

PLUMPTON DEFEATED BY THE ELEMENTS

Abridged

Plumpton Rugby Club's travelled to league leaders Heathfield 2's at the weekend. Despite some enforced late changes to their side, a resilient Plums were able to play tight rugby to score a bonus point in losing 19-12. Man-of-the-match direct running winger Justin Smith.

Full

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Plumpton on paper looked to be in for a hard game, with Heathfield top of the league. However it looked as if Plumpton were more likely to score. With the game played on the notorious Waldron pitch, Plumpton however were unable to take advantage of the slope, be it final knock on's or unsighted scoring decisions from the referee.

With the Heathfield support acting as the 2nd referee, Plumpton found it hard to pose their authority on the game and establish and rhythm. It took Plumpton colt and centre Dan Franks to break the deadlock, scooping up a loose pass and side stepping three defenders to score under the posts.

With the score at 9-7 to Heathfield at half time, Plumpton now looked under pressure as they played up the slope 2nd half. A strong team talk by club captain at half time on poor handling and intelligence, coupled with a series of substitutions during the 2nd half put the Plumpton players back in the mindset of winning.

And despite looking the more adventurous in the 2nd half, including a length of the field run from winger and man-of-the-match Justin Smith, Heathfield were able to convert a series of penalties, to win the game, despite losing on tries 2-1. Final score 19-12, ensuring a losing bonus point to Plumpton.

Plumpton host Hove Volunteers this weekend at the racecourse, kick-off 2.15pm.