

## Bournemouth RFC

Bournemouth Lions are sponsored by Wood of Bournemouth, BMW Dealers.

### Season 2009/2010

#### The English Clubs Rugby Union Championship

#### National 3 South-West

#### Maidenhead v Bournemouth Lions

Saturday 31 October 2009, KO 2.30 p.m. at Braywick Park.

**Result:** Maidenhead 27/3t3c2p v 34/5t3p Bournemouth. **Half-time:** 17/2tc v 18/3tp.

**Referee:** Paul Baynes; East Midlands.

**Touch Judges:** Steve Buffery; Bournemouth. Peter Graham; Maidenhead.

**Bournemouth Team:** 15: Domenick Davies/t; 14: Rory Hearson/t; 13: Karim Warde;  
12: Robert Bruce; 11: Adam Higgins (Scott Chislett/t 54); 10: Mike Pope/3p; 9: Dean Bradley/2t;  
1: Riad Lynch (Jo Burns 61); 2: Frazer Wilford; 3: Tim Wareham; 4: Tim Seward; 5: Callum Forrest;  
6: Anthony Dunkerley; 7: Iain Crombie (Harry Stevenson 64); 8: Tomas Ford.

**Debut:** Harry Stevenson.

**Sponsors' Man of the Match:** Dean Bradley.

**Coach:** Junior Paramore.

**Sports Therapist:** Elle Lemprière.

**Scorers:** Tries 5: Davies/15/ 10, Hearson/14/ 12, Bradley/9/ 30 70, Chislett/R11/ 64.

Penalties 3: Pope/10/ 30 44 50.

**Milestones:** Mike Pope passes 300 points (302) and scores his fiftieth penalty in the league. Rory Hearson passes 50 points (52) in all matches this season. It is the first time, according to my records and certainly in the league, we have beaten Maidenhead at Braywick. On the day debutant Harry Stevenson was born, we were playing Maidenhead.

**Maidenhead Team:** 15: James MacDonald; 14: Ed Keohane/3c2p; 13: André Botha;  
12: Jonny Hammond; 11: Alex Cannon; 10: Mark Ruddick; 9: Elliott Brown/t; 1: Cormac O'Bryne/t;  
2: Richie Craig; 3: Steve Robinson; 4: Karl Kempton; 5: Mark Meuller; 6: Mark Parkhouse/t;  
7: Jason Outsen; 8: Alex Gallina. **Substitutes:** James Gallagher, Eddie Smith, Mitchell Smith.

**Sponsors' Man of the Match:** Elliott Brown.

**Maidenhead Scorers:** Tries 3: Parkhouse/6/ 28, O'Bryne/1/ 39, Brown/9/ 66.

Conversions 3: Keohane/14/ 28 39 66. Penalties 2: Keohane/14/ 18 73.

**Scoring Sequence:** 10m: 5-0 Davies/15/t; 12m: 10-0 Hearson/14/t; 18m: 10-3 Keohane/14/p;  
28m: 10-8 Parkhouse/6/t, 10-10 Keohane/14/c; 30m: 15-10 Bradley/9/t; 37m: 18-10 Pope/10/p;  
39m: 18-15 O'Bryne/1/t, 18-17 Keohane/14/c; 40m: Half-time 18/3tp-0/2t2cp;  
44m: 21-17 Pope/10/p; 50m: 24-17 Pope/10/p; 64m: 29-17 Chislett/R11/t;  
66m: 29-22 Brown/9/t, 29-24 Keohane/14/c; 70m: 34-24 Bradley/9/t; 73m: 34-27 Keohane/14/p;  
80m: Full Time 34/5t3p-27/3t3c2p.

**League Points:** Bournemouth 5 (Four for the win plus one try-scoring-bonus point),  
Maidenhead 1 (One losing-bonus point).

**League Positions:** Bournemouth remain 7th (for reasons that are not apparent to me). Maidenhead remain 14th.

**Weather:** A bright balmy sunny day with a gentle breeze (from what direction I wasn't sure).

**Ground:** Damp underfoot after morning rain with a good covering of grass.

**Kick-off:** Bournemouth (Mike Pope) kicked-off from right to left as viewed from the stand and to the left.

Bournemouth were immediately penalized after the kick-off for being offside at the ruck and fly-half Mark Ruddick found touch on the half-way line to his left. Maidenhead went left before kicking and there was an exchange of kicks before outside-centre Karim Warde made half a break creating a gap for scrum-half Dean Bradley who made ten or fifteen metres before passing, under some pressure, to Tomas Ford but the No-8 couldn't take the pass and dropped it for a Maidenhead scrum on their 10-metre line. They attacked left with the Maidenhead threes showing pace and threatening to break through but sound Bournemouth midfield defence forced a knock-on for a Bournemouth scrum. Ford broke off the back and put it right for fly-half Mike Pope to chip through. Maidenhead kicked the ball back where left-wing Adam Higgins did well to field the ball tight on his touchline and then evade the would-be tackler. He released the ball right for Pope to set up a promising attack with a wide miss-pass but right-wing Rory Hearson knocked the ball on in the tackle for a Maidenhead scrum. They won a line-out almost immediately but Bournemouth were awarded a free kick. It was rather clumsily taken but they managed to retain possession and set up another promising attack going left but were penalized for 'crossing' when seemingly set to score. Maidenhead took a quick tap and, with Bournemouth's defence not properly organized, look set themselves to break out but a forward pass brought that enterprising passage of play to a rapid halt. From the scrum, Ford broke down the short side to feed Hearson but when the winger was seemingly in he was well tackled just short of the line and he had the presence of mind to scoop up the ball to the supporting Davies who dived over to register the first score. Hearson failed to convert but Bournemouth were 5-nil up after ten minutes play.

From the restart Bradley received the ball and made a fine break weaving his way through the Maidenhead defence to release Hearson who scored a fine try in that same right-hand corner. Unfortunately his conversion attempt met the same fate as his first as the left-footer dragged the ball wide of the near post but Bournemouth were 10-nil up after twelve minutes.

Bournemouth failed to secure the restart and Maidenhead set up another three-quarter attack going right and were awarded a scrum as a result of a Bournemouth knock-on in the contact. No-8 Alex Gallina however knocked the ball on at the base of the scrum to yield a Bournemouth put-in. However Bournemouth were penalized and Bradley's show of frustration by throwing the ball away was further penalized by his side being marched back ten metres. Maidenhead went left but Bournemouth were penalized again for not allowing fair release and right-wing Ed Keohane found touch to his right on the Bournemouth 5-metre line. Maidenhead rather spoilt things for themselves by not throwing in straight. In what was to become a worrying feature of the afternoon, Bournemouth lost the put-in but outside-centre Karim Warde, in midfield as Maidenhead tried to work it left, showing considerable strength in the tackle wrested the ball back but was penalized for 'holding on' when he went to ground. Keohane, from some thirty metres out, scored the first of his five goals to make the score 10-3 with almost quarter of the match gone.

From the restart Maidenhead secured the ball to go left but the Bournemouth defence forced them into touch. Openside-flanker Iain Crombie leapt high at the back to set up a forward drive and Bradley chipped the ball but referee Paul Baynes pulled them back to give a penalty to Bournemouth for Maidenhead being off side. Pope found touch to his right, inside the Maidenhead 22-metre line. The Bournemouth threes attacked promisingly first left then back right then left again as they sought their way through a determined Maidenhead defence. They eventually knocked-on in the contact for a Maidenhead scrum on the 22-metre line. No-8 Alex Gallina broke off the back of the scrum before the ball was released to Ruddick who kicked high. Davies, from very deep, struggled to reach the ball on the full and Ruddick was able to get there first but was not able to gather it cleanly and knocked the ball on for a Bournemouth scrum outside the Maidenhead 10-metre line. Bournemouth struggled in the scrum and lost the ball and then were penalized for being off-side when Ruddick kicked. Keohane kicked left but didn't find touch and the ball was fielded by Davies who, in turn, kicked back. He chased down the ball and snaffled the catcher. Loosehead prop Riad Lynch broke from the resulting maul and Pope kicked wide to his left where blindside-flanker Anthony Dunkerley was unlucky not to regather the ball. Maidenhead broke right and then kicked where, right on

the touchline, inside-centre Robert Bruce was also unlucky not to be able to regather the ball and instead Maidenhead had the throw-in on the Maidenhead 10-metre line. The forwards drove to the half-way line where Bournemouth were penalized and Keohane found touch further down that same right-hand touch outside the Bournemouth 22-metre line.

After finding the way blocked through the mid-field, Maidenhead switched the point of attack down their right flank where Higgins made a very fine tackle to prevent further progress. However, retaining the ball, Maidenhead went back left and inside-centre Jonny Hammond almost broke through making many metres with a number of tacklers hanging on before finally being brought to ground on the Bournemouth 22-metre line. Maidenhead continued to threaten and again Higgins made a strong tackle but he knocked the ball on as he tried to dislodge it from the ball carrier's grasp. From the resulting scrum on the Bournemouth 22-metre line, the Maidenhead threes again showed how dangerous they could be with strong elusive running as they were sent left by Ruddick. However it was a clever off-load back inside to where a good back row man should be in support of his threes that saw blindside-flanker Mark Parkhouse crash over near, and almost into, the left-hand post for a thoroughly deserved and well-worked score. Keohane, on past form, was not going to miss from there and he tied the scores up at 10-all with almost half-an-hour gone.

With Hearson and Higgins temporarily swapping wings, the former stole the ball at the restart as Pope kicked left and hooker Frazer Wilford broke right for the ball to be released further right where Higgins had a great run but Maidenhead managed to get the ball into touch inside their 22-metre. From the line-out, Bournemouth went left where Bruce almost burst his way through but scrum-half Dean Bradley was on hand to twist and turn through the tackles to force his way over near the left-hand post. Hearson with a confident kick from close range managed to hit the left-hand upright and unbelievably the ball bounced clear which meant the score was 15-10 with thirty minutes gone.

Keohane committed the cardinal error of kicking the ball straight out at the restart and although Bradley broke dangerously from the resulting scrum, his pass didn't go to hand and Maidenhead were let off the hook and had a scrum of their own. Full-back James MacDonald came into the line and threatened to break the defensive line but Bournemouth stole it and Bruce drove forward and was given the scrum when he went to ground. Bournemouth again lost the put-in and Gallina again broke off the back but poor passing outside him saw the ball knocked-on and the advantage lost. Referee Baynes had a little chat to the scrum-halves before the put-in but at least Bournemouth won the ball for a Ford break supported by lock Tim Seward. Pope in turn passed to Davies coming into the line. The full-back was again in the action as Bournemouth came back left but with numbers and space out wide a poor pass saw Davies unable to gather a ball at his feet cleanly to the relief of Maidenhead and a scrum to them to boot. Again Gallina broke off the back was stopped by Dunkerley and when Maidenhead kicked Higgins, back on station, fielded the ball supported by Ford. Bournemouth worked it right with again Davies coming into the line. He fed Bruce but Bournemouth were awarded a penalty inside the Maidenhead 22-metre when no advantage was gained from a Maidenhead offside. Pope was called on to perform the kicking duties and he delivered with a well-struck goal from right of the posts to increase the lead to 18-10 with just three minutes to go to half-time.

Maidenhead won the ball at the restart and came right but Bruce and Warde tied up the ball carrier in midfield for a Maidenhead scrum. They came left with a dangerous run by outside-centre André Botha to win another scrum on the Bournemouth 22-metre. MacDonald again came into the line and he chipped and regathered and only an excellent tackle prevented an otherwise certain score as he was grounded a metre or so from the line. The Maidenhead forwards scenting an opportunity were there in support and the big loosehead prop Cormac O'Bryne was not going to be denied from just a metre or so out. Keohane's inevitable conversion from right of the posts ended the half with a very slender Bournemouth advantage

at 18-17.

Keohane kicked left for the restart where Dunkerley fielded the ball and released Hearson. The winger had a typically strong run and when he was stopped Bradley swung it left to Pope who took it into contact. The fly-half was back on hand to kick the ball long to his right where Gallina knocked the ball on as he attempted to gather it for a Bournemouth scrum. Bournemouth went right but the ball was forced into touch for a Maidenhead throw-in on their 22-metre line. The ball was too long and Dunkerley snaffled it to push the ball left but the final pass to Higgins was too high for the winger to control and Maidenhead had a scrum. They, rather adventurously, ran it and were penalized when Bournemouth closed them down and Pope kicked his second goal from in front of the posts to stretch the lead to 21-17 four minutes into the half.

Davies fielded the kick-off and countered with the support of Pope and Hearson and they won a scrum on the Bournemouth 10-metre line. However Bournemouth again lost it and Gallina again broke off the back down the short side. Dunkerley was unlucky not to win the ball back when he knocked-on for a Maidenhead scrum outside the Bournemouth 22-metre line. Ruddick swung the ball wide to his right to Botha who chipped through the defensive line where the bouncing ball played tricks for Davies who, unfortunately, could only kick the ball into touch. From the line-out outside the Bournemouth 10-metre line, Maidenhead went left but Bournemouth retrieved it and kicked where Maidenhead knocked the ball on for a Bournemouth scrum inside their 10-metre line. Some good Bournemouth play saw Wilford and tighthead prop Tim Wareham make ground before seeing Pope chip the ball behind the Maidenhead threes. As he chased through he was illegally impeded and from outside the Maidenhead 22-metre line the fly-half duly punished the offence with his third goal of the game (and 300 points in his league career) to stretch the Bournemouth lead to 24-17 ten minutes into the second period.

From the restart an exchange of kicks eventually saw Davies charge a Maidenhead clearance down and when they were penalized for being offside, Pope found touch to his right outside the Maidenhead 10-metre line. Crombie caught the ball at the back and the forwards drove it before releasing it to Pope who kicked. Maidenhead kicked it back where Hearson fielded it and immediately swung it left to Bradley. The scrum-half kicked long and to his left where Higgins following up was penalized for not allowing the player back to his feet and fractured his thumb in the process to be replaced by Scott Chislett. Keohane found touch outside their 10-metre line and from the line-out the Maidenhead forwards drove the ball but were well contained by their Bournemouth counterparts. Bournemouth won the ball back and Davies did well as Bournemouth countered going right to win a penalty. Baynes punished that by pushing the home side back another ten metres when Maidenhead protested. Pope set up an excellent attacking opportunity by finding touch on his right just ten metres out from the Maidenhead line. This opportunity was squandered when the ball was not thrown straight to Crombie at the back. From the scrum, when Gallina was held up in yet another attempt to break from the back, Ruddick kicked to the half-way line on his left. From the line-out, Wilford regathered the bobbling ball and drove up field. Pope kicked but Bournemouth, having retrieved the ball, were penalized for holding on. Maidenhead took the penalty quickly going right but Bournemouth turned the ball over and Bradley, with a long kick from deep in his own half, retrieved the situation by finding the safety of the touch inside the Bournemouth 10-metre line on his right. Coach Junior Paramore took the opportunity to swap Jo Burns for Lynch. With both sides wanting to 'play rugby' there was much loose play but it is from those situations opportunities to score can arise and so it proved in this case when Pope failed to find touch with a penalty. The ball was kicked back and fielded by Hearson. The winger found Pope who made a great break through an unorganized defence and he in turn found Chislett and the replacement left-winger was quickly over to score wide out. Pope failed to convert but Bournemouth had stretched the lead to 12 points at 29-17 with less than a quarter of the game to go. Paramore pulled

the injured Crombie off to replace him with Harry Stevenson making his debut.

Maidenhead almost immediately countered with a score of their own. Having initially gone left Bournemouth conceded a scrum to Maidenhead when the final pass to Chislett was adjudged forward. Bournemouth nonetheless managed to disrupt the Maidenhead scrum but it only resulted in scrum-half Elliott Brown bursting away from the confusion and to run from near the half-way line to score. Keohane added the two points and that twelve point advantage of two minutes ago was reduced to five. We can all do the maths can't we!

This set up a pretty frantic last quarter of an hour or so as Maidenhead scented that they could 'get something out of this'. Bournemouth nerves were calmed a little when four minutes later when after some great dents by Bruce and Dunkerley Bournemouth were forced to defend a Maidenhead line-out. They forced the turnover and Bradley chipped into the Maidenhead 22-metre area. An unfortunate bounce, from the Maidenhead perspective, eluded MacDonald as he tried to recover only to see Bradley regather and run in a try. Pope again failed to convert as he pushed his effort past the near post but surely 34-24, with ten minutes to go, was enough!

However to paraphrase a former Prime Minister, 'ten minutes in a game of rugby is a long time'. So it proved. Some exciting and enterprising Maidenhead play, especially by the backs, but there was plenty of effort from the Maidenhead forwards, saw Bournemouth fully stretched to contain a side one found hard to realise had not won all season as they sought manfully first to get a bonus point—a fourth try perhaps? They achieved at least one goal by Keohane kicking a penalty just three minutes later to reduce the deficit to seven points. However in a frantic last few minutes play was taken from one end to the other but there was one last chance for the home side. With players checking with the referee how much longer to go Bournemouth made a mess up of a line-out with Bradley unable to gather a poor pass back and someone coming in from offside allowed Keohane to find touch on the Bournemouth 22-metre line. Maidenhead duly secured the ball and when Brown released it left he saw his fly-half, rather anti-climatically, drop the ball for Baynes to blow for no side.

I suppose the verdict was there was far too much loose play with the game being played at a frantic pace at times but the neutral wouldn't have minded. A simple pass on occasion would also have been welcome when a number of chances out wide went a begging. Nonetheless a second five-pointer in a row has helped our cause but we have a tough proposition over the next two weeks with first Old Patesians and then a rejuvenated Oxford Harlequins away in a fortnight's time.