



Wimborne 2nds 37 Puddletown 12 by Geoff Puryer 12/12/09

A much needed second victory eluded the Villagers as they reached the half-way point of their Dorset & Wilts Division 1 South campaign, with a resurgent Wimborne second string eventually running out as comfortable winners at Leigh Park.

Puddletown will however take heart from another spirited performance and it was only in the last quarter, as they were forced to push up and chase the game, that the home side put the result beyond doubt.

The visitors began strongly with their forwards immediately taking the initiative and penning Wimborne inside their own twenty-two, but as so often this season they could not find the killer touch, and after some desperate defending it was the hosts who managed to break clear to send their winger sprinting through three tackles to touch down out wide.

The try was converted, but this set-back simply spurred on the Villagers, and five minutes later they responded. Winning a scrum against the head, then keeping the ball in tight, they drove their opponents over their own five metre line for number eight Dave Holah to choose his moment to pick up and score in the corner.

Dan Udell missed the conversion but Puddletown were back on terms and enjoyed the better of the midfield possession for the rest of the first period. Flanker Harlan Hill's power and work rate exemplified the visitors determination, but despite a number of promising attacking phases the home defence held firm. Then, right on half time and completely against the run of play, another breakaway saw them cross over to turn round 12-5 ahead.

The home side upped the tempo straight from the restart and it was the visitors turn to desperately defend their lines. Toby Boatswain did eventually win turnover ball to break clear, but relief was short lived and after five minutes the referee spotted Puddletown hands in the ruck, giving the hosts a simple penalty opportunity to increase their lead.

A well executed but unconverted try quickly followed before the Villagers regained some advantage and, after another prolonged spell of pressure, quick passing through the centres saw Udell take the ball at pace to beat three men and score under the posts.

He added the extras himself to bring the Villagers back within reach, but from then on, despite fly-half Tom Yeatman's incessant prompting, their attacks failed to find any further penetration, and instead it was the home side who finally prospered with three more late scores.

After the game Toby Musgrove, Puddletown's coaching co-ordinator, commented:

"There were some good periods of play from us out there today, and some excellent individual performances too. I'd say that we played to about 75% of our potential which is positive enough, but of course it's the final 25% that matters. That means reducing the number of errors we make in defence, as well as being more incisive in attack so that we score more points".

"Quite simply, if we are to turn things round in the second half of the season, we need to address three key issues. First and foremost, and I know I keep saying it, we need more players out training each and every week so that we can work together on our key skills, our game plan, and of course our fitness. The spirit amongst the lads that are there every week is self-evident; we desperately need more of our squad to share in that enthusiasm".

"If we can achieve that objective quickly then we will probably start to resolve the other issues which concern me, namely more players making themselves available on a Saturday, and less reliance on our senior players whose commitment to the club is immense, but some of whom nevertheless would really rather not have the pressure of first team rugby week in week out?"

Skipper Dan Udell, when asked for his half term report, said: "First of all I'd like to thank all of the players who've represented the 1st XV so far this season. We've had a few close run games which I feel we could have won if we had trained that little bit more as a team, and I can only echo Toby's plea for more people to come out training from now on".

"This week's trip to Salisbury is a winnable game provided we play to our strengths, then on the 9th January we play Swans for the first of seven home league games in the second half of the season. A big effort from everybody, players and supporters alike, to get behind Toby and me would be appreciated so we can start 2010 as we mean to go on".

Puddletown 1st XV:

1. Jon Wilson 2. Tim Yeatman 3. Ed Richardson 4. Paul Chidley 5. Jim Talbot
6. Toby Boatswain 7. Harlan Hill 8. Dave Holah 9. Josh Hiscock 10. Tom Yeatman
11. Jack Foot 12. Dan Udell (capt) 13. Mike Ball 14. Nigel Smith 15. Mark Thomson

Replacements: 16. Toby Musgrove (not used) 17. Scott Price (not used) 18. Rob Franks (for Jim Talbot - 40 mins) 19. James Green (for Toby Boatswain - 60 mins)

Scorers:

Tries:	Dave Holah (1) Dan Udell (1)
Conversions:	Dan Udell (1)
Penalties	None

Dorset Piddle Brewery Man of the Match: Harlan Hill

Next Game:

Dorset & Wilts Division 1 South, Saturday 19th December, kick off 2:30pm

Salisbury 2nd XV v Puddletown 1st XV



1st XV stats 2009-2010

Updated 12th December 2009 (after 11 games)

Name	Appearances			Scorers			Total Points	MoM
	Lge	Cup	Ttl	Try	Con	Pen		
Mike BALL	7		7					
Toby BOATSWAIN	10		10					1
Paul CHIDLEY	8		8	1			5	1
Barry DOVELL	1		1					
Dan DURDLE	4		4					
Jack FOOT	3		3	1			5	
Rob FRANKS	2		2					
Adam GEAL	1		1					
Pete GORDON	1		1					
James GREEN	2		2					
Gwynne GRIFFITHS	2		2					
Harlan HILL	3		3					2
Josh HISCOCK	6		6	1			5	
Dave HOLAH	4		4	1			5	
Joel HORNBY	4		4					2
Matt ISAAC	9		9					
Tom JACKSON	4		4					
Ed MALPAS	3		3					
Toby MUSGROVE	9		9	1			5	
Roly PARK	1		1					
James PERRETT	6		6					
Jon PERRETT	2		2					
Dave PHILLIPS	2		2					1
Scott PRICE	6		6					1
Ed RICHARDSON	8		8					
Scott RUMBLE	4		4					
Ed SEALEY	3		3					
Harry SEALEY	2		2					
Gareth SMITH	3		3					
Nigel SMITH	7		7					
Martin SPICER	9		9	1			5	2
Ray STEPHENS	1		1					
Matt SYMES	2		2					
Jim TALBOT	11		11					
Mark THOMSON	8		8					
Dan UDELL	11		11	2	3	4	28	
Matt WILLIAMS	3		3					
Jon WILSON	11		11					
Tim YEATMAN	7		7					1
Tom YEATMAN	7		7					
(40)			(197)	(8)	(3)	(4)	(58)	