

PLUMPTON LEAVE IT TOO LATE

Abridged

Plumpton Rugby Club's first league game ended in disappointment as they went down 18-12 away to St Francis in the Sussex Intermediate league.

Plumpton played with high intensity and commitment, the large crowd watching some great rugby but left it too late to catch St Francis after going behind to two scores just either side of half time.

Men of the Match: South African Scrim half Gareth Lourens and Veteran 2nd row Gavin Nevitt. Plumpton look to home advantage this weekend as they welcome Barns Green to the racecourse, Kick off 3pm at Edenbridge.

Full

Plumpton Rugby Club took a strong experienced squad to St Francis, Crawley for the weekend headline fixture in the Sussex Intermediate League.

Looking to improve on the previous week's communication problems Plumpton picked an experienced side. This paid off as Plumpton started the brightest, the fast pace and attacking lines proving too much for the St Francis backs. It took only 10 minutes for Jason Thomas to sweep up a deft chip over the St Francis backline to score under the posts, converted by Beale.

The intensity of the game maintained a high pace throughout the game, with both sides playing rugby normally seen by sides in higher leagues. Despite the Plumpton pressure, they were unable to breakdown the dogged St Francis forward pack, who scored two well worked tries either side of half time, disappointing for Plumpton given they had identified the opposition strengths before the game.

Plumpton never looked out of the game, with play often taking place deep in the St Francis 22. It took a series of phase plays to finally unlock St Francis again. Joint man of the match Gavin Nevitt was able to secure 100% of the kick off ball, as well as putting in a solid game in the scrum. Good ball allowed Plumpton's other man of the match Gareth Lourens to release quick ball, for Rhys Beale to beat the slower covering defence and crash over against the opposition's 2nd rows.

The final result 18-12 to St Francis showed just how close the game was, with 10 minutes longer it could have been a different result for Plumpton who could not fault their intensity or committed performance, and this will surely hold them in good stead for the season.

A mention should be made to the Referee, who had an outstanding game, allowing both teams to play committed rugby.

Plumpton look to home advantage this weekend as they welcome Barns Green to the racecourse, Kick off 3pm at Edenbridge.

Men of the Match: South African Scrum half Gareth Lourens who dogged play caused havoc in the St Francis forward line, along with Veteran 2nd row Gavin Nevitt who stole all of the St Francis restart ball and locked out a solid scrum throughout.