

'BEDOUINS FALL JUST SHORT'

EAST DORSET 15 – BOURNEMOUTH 4's 12

A remarkable game, referee and two teams playing as if their lives depended on it graced the Iford Lane ground as East Dorset and a strong Bournemouth team battled it out for supremacy.

East Dorset realised almost immediately that they had a game on their hands, something that their season has lacked apart from an uncomfortable trip to Chapel Gate in October, Bourne were straight onto the offensive with a pack that never gave an inch all afternoon led by the irrefutable Jo Burns and strengthened by the welcome return of Dan Cawley who had not played since last May.

East Dorset had done their homework and they were exceptionally quick to close down any space that Ramon Mallette had but the Bedouin's were coming at them from both wings and midfield and were unlucky not to score in the opening exchanges with some great defence from the home side.

Confusion in the Bourne defence after 10minutes allowed East to score with their first foray into opposition territory, you had a feeling that the hosts felt this would allow the floodgates to open but far from it as the 4's continued to camp out in their opponents half, they were rewarded after 22mins when Cawley scurried away down the left wing to register his first score of the season which was converted by Jon Sanchez.

East Dorset found themselves in arrears for the first time this year and were obviously not too keen on the idea but things got worse as Sanchez scored again for Bournemouth 13minutes later, chances for the rest of the half were limited but battle was in full swing despite some bizarre decisions by the official, the best one being, penalising hooker Cawley for standing in the Hookers Channel at a line-out with the No.10 shirt on, if anyone has any knowledge of this rule answers on a postcard please.

HALF – TIME: EAST DORSET 5 – BOURNEMOUTH 4's 12

The Bedouin's made changes at half time in order to keep up the pressure on their hosts, but maybe a lack of cohesion allowed East Dorset to score a converted try 5minutes into the half, with the game tied the rugby played became a joy to behold as both sides strained every possible muscle and more.

The game could go either way but unfortunately went the way of the home side on 62minutes when an alleged spear tackle was penalised and East Dorset took the lead, Bournemouth again dominated but unfortunately missed their finest chance to share the spoils when Sanchez kicked just wide from a penalty late on.

Special mention must go to everyone especially the 12 regulars who took the league leaders to brink in the first half, what a credit to the club and helped with experience of Cawley, Burns and Sanchez were exceptional, but no one must be forgotten.

Jo Burns became the recipient of the man of the match hat and wore it post match with pride after his dominating performance in the second row, East Dorset's post match entertaining was exceptional and some of The Bedouin's tied up their camels and stayed on the wrong side of the river for many an hour and this even meant that some even forgot the shirts on their back.

WHAT A DAY!!! WHAT A GAME!!! WHAT A TEAM!!!!!!

BOURNEMOUTH FOURTHS LINE UP:

1: SEAN BUCKLE, 2: DAN CAWLEY, 3: ANDY WISEMAN, 4: JO BURNS, 5: GREG HILTON,
6: LEE DEAN, 7: GEORGE THATCHER, 8: NICK DARVILL, 9: MARK DOBLE,
10: JON SANCHEZ, 11: PAUL VENABLES, 12: CRAIG DEAN, 13: ADAM HIGGINS,
14: RAMON MALLETTE, 15: LEIGH BAILEY-PEARCE

SUBSTITUTES:

16: ASH JAMES, 17: BEN O'SULLIVAN, 18: ED STRICKLAND, 19: XAVIER SEDRAS,
20: JAMES KAVANAGH, 21: NEIL KETCHLEY, 22: GREGOR SCOTT

SCORERS:

TRIES: CAWLEY (22mins), SANCHEZ (35mins)

CONVERSION: SANCHEZ (22mins)

MAN OF THE MATCH: JO BURNS