



Puddletown 24 v Verwood 10

In an thoroughly entertaining game at Greenfields, the Villagers successfully held off a determined challenge from a well-drilled Verwood outfit, to reach the second round of the Dorset & Wilts 1st XV Plate Competition.

The Hampshire League team had the better of the early exchanges, and playing with speed and confidence scored two quick tries to give them a ten point advantage by the end of the first quarter. However the home side, despite having several key players injured or unavailable, refused to panic and whilst there was no further score, the rest of the half was far more evenly contested.

From the restart it was Puddletown who began to dominate, and following some excellent tight control from the forwards, prop Rob Jamieson broke clear to open the Villagers' account. Dan Udell added the conversion.

Five minutes later another series of sustained attacks saw the home forwards power over the visitors' try line for number eight Harlan Hill to ground the ball. Again Udell added the two points.

To their credit Verwood fought back strongly and it was only some desperate defence from Puddletown in front of their own posts that prevented the visitors from retaking the lead. However, their failure to capitalise on this period of pressure seemed to take the sting out of their game, whereas the home side looked more and more in control, finishing strongly with further tries from replacement flanker Tom Foot, and, following the best move of the match, from winger Udell.

A delighted captain Martin Spicer commented " Fair play to Verwood. They gave us a hard game and we wish them well for the rest of the season. I'm really pleased with the way we stuck to our game plan, and how by doing so we turned the result round. Its all about confidence and I saw a lot of that from my players out there today".

The Villagers travel to Salisbury based Wheatsheaf CC for their second round match on December 13th.

Puddletown Man of the Match: Matt Symes

Scorers:

Tries: Rob Jamieson, Harlan Hill, Tom Foot, Dan Udell

Conversions: Dan Udell (2)

Penalties:

1st XV Team:

1) Jon Wilson 2) Tim Yeatman 3) Rob Jamieson 4) Matt Symes 5) Matt Williams 6) Toby Boatswain 7) Martin Spicer 8) Harlan Hill 9) Josh Hiscock 10) Tom Yeatman 11) Toby Musgrove 12) Dan Udell 13) Mike Ball 14) Jack Foot 15) Mark Thomson

Replacements: Tom Foot (for Matt Williams, 60 mins), Ollie Shaw, Matt Isaacs (not used)