

PLUMPTON NEEDED FIVE MORE MINUTES

Abridged

Plumpton Rugby Club hosted Heathfield 2's at the racecourse this weekend. Heathfield are flying high in the league and with Plumpton depleted by many players taking part in a 7's tournament looked to be up against it.

Despite a dull first half, the game turned into a spectacle in the second. Both teams never able to get more than one score ahead, as a late try by Bulldozing 2nd row Nigel Box, adding to an earlier penalty by Captain Lewis Beale made it a tight finale at 8-13.

Heathfield however hung on, to run out eventual winners.

Full

Plumpton Rugby Club hosted friendly local club Heathfield 2's at the weekend. Both clubs have a good relationship, with a few ex Heathfield 1st team players now in the Plumpton ranks.

Heathfield are flying high in the league and with Plumpton depleted by many players taking part in a 7's tournament looked to be up against it. However Heathfield use their 2nd team as a Development side, so tactically Plumpton looked to use their superior size to bully their opposition.

Plumpton went on the attack for the first half, and could have been nine points ahead, with only one converted penalty from three opportunities. Just before half time however Heathfield struck, a series of penalties on the Plumpton line allowed Heathfield to convert an easy try and penalty.

At 10-3, Plumpton now played into the wind and looked like being in for a tough ride. However Plumpton reverted to their strengths, starting to dominate the line-out and scrum. Despite giving away an early converted penalty for laying on the ball by Blake, Plumpton still looked to get the better of the 2nd half, and as Heathfield continued to build their own high penalty count Plumpton struck.

Firstly Heathfield went down to 14 men, as Heathfield tried to slow down ball, then Nigel Box crashed over from 15 yards to close the score to 13-8.

Plumpton time and time again battered the Heathfield line, as Heathfield gave away a series of penalties and went down to 13 men for another cynical foul play. Despite attacking flair from Andy Petty, James Burgess and Jason Thomas in the backs the last pass continued to evade them, as Heathfield held firm.

Special mention goes to Steve Cropper, who on comeback from a career ending injury made a difference to the Plumpton scrum 2nd half. Final score 13-8 to Heathfield.

This weekend Plumpton host their annual "bring a mate" match. Anyone wishing to take part in this annual game will be more than welcome to bring their boots and take part. Captain Lewis Beale said "many of our club players started playing after taking part in this game, Bulldozing prop Craig Wells and ex Captain Paul Harvey as examples. As a club we cater for all types of player, for those just starting out or those looking for one last crash ball before they hang up their boots!

Anyone looking to take part is advised to turn up at the racecourse at 1pm for a 2pm kick off, with a full schedule of events after the game including screening if the England International.