

PLUMPTON GROUND DOWN

Abridged

Plumpton Rugby Club's hosted a last minute change of venue, with Newick's pitch unplayable. Despite home advantage, it was Newick came away with a scrappy win 15-10. Plumpton never looked like losing this game, but a straight forward centre try 20 minutes from time put the nail in the coffin of an unforgettable game for Plumpton.

Full

Plumpton Rugby Club hosted Newick in the second derby game of the season, as Newick's pitch was declared unplayable in the morning of the game.

Both sides faced a changed side beset by injury, but relished an opportunity to rekindle recent rivalries, Plumpton unbeaten against Newick in 7 years.

With a disjointed start, the game itself wasn't much better. Newick are renown for playing tight rugby, using key players to nullify the game and play to their own pace and strengths. Plumpton over the years have been able to match this style of play, if only occasionally being able to break free from a tight game, with most game rarely separated by more than a score.

Plumpton played most of the first half in the Newick half, despite playing uphill, with a wide move by the Plumpton backs allowing a run in for winger Tom Gelling. Newick were able to slot a subsequent penalty turning round at half time 5-3.

With everything looking in favour of Plumpton in the second half, playing down the slope and seeing Newick losing players through injury it was now for Plumpton to turn the screw.

The screwdriver however wasn't found, as Newick maintained a deathly pace to the game and effectively played to their strengths, through slow secure ball and a dominant line out keeping possession from Plumpton.

Plumpton were frustrated, as firstly an overlap allowed Newick to coast over the line, created by misalignment from the Plumpton defensive line, then through a costly missed tackle allowing the veteran Newick Centre to touch down under the posts.

With 15 minutes of the worst rugby played but Plumpton all season, the game was now an uphill battle at 15-5.

Plumpton couldn't find the extra gear, with rolling mauls, a strength of the Plumpton game this season, slowed and dismantled by Newick, it took 8 minutes before time for Plumpton to roll toward the Newick line, before Captain Lewis Beale took control at the back of the maul to drive powerfully over the line.

Plumpton however were unable to convert, and despite having time to play for the win, the game ran out of legs, for Newick to win and shake a 7 year monkey off their back.

Club Captain Lewis Beale commented “Rollercoaster season sums it up, we have only won two games on the trot once this season. We have superb players, it’s all about the top two inches however and we left those inches in the changing room.

Final score 15-10 to Newick. Plumpton host Burgess Hill this weekend at the racecourse, kick-off 2.15pm.