



Bournemouth RFC

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Season 2009/2010

The English Clubs Rugby Union Championship

National 3 South-West

Bournemouth Lions 71 v Maidenhead 0

Match Sponsored by Palmer Snell, Residential Estate Agents



Relentless Bournemouth too strong for a spirited Maidenhead side

Saturday 20 February 2010, KO 2.30 p.m. at Chapel Gate.

Result: Bournemouth 71/11t8c v 0 Maidenhead. **Half-time:** 28/4t4c v 0.

Referee: Brian Barclay; Devon Society.

Touch Judges: Steve Buffery, Bournemouth; Steve Prince, Maidenhead.

Bournemouth Team: 15: Karim Lynch; 14: Rory Hearson/2tc; 13: James Payne/2t;
12: 'Eddie' Edwards/t; 11: Mike Pope/3t5c (Anthony Dunkerley 54); 10: 'Puks' Ngapaku/t2c;
9: Scott Chislett; 1: Jo Burns (Tim Wareham 59); 2: Fraser Wilford; 3: Alan Manning/C/t;
4: Will Brooks; 5: Tim Seward; 6: Tomas Ford; 7: Iain Crombie (Riad Lynch 59); 8: Chris Hughes.

Coaches: David Dunn, Junior Paramore, Robert Todd. **Sports Therapist:** Ellette Lemprière.

Yellow Card: Chris Hughes (16).

Palmer Snell Man of the Match: Mike Pope.

Scorers: Tries 11: Hearson 2 (12 72), Pope 3 (18 38 54), Hughes (36), Edwards (38), Ngapaku (52), Payne 2 (52 75), Manning (62). Conversions 8: 'Puks' Ngapaku 2 (12 62), Pope 5 (18 36 38 44 52), Hearson (72).

Milestones: Highest score since the 106 against Minety in February 2005. Mike Pope's second hat-trick and he goes past 350 (363) points in the league, 400 (406) in all matches. James Payne scores 150 points in the league. 'Puks' Ngapaku passes 50 (55) points in the league. Scott Chislett plays in his 100th game in the league. 'Eddie' Edwards plays in his 50th game in all matches.

Maidenhead: 15: James MacDonald; 14: Billy Evans; 13: Alex Cannon; 12: Simon Standfast; 11: Dan Evans; 10: Ed Keohane; 9: Simon Carter; 1: Mykel Parrot; 2: Richie Craig; 3: Paul Britton; 4: Duncan Madden; 5: Mark Meuller/C; 6: James Emmanuel; 7: James Plumer; 8: Alex Gallina.

Substitutes: 16: Simon Ball; 17: Tom Martin; 18: Chris Holden.

Scoring Sequence: 12m: 7-0 Hearson/14/t, Ngapaku/10/c; 18m: 14-0 Pope/11/t, Pope/11/c; 36m: 21-0 Hughes/8/t, Pope/11/c; 38m: 28-0 Edwards/13/t, Pope/11/c;

40m: Half-time 28/4t4c-0; 44m: 35-0 Pope/11/t, Pope/11/c; 52m: 42-0 Ngapaku/10/t, Pope/11/c; 54m: 47-0 Pope/11/t; 59m: 52-0 Payne/12/t; 62m: 59-0 Manning/C3/t, Ngapaku/10/c; 72m: 66-0 Hearson/14/t, Hearson/14/c; 75m: 71-0 Payne/12/t; **80m: Full Time** 71/11t8c-0.

League Points: Bournemouth 5 (4 for a win, 1 try-scoring bonus), Maidenhead 0.

League Positions: Bournemouth remain 5th. Maidenhead remain 14th.

Weather: Bright with sunny intervals but with a chill but otherwise gentle Easterly breeze which blew straight down the pitch. Excellent conditions for rugby football with Chapel Gate apparently escaping some rubbish that was about.

Ground: Underfoot was firm.

Kick-off: Maidenhead (Ed Keohane) kicked off from right to left as viewed from the stand and to his left.

Bournemouth got off to a relatively shaky start with fly-half 'Puks' Ngapaku's attempt to clear the Maidenhead kick-off being partially charged down and the visitors immediately showed a commitment to a pre-match avowal to 'play an open game' by moving it quickly right. Maidenhead were unlucky not to regather a kick over the defence and Bournemouth were glad of a throw-in on their 22-metre line. Bournemouth drove off the line-out where scrum-half Scott Chislett started where he was manifestly to continue through out the match with a typical break to feed left wing Mike Pope. No 8, characteristically, Chris Hughes was also there in support and from this unpromising beginning Bournemouth were deep in Maidenhead territory. However Maidenhead retrieved the ball and set up an exciting counter of their own but kicked the ball away for Ngapaku to field. His kick in turn was kicked back by Maidenhead but it was over cooked and Bournemouth touched the ball down for a 22-metre drop-out. Ngapaku went long but Maidenhead responded with a sweeping three-quarter move which had the Bournemouth defence at full stretch. The defence held and they won a scrum but only ten metres out. Hughes was still prepared to drive off the back but the ball was fed to Ngapaku who found touch to his left outside his 22-metre line. Bournemouth tied Maidenhead up at the line-out and drove their forwards back forcing a penalty allowing Ngapaku to gain further ground down the left for a Bournemouth line-out just ten metres from the Maidenhead line. However Maidenhead 'stole' the throw-in and there were the threes again happy to counter with positive running but the strategy does give the opposition to win the ball back and sure enough Bournemouth did just that. Inside centre James Payne made a break supported by his fellow centre 'Eddie' Edwards taking play back inside the 22-metre area but a knock-on was further punished by referee Brian Barclay when he 'pinged' Bournemouth for 'handling on the ground' when trying to retrieve the situation. Fly-half Ed Keohane was able to clear his lines with a fine kick to his left for a Maidenhead line-out on the half-way line. Maidenhead went right and again Bournemouth were penalized midfield and Barclay took the opportunity to warn captain Alan Manning and blindside flanker Tomas Ford about his dissatisfaction with the Bournemouth play. Keohane, again with another fine kick this time to the right, pushed Bournemouth back to their 22-metre line. The Maidenhead threes again demonstrated what a threat they posed but then inexplicably denied their own ability with a rather lame attempt at a drop goal which went 'dead'. Further this was by outside centre Alex Cannon who was to amply demonstrate later in the game what a threat he was with ball in hand with his pace and elusive well-balanced running. Bournemouth had further luck when Ngapaku's drop-out was allowed to bounce by right wing Billy Evans and, rather than the player being able to set up a counter attack as Maidenhead had clearly showed they were determined to do, the ball went over his head into touch for a Maidenhead thrown-in on the half-way line. They secured the ball and belatedly set up another threatening three-quarter move but a bone-shaking tackle in midfield by Edwards dislodged the ball allowing Rory Hearson to gather. The right wing managed to step out of a tackle which threatened to bring him down but he retained his balance and was able to sprint through to 'spot' the ball under the posts. Ngapaku had, dare I say, the easiest of tasks to add the two points and Bournemouth, arguably against the run of play, were 7-nil up after twelve minutes play.



**Palmer Snell Man of the Match
Mike Pope**

Soon after the restart Bournemouth set up a fine three-quarter attack from a line-out on their left on the half-way line with Mike Pope coming off his wing making a great break. Nonetheless the Maidenhead defence turned the ball over and cleared right. Bournemouth were penalized for 'holding on' but full-back Karim Lynch managed to knock the ball back into play as Keohane tried to find touch to his left. Bournemouth were gain penalized, this time for 'diving in', and Maidenhead, keeping up the pressure, forced play into the Bournemouth 22-metre area where again Bournemouth were penalized with Hughes being showed the yellow card. However from less than twenty metres and in front of the posts Keohane pulled his kick right and Bournemouth were given a let off. Bournemouth promptly rubbed salt in the wound

with Pope again showing what a threat he is when the pattern of play is broken up when he gathered a Maidenhead kick as they tried to clear from a Bournemouth threat down the right. His acceleration, pace and the ability to beat the would be tackler were all on display as he wove his way through. From in front of the posts he converted his own try and Bournemouth were 14-nil up with less than a quarter of the game gone.

Chislett recovered well when Bournemouth allowed the kick-off to bounce but his characteristic charge into enemy territory was turned over when Bournemouth weren't there in support and Maidenhead kicked clear and got the throw-in on their right. After an exchange of kicks, the Maidenhead three-quarters again showed great enterprise and lock forward Will Brooks was penalized for a head-high tackle as Bournemouth frantically covered the threat. Barclay had a word with but again Keohane managed to fluff his lines from a similar position to the earlier chance.

From the drop-out, Bournemouth again attacked strongly with openside flanker Iain Crombie leading the break-out. From a scrum deep inside the Maidenhead half Bournemouth went left and were lucky a pass was not intercepted. Nonetheless, Maidenhead broke out going left and again took play back into the Bournemouth 22-metre. Again, however, rather limply kicked the ball away for Pope to touch down and a Bournemouth 22-metre drop-out. Ngapaku went left and Brooks almost regathered and Hughes was restored to lock the resulting scrum. The No 8 was quickly back in the action with another drive off the back of the scrum. Pope was also again in the action coming off his wing and making a damaging break finally chipping left forcing Maidenhead to concede a throw-in on their 5-metre line. With lock Tim Seward securing the ball, Bournemouth's drive was countered by Maidenhead and try as they might and despite getting over the line Ford was not able to get the ball down but did win a 5-metre scrum. Bournemouth lost it but drove Maidenhead back over their own line and Barclay reset the scrum for a Bournemouth put-in. Frustratingly the ball was dropped as Ngapaku worked the ball back inside and from the scrum Maidenhead held firm enabling Keohane to clear right to his 10-metre line. Bournemouth managed to lose the throw-in and when Karim Lynch kicked back the Maidenhead kick, Bournemouth tied the ball up but Maidenhead managed to retain it only for the clearance kick to go 'straight out'. Given this second chance on the Maidenhead 22-metre line, Bournemouth again drove off the line-out. When the ball was released left Payne made another break supported by Manning which took play to the 5-metre line where Bournemouth won a penalty. Crombie quickly took the penalty and was over only for the score to be disallowed for reasons that were not clear from the sidelines. Meanwhile Keohane was forced to retire after tuning his ankle over to be replaced by Simon Ball. Bournemouth opted to scrum the penalty and eventually, with much pushing and shoving, Bournemouth worked the opening for Hughes to be driven over just right of the posts. Pope duly converted for Bournemouth to lead 21-nil with less five minutes of the half to go.

Bournemouth promptly responded with Manning fielding the kick-off and Edwards making a telling break. Crombie was there in support and Hughes punched up the middle to free Pope who had too much pace going left to be denied his first try of the game. The winger added the two points for Bournemouth having secured a try-scoring bonus point and a 28-nil lead going into the break.

Pope restarted the second half with a kick to his left but No 8 Alex Gallina made a great break to set up a Maidenhead attack. Lynch was grateful to be able to clear left for a Maidenhead line-out. However it was again Pope who was able to take advantage of broken play when the Maidenhead lost the ball going left and the winger swooped up the ball to beat a number of defenders to break through and score under the posts. A great score! He also added the two points and Bournemouth were leading 35-nil just four minutes into the half.

Maidenhead nonetheless showed a great willingness to take play to Bournemouth but the home side weren't able to take advantage of a forward pass when, with Barclay allowing play to continue, Chislett, threatening to break away, was able to control the ball. Although Maidenhead struggled to contain the Bournemouth threes with Pope in particular proving a handful their own threes continued to be a constant threat and it was only a poor pass going left that meant they weren't able to score. Hearson in turn almost broke away from the unexpected opportunity. Nonetheless the breakdown enabled Bournemouth to counter themselves taking play deep into the Maidenhead half. With Bournemouth doing well to retain the ball, it set up a moment of Ngapaku magic when, with a 'show' of the ball, created that gap out of nowhere for the fly-half to step through and run in unopposed from a bemused and flat-footed Maidenhead defence. He made life easy for himself by spotting the ball under the posts and duly added the two points to an increasingly formidable lead of 42-nil with half-an-hour still to go.

Bournemouth were obviously still impatient for more scores with Pope making another great break. When he was stopped Payne managed to fly-hack the ball on and with the ball bobbling about close to the line Pope was still on hand to pick up and dive over and secure his hat-trick despite being tackled into the corner flag. He pulled his attempt at converting the try wide of the near post and was replaced by Anthony Dunkerley but I am sure the latter was not a result of the former.

Maidenhead almost broke away from the restart but the newly introduced Dunkerley took advantage on an unkind bounce when Bournemouth kicked the ball back to set up on arcing run right. However Maidenhead managed to frustrate his attempt to link with Hearson who was denied a sure-fire opportunity to score. With Bournemouth maintaining the pressure deep inside the Maidenhead half, from a mid-field scrum with Ngapaku threatening to go back inside it checked the Maidenhead defence creating the gap inside centre Payne to burst through and score right of the posts. Ngapaku didn't kick the goal but Bournemouth had passed 50 points with twenty minutes to go. Coach David Dunn took the opportunity to swap loosehead prop Jo Burns and Crombie with Tim Wareham and Riad Lynch respectively.

This did nothing to disrupt the Bournemouth momentum and they again took play back into the Maidenhead half straight from the kick-off with another irresistible attack leading to the ball being moved quickly to the right which found Manning who barged over to score wide of the right-hand post. Ngapaku kicked the goal for a Bournemouth lead of 59-nil with just under a quarter of the game still to go. With no apparent let up in the, almost frantic, pace of the game it was Gallina who spearheaded a break from the restart but Chislett did well to grab the ball and break back up field only for Bournemouth to be penalized. Maidenhead found touch down the left and inside the Bournemouth 22-metre area. This set a period of Maidenhead pressure that Bournemouth did well to contain. Outside centre Alex Cannon featured a number of times with weaving runs but he was perhaps guilty of not getting the ball wide earlier and allowed himself to be tackled by Dunkerley who had come off his wing. He was then penalized for 'holding on' and Ngapaku cleared to the left-hand touch. However it was from a line-out on Bournemouth's right that saw Chislett, who must have been a strong contender for man of the match, break away for a forty metre run, draw the last of the Maidenhead defence to release the ball to Hearson who ran for another thirty or so metres to score under the posts. He took the kick himself for a Bournemouth lead of 66-nil with just under ten minutes to go.

Maidenhead refused to lie down but Bournemouth were equally determined to deny them a score with the result the frantic pace of the play continued and Bournemouth forced back on the defensive. Hearson broke the shackles and Bournemouth swept back up field. They were relentless in their support for the ball carrier and Maidenhead were fully stretched. It was the relentless nature of the play that stretched the defence and Payne was able to exploit some tired legs when he spotted the gap as the ball was moved wide and we scored wide of the right-hand posts. I will draw a veil over Dunkerley's attempt to kick the goal but Bournemouth had passed 70 points with out reply with five minutes to go. Still Maidenhead looked for that elusive score and they were deep inside Bournemouth territory when Chislett, having checked what time was left, kicked the ball into touch for Barclay to blow for no side.

The score I suppose tells much of the story of this match but not of the spirited performance by a side facing such a heavy defeat. Two dispiriting missed kicks from in front of the posts early on meant Maidenhead didn't get on the score sheet although they may well have done from any number chances created by their quick and elusive backs. A wrong choice here, a poor pass there meant a determined Bournemouth defence were able to force the breakdown and which often resulted an exciting passage of running/passing football to take play back down to other end to completely reverse the situation. Some real end to end stuff. Mike Pope took full advantage of these broken play situations with the defence spread-eagled to score a fine hat-trick to make his own contribution to a highly entertaining game. A record win at this level but results elsewhere mean Bournemouth remain fifth.

After the game Martyn Thompson of Palmer Snell, match-day sponsors, presented a bottle of bubbly to Man of the Match Mike Pope. Martyn, in turn, was presented with a team shirt by coach Junior Paramore.



**Junior Paramore presents
Martyn Thompson
of
Palmer Snell
with a Bournemouth shirt**