

## PLUMPTON WIN EDENBRIDGE TOURNAMENT

### Abridged

Plumpton Rugby Club traveled into Kent for the annual Edenbridge tournament at the weekend and came away as winners. Plumpton faced experienced sides Gravesend and Edenbridge in their pool stages, winning both 20 minute games 12-0, before sealing the final against pool 2 winners and London 2 side Tonbridge Juddians 10-0 to take the trophy for the first time, without conceding a point in 3 games.

Man of the Match: Direct running number 8 Dave Dunn. Plumpton face Shoreham at the weekend at the racecourse, Kick off 3pm.

### Full

Plumpton Rugby Club made the trip north to Kent for the annual Edenbridge Tournament. Plumpton have forged close link with Edenbridge over the past 6 years and looked forward to meeting some of the more senior sides in Kent, Gravesend, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge Judds & Edenbridge.

The 15's tournament is played as 20 minute games, with 2 pools, the winners of the 3 team pools then meet in a 30 minute final. Plumpton picked a large pack including the experienced front row of Rob Blake, Craig Wells and Steve Cropper coupled with the youthful bullish talent of Tom Gelling and Ben Walker to face the traditionally larger Kent sides. This proved to be a winning combination as the front row, along with 2<sup>nd</sup> rows Nigel Box and Matt Martin out muscling the local sides up front. Nigel Box in fact scoring a try in both pool games against Edenbridge and Gravesend.

It was perhaps the back row combinations of Dave Dunn, Mike Upton, Tom Anderson, Dave Lamb and Vice Captain Brodie Forest who added additional pace to the games and this proved too much for the slower Kent sides throughout the pool games. The dominant pack combined with excellent ball winning from the line-out courtesy of Mike Upton provided clean ball all afternoon to scrum half Gareth Lawrens and the experience back line.

His bullet like passing set the back line of Lewis Beale, James Burgess, Rhys Beale, Dan Franks, Colin Ford, Justin Smith & Jason Thomas alight, generating a series of well worked tries, including two for Rhys Beale and one for Jason Thomas.

Rhys Beale left the best score of the afternoon for the final, despite not feeling well enough to play in the final after an earlier concussion from an off the ball incident in the pool stages, Rhys Beale took on a crash ball, ignoring the four man overlap to score under the post only 3 minutes into the final. He duly converted.

Plumpton dominated most of the game, despite playing a side 4 leagues above them. Plumpton played on the front foot, continually pinning Judds back into their 22, limiting the options for the opposition. With 3 minutes to go it was club

captain Lewis Beale who took advantage of a powerful scrum under the opposition posts to drop goal the final points, wrapping up a convincing 10-0 win. Plumpton celebrated the win by lifting the Edenbridge cup front of over 200 people and made sure most Sussex pubs on the way back to the Fountain inn, Plumpton who were all made aware of their win...

Man of the Match: Veteran Number 8 Dave Dunn, his direct running for the base of the scrum proved too much for the Kent sides. Plumpton face Shoreham at the weekend at the racecourse, Kick off 3pm in their first league game of the season. Plumpton RFC are looking for a Club Coach. If you have experience in coaching a progressive rugby team, Plumpton would love to see you at the game this weekend.