

PLUMPTON CHARACTER SHOWS THROUGH

Abridged

Plumpton Rugby Club traveled to top of the table Eastbourne 2's. Despite turning up with only 14 players, due to a late injury crisis, Plumpton managed to put on a good team performance going down 38-5, their solitary try scored by Tom Gelling.

Men of the match, 59 year old flanker Colin Fisher and stalwart 2nd row Paul Harvey. This weekend Plumpton are involved in a local friendly, kick off 2pm.

Full

Plumpton Rugby Club's traveled to top of the table Eastbourne 2's. With a series of setback leading up to the game, injuries and late cancellations Plumpton were able to only field 14 players. However, club stalwart Colin Fisher offered to dust off his silver boots at the age of 59 allowing Plumpton to field 15 players shortly before kick off.

The game could have gone one of two ways, as Eastbourne looked to take advantage of the less than perfect lead up to the game for Plumpton by running the ball at every opportunity. Infact a try by Eastbourne only 6 minutes in could have signaled an almighty collapse for the normally bullish Plumpton team.

However, Plumpton had already agreed on a game plan of big forward runners, coupled with direct running centres to play basic front foot rugby. This directed the shape of play for the entire game, Eastbourne constantly looking to play wide overlap rugby, whereas Plumpton looked to play direct rugby whilst keeping possession.

Eastbourne were able to find further holes in the Plumpton defence either side of half time, however only managed to maintain parity of possession and were therefore stifled in attempting to play a style of rugby they had expected to achieve against the weakened Plumpton side.

Plumpton youthful Tom Gelling, Ben Walker and Jo Bryant time and time again tackled with gusto, keeping pace easily with the Eastbourne side and keeping Plumpton in the game. It was Tom Gelling infact who showed great vision, to pick and go fifteen yards out for Plumpton only try.

With the Plumpton front five of Cropper, Blake, Wells, Harvey and Walker, who averaged almost 20 stone a man deciding to pick and drive for a significant period of the game, Plumpton never allowed Eastbourne to run away with the game.

Eastbourne flattered to deceive, as a couple of tries just before the final whistle made the scoreboard less reflective of a tight game, final result 38-5 to Eastbourne.

Club Captain Lewis Beale was keen to mention his team after the game “ I am very proud of all 15 players who took the field today. Despite the massive impact so many late drop-outs had on our preparations, the Plumpton flag was still flown high and proud by those 15 players on the pitch today. Special mention must go to Colin Fisher who has now played in every season for the past 43 years, and Paul Harvey who played a full 80 minutes before announcing he will hang up his boots due to a persistent knee injury”.

Plumpton play Uckfield III's in a friendly this weekend, kick off 2pm.