



### **Weymouth RFC 1<sup>st</sup> XV 46 v Puddletown RFC 1<sup>st</sup> XV 8**

The weather conditions were perfect for what was expected to be a hotly contested first leg of the Seaside v Villagers local derby.

With the wind and slope with them, Puddletown started strongly against what will surely be the heaviest pack in the league. Puddletown chose to keep tight ball for the first period, while Weymouth ran the ball purposefully through their talented and pacy back line. Several times Puddletown were stretched and forced to make some excellent last ditch tackles, most notably from centre Ben Carter. Eventually the thin red line was breached as Puddletown ran out of men and Weymouth touched down in the corner. Despite some good turnovers and lineout steals from Jim Perrott, Weymouth once again worked a wide try with their hooker taking the ball up the 5m channel at full chat to score. With the play evenly balanced, Weymouth transgressed offside to give Dan Udell the chance to register Puddletown's first points and he duly delivered. Towards the close of the first half, the Puddletown tight five started to achieve some parity in the scrum with the home forwards starting to wilt in the September sun. It was all to play for as the teams turned round at half time.

Puddletown started brightly from the restart with Jim Talbot leading the way, and began to set up some good tight rolling play. However an excellent steal from the Weymouth pack, against the run of play, on the Puddletown 10m line saw their backs take the ball at speed and touch down for another try, virtually unhindered. This signalled a significant resurgence in the Weymouth effort with their pack visibly buoyed by the score. Weymouth succeeded in dotting down a further three unanswered tries as they attacked relentlessly around the fringes of the breakdown, feeding off the expertise of their classy scrum half who set the tone for Weymouth's dominance at this stage. A flash of individual brilliance saw Puddletown man of the match Josh Hiscocks collect the ball, leave the defence flat-footed and then collect his own chip kick to score. The immediate Weymouth response saw them score twice more as this time the Puddletown defence began to look ragged in the heat and fitness was tested. These tries were well taken by Weymouth's scrum half and then second row who on both occasions attacked tight to the breakdown and forcing themselves through.

For the last 20 minutes, Puddletown showed some character and took the game to Weymouth. Some quality breaks from captain Martin Spicer supported well by the other Puddletown loose forwards, saw good territory and possession gained. All fifteen Puddletown players raised the tempo and intensity in a desperate attempt to close with a further score; this was not to be the case.

Puddletown coach Pete Gordon afterwards commented "I can't fault our effort and we played two competitive quarters. However a poor quarter around half time handed the initiative to them. Credit to Weymouth; this was a tough test for us and shows the standard we need to achieve if we are to reach our objective of a top half league finish. We look forward very much to the return leg".

**PRFC Man-of-the-Match:** Josh Hiscocks

***Scorers:***

Tries: Josh Hiscock

Conversions:

Penalties: Dan Udell (1)

***1<sup>st</sup> XV Team:***

(1) Jon Wilson; (2) Toby Boatswain; (3) Rob Jamieson; (4) Matt Symes; (5) James Perrett; (6) Jim Talbot; (7) Neil Cahill; (8) Martin Spicer; (9) Scott Price; (10) Tom Yeatman; (11) Jack Foot; (12) Ben Carter; (13) Mike Ball; (14) Josh Hiscock; (15) Dan Udell; (Reserves) Tim Yeatman (on for Ben Carter 65 mins); Dave Phillips.