



**Bournemouth RFC**  
**The English Clubs Rugby Union Championship – National 3 South West**  
**Season 2011/2012**



**Exmouth 16/tc3p v 49/7t7c Bournemouth Lions**  
**Bournemouth pressure too much for The Cockles**

**Saturday, 10 September 2011, KO 2.30 p.m. at The Imperial Recreation Ground**

**Result:** Exmouth 16/tc3p v 49/7t7c Bournemouth. **Half-time:** 16/tc3p v 28/4t4c.

**Referee:** Brian Barclay; Devon. **Touch Judges:** Nigel Brunning; Bournemouth. Roger Holman; Exmouth.

**Bournemouth:** James Flynn/t, Ben Stewart (Yellow card 78), Dan Connolly, Scott Chislett/t, Dan Mallard (Robbie Searle 64), Dan Pollard (Robbie Searle 44-49 'blood'), Sam Hardcastle, Tim Wareham (Tarrant 58), Frazer Wilford, Alan Manning/C, Tim Seward (Iain Crombie 67 (Yellow card 71)), Callum Forrest, Jack Hennings, Anthony Dunkerley/t, Gavin Hart/t, Penalty/t (28). **Yellow Cards:** Iain Crombie 71, Ben Stewart 78. **Full League Debut:** Dan Mallard.

**Coach:** David Dunn. **Sports Therapist:** Simon Fitch. **Video Analyst:** Helen Ryan.

**Tries:** Hart 15, Penalty try 28, Hennings 32, Dunkerley 40, Flynn 59, Forrest 64, Chislett 67. **Cons:** Pollard 15 28 32 40 59 64 67.

**League Points:** Bournemouth 5 (Four points for a win plus one try-scoring bonus point), Exmouth 0.

**League Positions:** Bournemouth 1st on 10 points. Exmouth 10th on 1 point.

**In the League:** Scott Chislett extends his own consecutive appearances record as a back to 45 and extends his own record of appearances as inside centre to 53. Alan Manning extends his own record of consecutive appearances as captain to 40, which is also the tight-head and forward record. With 62, Dan Pollard becomes the second highest player to kick conversions.

**Weather:** Sunny intervals but with a strong breeze from the south-west which blew straight down the pitch.

**Ground:** The ground was firm under foot but with a good covering of grass.

**Kick-off:** Exmouth (Jon Fabian) kicked off right to left as viewed from the stand and down the wind.

Bournemouth conceded two early penalties and found themselves 6-nil down after just eleven minutes, full back Andrew Powell kicking two excellent goals down that strong wind. Bournemouth then began to get some cohesive play together and the forwards supported by the backs took play deep into the Exmouth half. With Bournemouth testing the Exmouth defence to the extreme, No 8 Gavin Hart eventually forced his way over. From more or less in front of the posts, fly-half Dan Pollard kicked the first of his seven goals into the teeth of a strong wind to take his side into the lead. Powell however made that lead short lived when he kicked his third goal from within his own half just three minutes later to restore The Cockles' lead at 9-7. Bournemouth were unfazed by that set back and inside centre Scott Chislett made a great break supported by his fellow centre Dan Connolly. Connolly only failed to get in because of some extraordinary Exmouth scrambled defence. However the resultant pressure on the Exmouth line yielded a penalty try as Exmouth desperately tried to defend a series of scrums. Pollard again kicked the goal and Bournemouth were back into a lead they were never to concede at 14-9. Four minutes later, blindside Jack Hennings was not going to be denied from a metre or two out as he stepped through a non-existent defence that defended the wrong channel. Pollard kicked the goal to stretch the lead to 21-9 after half-an-hour or so. Exmouth struck back with a try from blindside Joe Heaven three minutes later and Powell kicked the goal to drag his team right back in it at 16-21. However, right on half-time, the back row completed a clean sweep of tries when openside Anthony Dunkerley was too strong, again from close range. Pollard, grateful considering the wind, was able maintain his 100% kicking record from again more or less in front of the posts. Bournemouth had secured the precious try-scoring bonus point before half-time and had stretched the lead to two scores.

Turning down wind Pollard was forced to temporarily retire to have a cut head attended to and his return restored the cohesion to the Bournemouth three-quarter line as they continued to threaten off the back of some very lively forward play that gave Exmouth no respite whenever they were in possession. It took some twenty minutes to overcome the Exmouth resistance when full back James Flynn, ever willing to support the line in front of him, took advantage of a gap in the stretched defence to score wide of the posts. Pollard kicked the goal for Bournemouth to lead 35-16 after an hour. With most of the play taking place in the Exmouth half, a surprised Callum Forrest out wide where locks normally do not roam took a pass in acres of space and he spotted the ball in a trice just four minutes later. Again Pollard kicked the goal to further stretch the lead at 42-16 with more than a quarter-of-an-hour to go. Bournemouth continued to attack through their threes and Chislett chased down a kick ahead and, with great athleticism, managed to grab a wildly bouncing ball which helped to defeat the defence and he scored a well-deserved try wide out on the left. Bournemouth were pleasantly surprised to see the touch judges' flags raised aloft in acknowledgement of Pollard's seventh successful kick which meant Bournemouth were 'home' at 49-16. Nobody told Exmouth that however and with more than ten minutes left they strove to break their second-half duck. In trying to resist that pressure substitute Iain Crombie, on for just four minutes, was asked to take no further part in the match when he was shown the yellow peril. Exmouth continued to pressure the Bournemouth line and without wanting to be seen a too partisan, the defence was not found wanting and were determined not to yield. However, Exmouth seemed to have scored in the left-hand corner and were unlucky for the referee to deem the ball was not grounded. Ben Stewart was shown a yellow card for his efforts to prevent the score but a thirteen-man defence refused to give way and Exmouth remained empty handed in that second period.

Whether the result was unexpected is for others to judge, but I think the margin was. It was second time we have scored forty-nine points at The Imperial Recreation Ground, the first three season a go courtesy of a fluffed 'easy' conversion from in front of the posts, and consolidates our position at the top of the division! The forwards were evenly matched and in a remarkable period of play in the middle of the second half both sets maintained inexorable pressure on one another as they strove for that opening. It was out wide that Bournemouth were the more dangerous but even here the threes were met by a determined defence which wasn't going to just roll over.

**Doug Warren.**