasus Palmerians touring side