



Puddletown 0 Weymouth 9

by Geoff Puryer 20/03/10

Three second-half penalties from the reliable boot of Weymouth's Tim Peplow provided the only points in this closely fought contest, and ensured that with just two games left they move one step nearer to securing the runners up spot in Dorset & Wilts Division 1 South, whilst the luckless Villagers stay rooted in bottom place and must surely now be destined for the drop.

Local derbies rarely follow the form book though and this one proved to be no different, with the home side more than matching their high flying visitors for long periods of the game, so much so that an impartial observer might have struggled to understand the gap between the two sides' respective league positions.

Puddletown were the first to settle and the home forwards quickly got the measure of a strong visiting pack, giving scrum-half Dave Davies plenty of decent ball to set up the next phase of play each time. This early pressure paid off when Weymouth conceded a penalty thirty metres out, but the chance was wasted when Tom Yeatman's kick fell just short.

The midfield battle continued with the Villagers still showing the greater initiative, and ten minutes later, after some patient build up play, the pressure told once again and they were awarded a second penalty, this time only to see full-back Mark Thomson's effort drift wide. This clearly gave the visitors a lift and it was Puddletown's turn to defend, with the whole of the side called into making some big tackles to keep them at bay. The referee did spot an infringement right on half time, but Peplow's attempt from out wide also failed to find the mark.

The second half continued in the same vein and with conditions deteriorating the game inevitably became more and more a battle of the forwards, although to their credit the Villagers, still enjoying the better possession, were trying to run the ball at every opportunity, with the inventive Yeatman at fly-half repeatedly setting up some good attacking breaks.

Despite that Weymouth were making the most of their visits into home territory and after twenty minutes had built up a six point lead, before the home side squandered the only real try-scoring opportunity of the whole game when, just metres from the line, and in full control of a ruck, they somehow managed to lose the ball forward.

Minutes later Peplow converted another penalty to take the game beyond the Villagers' reach, and despite a storming final ten minutes they were unable to find the finish that would have added an air of respectability to the score line.

Puddletown 1st XV:

1. Jon Wilson 2. Toby Boatswain 3. Jim Talbot 4. Peter Gordon 5. Tim Yeatman
6. Harry Foot 7. Martin Spicer (capt) 8. Harlan Hill 9. Dave Davies 10. Tom Yeatman
11. Jack Foot 12. Marcus House 13. Barry Dovell 14. Matt Isaac 15. Mark Thomson

Replacements: 16. James Green (for Harry Foot - 50 mins) 17. Rob Franks (for Jack Foot - 50 mins)

Not used: Ed Malpas, Matt Williams, Dan Udell, Nigel Smith, Chris Thomson.

Scorers:

Tries: None
Conversions: None
Penalties: None

Dorset Piddle Brewery Man of the Match: Jim Talbot

Next Matches:

Saturday 27th March - kick off: 2:30 pm

Dorset & Wilts 1st XV Plate Quarter Final - South Wilts v Puddletown

Saturday 27th March - kick off: 2:30 pm

Dorset & Wilts 2nd XV Shield Final (at Puddletown RFC) - Sherborne II v Weymouth II