

## PLUMPTON DEFEATED BY THE ELEMENTS

### Abridged

Plumpton Rugby Club's traveled to Seaford due to a waterlogged pitch to face Hellingly, still coming away 31-8 winners. Plumpton never looked like losing this game despite looking a shadow of the destructive force of the previous week. MOTM Plumpton's dynamic back row Mike Upton

### Full

Plumpton Rugby Club's traveled to Seaford due to a waterlogged pitch to face Hellingly at the weekend.

Plumpton took one of the best sides of the season to the seafront pitch, but looked like the side more likely to lose as they ambled into the game. It took 20 minutes before Plumpton realised their own attacking threat came from out wide as they started to put the ball through the hands and stretch the slower Hellingly side. Infact the first try from flying Dan Sherwin came from this very tactic.

Steve Blake, deserved Man-of-the-match for 60 minutes tackled with ferocity all game, winning significant turnovers and forcing any attacking options posed by Hellingly to rethink.

Following a Hellingly converted penalty for infringement, Plumpton again went on the attack, with a wide miss pass between brothers Lewis and Rhys Beale saw the younger brother score under the posts.

Hellingly looked to react to this by camping on the Plumpton line, this lead to Steve Blake spending 10 minutes on the sidelines. Plumpton reacted poorly to the decision and played on the back foot as Hellingly attacked the Plumpton line to gain a score. Hellingly only made it into the Plumpton 22 once more in the game, a break away, however a crunching tackle from James Burgess on the line dislodged the ball just before grounding.

The resilience of the Plumpton players continued, particularly from James Burgess and Rhys Beale which showed through as an up and under was gathered by Burgess who put Beale over for an easy score.

With 20 minutes to go Plumpton made 4 substitutions, the added pace of Tom Gelling, Colin Ford, Dan Franks and Matt Martin added a faster dimension to the Plumpton play, as Hellingly allowed a simple score for part-time prop Steve Crapper to flop over unopposed.

Justin Smith put the game out of sight with another simply try, as the Plumpton back line again cut through the Hellingly defence to allow Smith to find some needed pace to score.

Man-of-the-match Plumpton's dynamic back row Mike Upton who played with pace and power for 81 minutes

Club Captain Lewis Beale commented “ I don’t know what any captain thinks when his side play’s so far within themselves but still wins so easily. I would rather have seen the same dynamic performance of last week against Hove, one that I don’t think any side in our league could have lived with. But then it wouldn’t be much fun for our supporters, would it!”.

Final score 31-8. Plumpton host St Francis at the racecourse for the final game of the year, kick-off 2.15pm.