



## Wimborne 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 5 Puddletown 36

by Geoff Puryer

Puddletown finally removed any lingering doubts about their Dorset & Wilts Division 1 status with a comprehensive win at bottom of the table Wimborne 2nds.

The visitors showed their intentions straight from the kick-off but despite enjoying most of the possession for the first quarter, found themselves unable to convert pressure into points. An injury to powerful number eight Tom Cato caused further anxiety to the visiting supporters but stalwart Ed Richardson proved an able replacement at the back of the scrum, and five minutes later the Villagers' pack, back into their rhythm, drove their opponents over their own try line. The ball was grounded by Puddletown but the referee spotted an infringement by the home defence and awarded a penalty try under the posts which centre Dan Udell converted.

With confidence boosted by this score the visitors upped the pressure from the restart, and after a surging run from second row Paul Chidley the ball was passed out through the centres to Matt Isaac whose blistering pace took him clear to score in the corner. Wimborne did come back to run in a break away try, but the half belonged to Puddletown with a 12-5 lead at the break.

The period immediately after half-time has so often this season seen the Villagers caught cold by their opponents, but not so on this occasion, and within five minutes tries by second row James Perrett, and then scrum half Josh Hiscock, both converted by Udell, saw the visitors take the game firmly by the scruff of the neck.

Wimborne stuck to their task but Puddletown's superior pack kept their backs supplied with good ball, and further tries from flanker Tom Foot, and a second for scrum half Hiscock, comfortably sealed the victory for the Villagers, and confirmed their opponents' relegation to Division 2 next season.

A delighted skipper Martin Spicer said " A win feels really good, particularly as the game had a lot riding on it. We've been playing a lot better in the last couple of matches without any success, so it was important that we got back into the habit of scoring today. Another win next week against Salisbury could see us finish above Westbury in the table and would really confirm the improvements we've made of late".

"Finally my man of the match today is Matt Isaac, not just for scoring his first ever 1st XV try, but also for his work rate and tackling in defence. But then all my players put in top performances today"

### Scorers:

Tries: Penalty Try (1) Matt Isaac (1) James Perrett (1) Josh Hiscock (2) Tom Foot (1)

Conversions: Dan Udell (3)

Penalties: None

### 1st XV Team:

1.Jon Wilson 2.Toby Boatswain 3.Roly Park 4. James Perrett 5. Paul Chidley 6. Tom Foot 7. Martin Spicer (captain) 8.Tom Cato 9. Josh Hiscock 10.Tom Yeatman 11. Matt Isaac 12. Toby Musgrove 13. Dan Udell 14. Mike Ball 15. Jack Foot

Replacements: Ed Richardson (for Tom Cato - 20 mins) Barry Dovell (for Mike Ball 50 mins) Matt Williams (for Jon Wilson - 60 mins)