



Puddletown 10 - Warminster 14

PUDDLETOWN suffered their first home defeat of the season as unbeaten Warminster came from behind late on to snatch victory in Dorset & Wilts One South.

After the previous week's defeat at Weymouth, the Villagers were looking for an improved performance against a Warminster side who arrived at Greenfields undefeated so far this season.

The early exchanges were fairly even as both sets of forwards tested each other out, but the hosts quickly gained the advantage.

Continued pressure from Puddle-town in front of the visitors' posts eventually saw the away side caught offside and full-back Dan Udell opened the scoring on 10 minutes with a well-taken penalty.

As the half progressed the game began to open up and the Villagers' control of the ball driving forward in the tight gave new scrum-half Josh Hiscock and fly-half Tom Yeatman the chance to get their backs into the game.

One particularly good handling move through the centres saw winger Mike Ball break at speed only to be tackled into touch just yards from the visitors' goal line.

It was not all one way traffic however, and at the other end Udell had to make a couple of fine try-saving tackles following good open play from Warminster.

The visitors were quicker off the mark in the second period and it immediately took some desperate defending by Puddletown on their own goal line to prevent Warminster from opening their account.

In the end a splendid clearance from Yeatman up to the half-way line relieved the pressure and gave the Villagers the wake-up call they needed.

The next 10 minutes saw the game played mainly in midfield as each side looked for the breakthrough, but once again it was Puddletown who took the initiative with the forwards repeatedly going through the phases to close-in on the Warminster try line.

The pressure eventually paid off, and from a quick tapped penalty five yards out prop Tom Bamlet drove over for a try which Udell converted.

At 10-0, with less than 20 minutes to go, the Villagers should have had the confidence to trust their stronger and more disciplined pack to keep the ball in tight, but a lack of experience saw them looking to add to the score.

Inevitably, at this late stage, handling errors were creeping in and Warminster, somewhat luckily, twice picked up spilled ball and broke away to score through each of their wingers. Both tries were converted to give them a four-point advantage.

To their credit Puddletown fought back strongly for the final 10 minutes and so nearly crossed their opponents' line on two occasions, but Warminster somehow managed to hold out until the final whistle.

Puddletown captain Martin Spicer said: "This was a game we could and should have won having done all the hard work, and we need to work on how we can protect such a lead in future matches.

"Nevertheless I can't fault any of my players for their effort, and I'm delighted with the way we're really starting to gel as a team."

Puddletown Man of the Match: Tom Bamlet