



Westbury 38 Puddletown 7

by Geoff Puryer 20/02/10

After an encouraging performance at home to second place North Dorset last week, Puddletown were looking to go one better against Westbury, just one place above them in Dorset & Wilts Division 1 South, in their search for an elusive second win of the season. However, the struggling Villagers made life even more difficult for themselves when, following the late withdrawal of several more key players, they were yet again forced to travel to Wiltshire with a squad of just fifteen and no replacements.

But despite his patched up team including two 17-year olds making their first appearances for the senior side, stand-in captain Martin Spicer was in no mood to accept anything less than 100% effort, and straight from the kick-off the Puddletown forwards responded by forcing their hosts deep into their own territory.

Patient recycling and good ball control took the visitors to within ten metres of the line, and with just five minutes gone second row Paul Chidley chose his moment to pick up the ball at the back of a ruck and drive over to open the scoring.

Fly half Tom Yeatman added the extras, and whilst the home side managed to take play back up into midfield the Villagers were soon on the attack again. Debutante scrum half Gareth Price, with confidence growing as the game unfolded, spun the ball out to Yeatman who in turn released Jack Foot with an inch perfect pass, only for the centre to lose his footing as he rounded the last man.

Minutes later the roles were reversed and it was Yeatman who very nearly broke through only to be foiled by a last ditch tackle. Westbury eventually cleared their lines, and on the half-hour, in what was really their first serious attack, put together a series of phases which resulted in a score out wide.

The try was unconverted, leaving Puddletown still ahead, but whilst they continued to enjoy the greater possession the visitors failed to add to their lead, and right on half time it was the home side who broke clear for a converted try giving them a somewhat fortunate five point advantage.

However this clearly inspired them, and with the benefit of fresh legs off the bench they stepped up a gear in the second spell, running in four further tries before the Villagers, although by now clearly tiring, dug deep for a final onslaught, and in the last few minutes both number eight Ed Malpas then flanker Spicer just fell short of crossing the whitewash for a score that arguably would have made the result a fairer reflection on the game as a whole.

Puddletown 1st XV:

1. Jon Wilson 2. Tim Yeatman 3. Jim Talbot 4. Nigel Smith 5. Paul Chidley
6. Rob Franks 7. Martin Spicer (capt) 8. Ed Malpas 9. Gareth Price 10. Tom Yeatman
11. Chris Thomson 12. Jack Foot 13. Will Hiscock 14. Matt Isaac 15. Mark Thomson

Replacements: None

Scorers:

Tries:	Paul Chidley (1)
Conversions:	Tom Yeatman (1)
Penalties:	None

Dorset Piddle Brewery Man of the Match: Martin Spicer

Next Match:

Saturday 27th February 2010 - kick off: 2:30 pm

Dorset & Wilts Division South - Puddletown v Swanage & Wareham 2nds

(this game is rearranged from 9th January 2010)