

## PLUMPTON PLAY TO THE WIRE

### Abridged

Plumpton Rugby Club's start to the season faltered again to a spirited Barns Green side, going down 25-26 at home.

Plumpton played without the intensity shown in previous games, with errors in the Plumpton back line to blame for all the opposition tries. Plumpton were always behind, leaving it until 2 minutes before time to catch Barns Green, but failed with the conversion to win.

Man of the Match: Open side flanker Mike Upton found the form of previous seasons with superb line-out steals. Plumpton look to re-start their home form this weekend as they welcome Shoreham to the racecourse for a re-arranged league game, Kick off 3pm.

### Full

Plumpton Rugby Club had set themselves up for a big game performance with a full forward squad to pick from. Plumpton played their powerful forward pack, in an attempt to dominate the smaller Barns Green side.

Plumpton started the more adventurous, with Centre Justin Smith tearing a hole in the Barns Green midfield only to be caught for pace a yard from the line. However two mistakes from the Plumpton centres soon after allowed Barns Green to re-gather and run in weak tries untouched.

Plumpton however re-gathered and were soon level with individual tries from Rhys Beale and Simon Elston. The small dead ball line actually causing another try to be disallowed for Plumpton, meaning they were still behind in the game.

In the second half more back line fumbles and miss tackles allowed Barns Green to run in a further try which along with 2 penalties made the game look out of reach for Plumpton.

However the forward pack with 20 minutes to go finally found some extra pace and power which had been sorely missed from the start, with the introduction of Steve Blake and Dave Lamb. A well worked switch in the midfield allowed colossus 2<sup>nd</sup> row Nigel Box to crash through the covering defence to score a well earned try.

With two minutes to go and Plumpton camped on the Barns Green line, Steve Blake again made good driving yards, allowing Dave Lamb to pick up from the ensuing ruck and storm over from 2 yards. This put the game within 1 point, however Plumpton were unable to convert. The final whistle came seconds after, letting Barns Green off the hook.

Plumpton will have to play a lot better to remain in the Sussex Intermediate league, a series of team changes are expected for this week's game against Shoreham.

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