



## ***Puddletown 8 Westbury 15***

by Geoff Puryer 14/11/09

With a near gale blowing straight down the pitch, the Greenfields spectators, with ranks swelled by many former Villagers' players, were confidently predicting a twenty point half-time lead for whichever team won the toss, then a reversal of fortunes after the break as the other side enjoyed the wind on their backs.

Disappointingly neither team seemed able to use the conditions to any great advantage and the result instead was a rather tense and low scoring game fought out mainly in midfield.

Puddletown, playing with the wind, made the perfect start when Dan Udell slotted over a penalty after just five minutes, then after defending a spell of pressure from Westbury, went further ahead ten minutes later.

A smart box kick from scrum-half Josh Hiscock saw flanker Martin Spicer first to the breakdown, gain quick possession, then set up Tom Yeatman whose inch perfect pass released the backs. Safe hands at speed found Toby Musgrove on the overlap to finish off a fine move in the corner.

Udell's conversion attempt failed, but with the Villagers enjoying an 8-0 lead, that would have been the time to use the wind and put pressure on their opponents by kicking for the corners. Instead they elected to play their way up-field through the forwards only to be met by some resolute defending, and it was the visitors who eventually broke the stalemate when good build up play saw them run in for a try wide on the left to reduce Puddletown's advantage to just three points at the break.

This score galvanised Westbury who started the second period the stronger and after only five minutes they took the lead with a converted try. But then they too seemed reluctant to take their chances by kicking long, and the game reverted to a forward dominated battle.

The Villagers immediately upped their game and enjoyed plenty of possession, but all too often promising build up play was spoiled by errors and turnovers at the critical moment. In reality, as the game went on, neither side had any further clear cut try scoring opportunities, and the only addition to the points tally came from a successful Westbury penalty kick minutes before the final whistle.

Musgrove, Puddletown's coaching coordinator, said: "The lads were really keen to put on a show for the club's annual Vice-Presidents' and Old Boys' Day and are therefore doubly disappointed with the outcome. Once again, with some excellent individual performances, we saw plenty of the ball and got ourselves into some good scoring positions, but we're just not being decisive enough in the final phases. I didn't think Westbury were any better than us, but nevertheless they made us pay for our indecision".

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

1. Jon Wilson 2. Tim Yeatman 3. Ed Richardson 4. Paul Chidley 5. Jim Talbot  
6. Toby Boatswain 7. Martin Spicer 8. Harlan Hill 9. Josh Hiscock 10. Tom Yeatman  
11. Matt Isaac 12. Toby Musgrove 13. Dan Udell (capt) 14. Mike Ball  
15. Mark Thomson

Replacements: 16. Dave Phillips (for Jim Talbot - 50 mins) 17. Jon Perrett (for Toby Boatswain - 40 mins) 18. Matt Williams (for Paul Chidley - 55 mins) 19. Scott Price (for Toby Musgrove - 65 mins)

### *Scorers:*

Tries: Toby Musgrove (1)  
Conversions: None  
Penalties: Dan Udell (1)

*Dorset Piddle Brewery Man of the Match: Harlan Hill*