



## ***Swanage & Wareham 2nds 22 Puddletown 0***

by Geoff Puryer 03/10/09

After last week's victory against Salisbury in Dorset & Wilts Division 1 South, the Villagers were in confident mood as they travelled to meet Swanage and Wareham 2nds at Bestwall, but returned disappointed after the home side got themselves off the mark with their first win of the season.

Puddletown settled quickly and the forwards had the better of the early exchanges both in set play and in the loose, but despite the back row of Spicer, Holah, and Hornby repeatedly making the hard yards, the backs, when released with the ball in hand, were unable to break through the Swans' defensive line.

The home side in return were playing a more patient game, looking to counter attack from set piece and turnover ball, and on 20 minutes the breakthrough came. From a scrum on halfway their number eight broke clear on the blind side, and resisting several tackles, made 20 metres before offloading to one of his centres to run in under the posts. The try was converted.

To their credit the Villagers stormed straight back at their opponents with the forwards continuing to make good ground, but opportunities to get beyond the 22 metre line remained few and far between. Only in the last minutes of the half did the visitors breach the home defence when following a powerful run from centre Barry Dovell, debutant winger Tom Jackson took the ball at speed, only to be tackled into touch right on the try line.

To make matters worse Swans immediately played their way straight back upfield and once again broke clear for their winger to score out wide, to take a 12-0 lead into the break.

Both Dovell and second row Paul Chidley were forced to retire through injury at the interval and the home side, sensing that the Puddletown replacements would take time to settle, upped the pressure from the restart and immediately increased their lead with a well rehearsed move from a lineout 5 metres out.

From then on Swans were content to play their trade-mark style of retention rugby and the game petered out as a spectacle, although they did add a further try ten minutes from the end with a rather fortunate breakaway. For their part the Villagers never stopped attacking, but despite continuing to enjoy midfield superiority found the home defence resolute right up to the final whistle.

Villagers' Coaching Co-ordinator Toby Musgrove, who played at inside centre, later said: "I'm very disappointed that we didn't at least get on the score sheet today. But Swans' sides are always difficult to break down, and whilst we were unable to get past their defence today it wasn't for lack of trying. I can't really fault the team's commitment for the whole 80 minutes, and we can take plenty of positives into this week's training, not least the performance of our forwards again".

"Anyway, has anyone else noticed the other results today? It seems that no-one in our league is showing any consistency yet, and after three games there's only a 2 point difference between the top and bottom of the table. So its all to play for, and I'm happy to remind everyone again at this early stage that our objective for this season is a top-five finish. Lets get to work!"

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

1. Jon Wilson 2. Toby Boatswain 3. Ed Richardson 4. Jim Talbot 5. Paul Chidley  
6. Joel Hornby 7. Martin Spicer 8. Dave Holah 9. Ed Sealey 10. Barry Dovell  
11. Matt Isaac 12. Toby Musgrove 13. Dan Udell (capt) 14. Tom Jackson 15. Mark Thomson.

Replacements (both used): Scott Price, Gwynne Griffiths

*Scorers:*

Tries: None  
Conversions: None  
Penalties: None

*Dorset Piddle Brewery Man of the Match: Joel Hornby*