

PLUMPTON WIN LOCAL DERBY

Abridged

Plumpton Rugby Club's took the honors' in their local derby league game at home to Newick. Despite a number of injuries Plumpton still took the game to Newick, the result never looked in doubt. Final result 12:6 to Plumpton.

Man of the Match: Whirlwind Scrum-half Gareth Lourens. Plumpton travel to Lewes this weekend for a friendly after 6 league games on the bounce, Kick off 2.30pm at Lewes.

Full

Plumpton Rugby Club welcomed friendly and local rivals Newick to the racecourse for the largest rugby derby game found in mid Sussex.

Both sides were beset with injuries, but looking to put on strong performances in front of a packed crowd following the annual sponsor's lunch.

It was Plumpton who started the brightest, an obvious game plan of using their bigger forwards to punch holes up the middle of the park created two early penalties in kicking distance. Despite not converting these chances, Plumpton were still able to keep Newick deep in their half and soon crashed over from colossus Nigel Box.

Scrum half Gareth Lourens, who had his best game of the season seemed to control every aspect of the game. The Plumpton game plan of direct powerful rugby was executed brilliantly, with powerful runners Steve Cropper, Dave Lamb and Craig Wells taking 2 men to stop them.

Despite the forward dominance, Newick played some wider and at times better rugby. They played to the referee and were able to take advantage of positional lapses from Plumpton to counter attack. Plumpton however regularly camped on the Newick line, but one mistake was all it needed for Newick to clear their lines.

One mistake however by Newick allowed flying Plumpton full back Dan Sherwin to finish a well worked individual try. Shunning an overlap with the blistering quick James Ellis, who also deserved Man-of-the-match, Dan Sherwin stepped inside, beating the covering defence, before standing up his opposite full back with some fancy footwork to score.

Plumpton should have scored further tries each side of half time. The first a drive over try not given despite the opposition conceding to a try and a push over try which was knocked on only after scoring but not given.

Despite this set back and 2nd half pressure by a resilient Newick who capitalized on offside calls to close the score to 6 points, which lead to a pulsating end to the game.

Despite going down to 14 men for the final 10 minutes Plumpton were able to hold firm with resilient defending to close out the game. Final score 12-6 to Plumpton.

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