

## Bournemouth RFC

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### Season 2009/2010

## The English Clubs Rugby Union Championship

### National 3 South-West

## Bournemouth Lions v Weston-super-Mare

Match Sponsored by Rawlins Davy, Solicitors and Mediators

Saturday 24 October 2009, KO 3.00 p.m. at Chapel Gate.

**Result:** Bournemouth 39/6t3cp v 21/3t3c Weston-super-Mare. **Half-time:** 24/4t2c-0

**Referee:** Richard Harding; Devon. **Referee Adviser:** Malcolm Jameson; Buckinghamshire with Simon Thomas; Hampshire.

**Touch Judges:** Steve Buffery; Bournemouth. Gavin Simpson; Weston-super-Mare.

**Bournemouth Team:** 15: Domenick Davies/t; 14: Rory Hearson/2tcp; 13: Karim Warde; 12: Robert Bruce (Scott Chislett 67); 11: Adam Higgins (Robert Bruce 67); 10: Mike Pope/2tc; 9: Dean Bradley; 1: Riad Lynch; 2: Frazer Wilford; 3: Tim Wareham (c) (Tom Waller 62); 4: Tim Seward; 5: William Brooks (Callum Forrest/t 23); 6: Anthony Dunkerley; 7: Iain Crombie (Tom Waller 72); 8: Tomas Ford.

**Debut:** Dean Bradley, William Brooks.

**Yellow Card:** Tim Wareham 62m.

**Coaches:** David Dunn, Junior Paramore.

**Sports Therapist:** Elle Lemprière.

**Milestones:** Domenick Davies played in his 50th league match. Mike Pope passed 50 points (61) in this league season.

**Scorers:** Tries 6: Hearson/14/ 4 70, Pope/10/ 18 36, Forrest/R5/ 31, Davies/15/ 58.

Conversions 3: Hearson/14/ 18 70, Pope/10/ 4. Penalties 1: Hearson/14/ 75.

**Weston-super-Mare Team:** 15: Neil Trevens; 14: James Arnold; 13: John Filer/t; 12: Matt McQuaid/t; 10: Harry Warman/3c; 9: Joshua Mortimore; 1: David Price; 2: David Burge; 3: Simon Williams; 4: Mike Kempton; 5: Andrew Richards; 6: George Sparks; 7: Dan Fry; 8: Andrew Glen/t. **Substitutes:** James Gallagher, Eddie Smith, Mitchell Smith.

**Weston-super-Mare Scorers:** Tries 3: McQuaid/12/ 48, Glen/8/ 63, Filer/13/ 72.

Conversions 3: Warman/10/ 48 63 72.

**Scoring Sequence:** 4m: 5-0 Hearson/14/t, 7-0 Pope/10/c;

18m: 12-0 Pope/10/t, 14-0 Hearson/14/c; 31m: 19-0 Forrest/R5/t; 36m: Pope/10/t; 40m: Half-

time 24/4t2c-0; 48m: 24-5 McQuaid/12/t, 24-7 Warman/10/c; 58m: 29-7 Davies/15/t;

63m: 29-12 Glen/8/t, 29-14 Warman/10/c; 70m: 34-14 Hearson/14/t, 36-14 Hearson/14/c;

72m: 36-19 Filer/13/t, 36-21 Warman/10/c; 75m: 39-21 Hearson/14/p;

80m: Full Time 39/6t3c0-21/3t3c.

**League Points:** Bournemouth 5 (Four for the win plus one try-scoring-bonus point), Weston-super-Mare 0.

**League Positions:** Bournemouth go from 10th to 7th. Weston-super-Mare drop from 9th to 12th.

**Weather:** A bright sunny day with a freshish westerly breeze.

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

**Kick-off:** Bournemouth kicked-off from left to right as viewed from the stand (i.e. with the wind) and to the left.

Bournemouth were immediately penalized after the kick-off for not rolling away as they pressurized the catcher and fly-half Harry Warman was able to find the sanctuary of the touchline just outside his own 10-metre line on the right. From the line-out the ball went wide through Warman and a telling grubber kick turned the Bournemouth defence but the ball went into touch on the half-way line. Openside-flanker Iain Crombie was only able to tap the ball down as Weston contested the ball and Bournemouth were penalized for holding on as Weston swarmed through. Warman pushed the hosts back to their 22-metre line on his left. Bournemouth recovered the situation by winning the ball at the contact midfield. Right-wing Rory Hearson had a run but, when he was stopped, newcomer scrum-half Dean Bradley made a half break from the ruck supported by Tomas Ford. The No 8 got it back to Hearson going left. When that move was stopped, hooker Frazer Wilford acting as scrum-half swung the ball going right. Fly-half Mike Pope promptly kicked high and to his right and there was Hearson back on station challenging the ball catcher and winning it to burst through to score his first try for a while. From under the posts Pope had no difficulty in putting his side 7-nil up after just four minutes.



Photo by Denis Murphy Mike Pope converting the 1st

The other newcomer, lock Will Brooks, fielded the ball and to feed his fellow debutant Bradley who kicked high to see Weston drop it under the pressure of the chasing blindside flanker Anthony Dunkerley. Nonetheless Weston won the ball back from the resulting scrum and set up a dangerous drive going right. Determined Bournemouth defence forced the error and Pope punished the holding on with a fine kick to his left to give Bournemouth the throw-in on the Weston 22-metre line. Bournemouth put it through the hands going right with Dunkerley coming into the line to set up a drive as Weston resisted. Retaining possession, Pope went right and full-back Domenick Davies always looking for an



Photo by Denis Murphy A Robert Bruce 'stop'

attacking opportunity by ever willing to come into the line chipped the defence to see the ball 'marked'. The kicked failed to find touch finding Hearson instead who promptly released Pope. He made a characteristic searing break to find left-winger Adam Higgins who was forced into touch just short of the line for a 5-metre throw-in for Weston.

Weston contrived to lose the ball allowing Bournemouth to drive the ball spearheaded by lock Tim Seward. They, in turn, lost the ball but recovered it enabling Pope to put the ball up high for the Bournemouth chasers but they weren't able to gather the ball as it bounced behind the posts and Weston were able to 'touch down' for a 22-metre drop-out. Despite Hearson fielding the ball Weston recovered it and went right where they won a scrum when Bournemouth knocked the ball on in their attempts to win the ball back. Inside-centre Robert Bruce made a fine stop as Weston went left but Bournemouth piling in at the contact were

penalized and Warman found touch on the half-way line to his right. Hooker David Burge made a very dangerous break from the back of the line-out as the Bournemouth defence seemed to be at sixes and

sevens and only a fine tackle by Higgins prevented any further ground being surrendered.



Photo by Denis Murphy Mike Pope scores his 1st

Bournemouth recovered the ball but Bradley's clearance kick went out on the full and Bournemouth were forced to concede a line-out just outside their own 22-metre line. Weston drove off the line-out but yet again a determined Bournemouth defence won them a scrum. Ford, typically, broke off the back of the scrum enabling Pope to kick high and to his right where he caught the catcher. Bournemouth pressing the advantage kicked further right for a Weston line-out on their 22-metre line. Weston tapped the ball back under pressure but Warman was able to put in a long kick to his right and Higgins was very unlucky not to be able to field the ball cleanly which resulted in another Weston throw-in on

the opposite side of the field. Bournemouth were very quickly up on the tackle resulting in the Weston midfield juggling the ball and the ever alert Pope seized on the opportunity by grabbing the bobbling ball and was through to out-sprint the Weston cover over 30 metres to score under the posts. Hearson was, for the first time, given the kicking duties and he matched Pope's earlier effort to give Bournemouth a 14-nil advantage after eighteen minutes.

Bournemouth made a complete 'pig's ear' of the restart when nobody took responsibility for catching the ball resulting in Ford needing some attention before the game was restarted with a Weston put-in. Openside flanker Dan Fry made an inordinate amount of ground going right before Bruce put a thunderous stop to any further progress. Bournemouth kicked long but this was returned with more interest than the banks are prepared to offer at the moment and Higgins again did just enough to prevent right winger James Arnold from breaking clear for Bournemouth to force a line-out. Pope kicked long to his left but Weston returned the compliment for Dunkerley to field the ball he broke tight on the touchline and, although he seemed initially to do well with some deft work with ball in hand, his eventual pass back inside didn't go to hand resulting in some untidy play the upshot of which was a Weston line-out on their 10-metre line.

As Weston broke left it unfortunately resulted in Books's debut being cut short as he had to retire with a knee injury to be replaced by Callum Forrest. From the scrum Weston kicked right to be fielded by Higgins who also kicked. Weston countered with ball in hand this time going left and a grubber kick found touch on the Bournemouth 22-metre line. Forrest immediately showed his undoubted worth in the line-out when he tidied up at the back. Weston nonetheless recovered the ball and chipped the ball deep where Davies, after initially slipping, recovered to touch the ball down for a Bournemouth 22-metre drop-out. From Pope's drop-out Weston countered left, then right and again left but a knock-on in the contact gave Bournemouth the put-in at a scrum on their 10-metre line. As Bournemouth broke from the scrum Wilford got up in support but Pope moving the ball further wide saw Bruce drop the ball as the inside-centre broke through.

The scrum wheeled for Bournemouth to be given the put-in. Higgins coming into mid-field gave a subtle off-load which put the would-be tackler off balance enabling Dunkerley to make a strong run. Unfortunately the flanker was 'pinged' for holding on as his fellow forwards tried hard to support him and Warman found touch to his left on the Weston 10-metre line. After the initial drive was stopped, Weston looked for an opening down the short side but the pass right was intercepted by Forrest who galloped twenty or more metres to gleefully 'spot' the ball wide out on the left. Hearson's kick had the 'legs' but not the required accuracy but Bournemouth were three-quarters of their way to a try-scoring bonus point and lead 19-nil after half-an-hour or so.

Warman failed to judge the strength of the wind properly and his kick failed to go ten metres and his side were forced to concede a scrum back on the half-way line. Bournemouth attacked right and a Dunkerley kicked was 'marked' by the Weston defence who promptly ran it back and it needed a fine

Hearson tackle to win a Bournemouth line-out on the Weston 10-metre line. Bruce showed his strength as he burst through but Pope in support lost the ball in the tackle. Bournemouth, nonetheless, won the ball back at the scrum for Hearson to have a strong run at the defence but, after breaking a couple of tackles, was penalized for 'holding on'. Warman, however, failed to find touch to his right and the error was compounded by Pope who, making a typical break from broken play, wove his way through the defence to score out on the left. Again Hearson didn't have the required accuracy with his kick and the score was left at 24-nil after 36 minutes play.

Weston took full advantage of a Bournemouth knock-on at the restart but sound Bournemouth defence, in particular Dunkerley, forced the error for a Bournemouth scrum.

Pope broke right and was unlucky not to recover his kick ahead cleanly for a Weston scrum. Weston continued to show their own attacking ambitions as Warman released his threes to his right and was rewarded with a penalty as Bournemouth infringed by handling the ball on the ground in their efforts to stem the tide. However it was Bournemouth were back on the attack as the half drew to a close when from a line-out, Bournemouth drove orchestrated by Forrest before Pope was able to release Bruce who kicked. Davies did well to field the return but his pass was forward as he sought to release the winger.

Warman kicked long to start the second half and Bournemouth hoped to shepherd the ball over the touch-in-goal but Davies was forced to touch down as Weston chased the ball down. From the Pope drop-out, Bruce made a break supported by Dunkerley. Referee Richard Harding, however, brought play back for an earlier Weston infringement and Pope, to his right, was able to find a long touch into the wind for a Bournemouth line-out on the Weston 22-metre line. Keeping it tight down the right, Dunkerley was not able to hold on to a pass for Weston scrum. Warman kicked long but Davies returned in like manner to see a Weston knock-on and a Bournemouth scrum on the Weston 10-metre line. Scrum-half Joshua Mortimore managed to disrupt his opposite number but knocked-on in the process for another Bournemouth scrum. Bournemouth did better this time but a Bruce back inside to Wilford didn't go to hand for Weston scrum. Weston drove the scrum back but lost the ball and Bradley was unlucky to bump into one of his own players as he sought to recover the situation for another Weston scrum. Warman kicked to his left but Davies after seemingly to have done well to field the ball dropped it for a Weston scrum on the Bournemouth 22-metre line. Weston went left but Bournemouth recovered the ball to counter to their left but a comedy (perhaps I should say tragedy) of errors saw Bournemouth give up the ball in midfield and inside centre Matt McQuaid said 'thank you very much' and stepped through to score a very, from the Bournemouth perspective, soft try. Warman kicked the first of his three goals to reduce the advantage by seven points at 24-7 less than ten minutes into the second half. Like Warman earlier, Pope misjudged the strength of the wind and Bournemouth were forced to scrum back on the half-way line. Weston, encouraged by their score, attacked down the left but winger Paul Sprague was 'scragged' by Davies for a Bournemouth scrum. Ford, with a pass through his legs from the base of the scrum, didn't find his scrum-half but Bradley did well to recover the situation and put Pope free to break right. Davies coming into the line at pace unfortunately threw a pass forward of quarter-back proportions to frustrate a very promising scoring chance. Bournemouth nonetheless maintained the pressure by charging down the clearance kick and although they attacked first left then back right Bruce was penalized for holding on as he half broke through as the point of attack came left again. After Warman found touch with his penalty kick, Weston drove off the back of the line-out but a clearance



Photo by Denis Murphy Callum Forrest 'spots' the ball

kick went straight out for a Bournemouth line-out just outside the Weston 22-metre line. Bournemouth swung it wide through the hands to set Hearson free but when he seemed to be through a desperate last gasp tap tackle brought the winger down for Bournemouth to eventually lose the ball for a Weston 5-metre scrum in front of the posts. However they struggled to clear the ball and a kick was fielded by Higgins. He cleverly found Davies storming up inside him and the full-back had enough momentum to force his way over in the corner for a very fine try. Hearson's conversion attempt was swept across the face of the goal but at least Bournemouth clawed back some of the advantage lost earlier at 29-7 with three-quarters of the match gone.

From the restart, Bournemouth were penalized for a late tackle and Warman from where the ball landed added further distance by finding touch on his left some ten metres out from the Bournemouth line. Initially Bournemouth seemed to have recovered the situation when Pope was able to clear to the 22-metre line after Weston lost the ball as they drove for the line. However, this only proved to be a temporary respite. Again Weston drove for the line but were held up over the line only for Harding to bring play back for an earlier Bournemouth infringement. Warman again found touch but this time critically on the 5-metre line. Lock Mike Kempton secured the ball at the front to set up another drive and Bournemouth were again penalized with captain tight-head Tim Wareham being identified as the culprit as signalled by a yellow card. Weston elected to scrummage the penalty and Tom Waller was brought on as front row replacement while No 8 Ford was 'sacrificed'. The tactic of scrummaging worked as Weston inexorably drove Bournemouth back for No 8 Andrew Glen, at the base of the scrum, to score wide out on the left. Warman with a very fine kick added the two points to make Bournemouth's discomfiture worse at 29-14.

Blindside flanker George Sparks ran onto the ball from the kick-off and his momentum carried him left through the Bournemouth players following up enabling Weston to take play deep into the Bournemouth half for a Bournemouth line-out on their 22-metre line. Forrest secured the ball and Davies kicked long for Weston to counter dangerously but Bruce was unlucky not to intercept the ball only succeeding in knocking the ball on. At this point Scott Chislett came on to go to inside-centre and Bruce was moved to the left wing in place of Higgins. He was promptly in the action from his new position when he firmly tackled the ball catcher fielding a Bournemouth kick but Weston succeeded in holding onto the ball and attacked right. They were penalized for holding on but another catalogue of errors saw Davies almost drop the ball from the penalty and in the mix up Chislett, with his first touch of the ball, slipped as he tried to clear but somehow they managed to get the ball clear. From a penalty, Pope failed to find touch as he kicked left and Weston promptly kicked the ball long to their left. Although Davies successfully fielded the ball his pass back inside to the supporting Hearson was forward resulting in a Weston scrum on the 22-metre line. Weston messed at the back as they sought to go right and Pope almost recovered the ball. Although Bournemouth were awarded the scrum they promptly lost the ball but this only set up a moment of Pope magic as, again, from broken play the fly-half made another searing break and he put Hearson away to round off a quite scintillating score in the right-hand corner. Hearson then capped the move with a very kick from the right side of the field for the left-footed kicker to make the score 36-14 with ten minutes to go. However there was yet another opportunity to reveal another catalogue of errors as promptly from the restart Weston scored again. Davies had his clearance kick charged down as he tried to clear up a shambles at the back and with his head in his hands saw outside-centre John Filer follow up his charge-down to score wide out on the right. Warman with a typical immaculate kick secured another two points to reduce the arrears to fifteen points at 36-21 with another eight minutes to go. A bonus point? Why not?

Before the restart, Wareham was restored and Ford came back on in place of openside-flanker Iain Crombie suffering from a neck injury. Hearson, in typical fashion, and with support of Wareham almost regathered the restart but Weston had a scrum. Bournemouth pressurized the Weston defence and they were penalized for holding on. Hearson from some thirty plus metres scored his first penalty for the

club with another well-struck kick to put his side eighteen points clear with just five minutes to go. The same player was immediately called on to clear the ball to touch from the restart. Weston were clearly energized by the prospect of securing a bonus point and they proved dangerous to the end although handling errors didn't help their cause. When Bournemouth lost their own line-out Weston set up a last-ditch attack but excitingly they were repelled by the sight of yet another break by Pope who took play from within his own 22-metre area with a of mix clever footwork and outright pace to take play beyond the half-way line. He found the ever available Davies on his shoulder but the full-back was pulled down before he could get beyond the last of the Weston defensive line and with ball going into touch Harding blew for no side.

After the defeat at Coney Hill last week the coaches made a number of changes to the side, positional and of personnel, and the confidence in their choices was thoroughly vindicated. Newcomer Dean Bradley at scrum-half brought an experience and a robustness necessary to face up to the tough opposition Weston represented. The combination of Robert Bruce, albeit at the unfamiliar position of inside-centre, and the strong Karim Warde outside made a formidable new midfield pairing which gave the side real presence and caused the opposition all sorts of problems. At lock Will Arnold was unlucky to be injured so early in the game but Callum Forrest is great person to come on his place. It was also good to see Rory Hearson back on the scoresheet after a bit of a scoring famine in recent games. However I suppose it was explosive Mike Pope, starting his first game as fly-half, that was the catalyst for this confidence-boosting victory. He made sure that all the hard work by the forwards was rewarded by his fellow backs scoring all the points. A great team effort in a 'must win' situation.