



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



Barnstaple 3 v Bournemouth Lions 28

Bournemouth prevail in a robust encounter

Saturday, 24 September 2011, KO 2.30 p.m. at Pottington Road

Result: Barnstaple 3/p v Bournemouth 28/4tc2p. **Half-time:** 3/9 v 15/2tcp.

Referee: Simon Walker; Dorset & Wilts. **Touch Judges:** Nigel Brunning; Bournemouth. Trevor; Barnstaple.

Bournemouth: Robbie Searle/t, Ben Stewart (Mike Notarbatolo 68) , Dan Connolly, Robert Bruce/t, Dan Mallard/t, Dan Pollard/c2p, Sam Hardcastle, Tim Wareham/t (Yellow card 68), Frazer Wilford (Joe Tarrant 60), Alan Manning/C, Tim Seward, Callum Forrest, Jack Hennings, Iain Crombie (Alex Horne 53), Gavin Hart.

League Debut: Mike Notarbartolo. **Full League Debut:** Robbie Searle.

Coaches: David Dunn, Tim Collier. **Physiotherapists:** Andy Curtis, Stephen Trapp. **Video Analyst:** Helen Ryan.

Tries: Wareham 27, Searle 40, Bruce 49, Mallard 53. **Cons:** Pollard 27. **Pens:** 7 75.

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

League Positions: Remain Bournemouth 1st on 20 points and clear from 2nd place by two points. Barnstaple 5th (from 4th) on 13 points.

In the League: Alan Manning extends his own record of consecutive appearances as captain to 42, which is also the tight-head and forward record. Robbie Searle scores on his full league debut.

Weather: Fine but overcast with little breeze.

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

Kick-off: Barnstaple (Joshua Squire) kicked off left to right as viewed from the stand.

Fly-halves Pollard and Squire exchanged early penalties but it was nearly half-an-hour before loosehead prop Wareham was driven over for the first try to round off a fine attacking move. Pollard converted with a fine kick from wide out on the left. With Bournemouth having much of the play, Barnstaple nonetheless threatened but good Bournemouth defence kept them out. Play was often being end to end and Bournemouth seemed certain to score on a number of occasions with much pressure but the only further success in the half came as the result of an arcing run by Hardcastle as he sought to outflank the defence. As he stretched for the line he beat the defence with a chip and almost got in himself but with the ball bouncing around and to cries of 'Knock on!' from the home supporters Searle picked up and got over for his first score in the league for Bournemouth. Pollard was just wide with the conversion attempt but Bournemouth lead 15-3 going into the break.

Tries came in the first fifteen minutes of the second half from first Bruce with a typical barging run and then Mallard who showed good pace down his wing and had the strength to stretch over the line with a defender desperately hanging on to secure the bonus point. However the fourth quarter was a disjointed affair with first a sickening injury to the Barnstaple inside centre, Neil Giddy, in his first game back after injury that needed the ambulance to be called causing the play to be held up for more than twenty minutes. A second injury a few minutes after the restart this time to Barnstaple fly-half Joshua Squire caused a further lengthy hold up. The interruptions inevitably affected the momentum of the game and although they might have scored more Bournemouth had to be content with just a Pollard penalty with five minutes to go.

A tough, inevitably so at Pottington Road, match but we came away with five points which must a good thing and took our points beyond 200 after just four matches. That can't be bad either. It took us nine matches last year. We wish the two Barnstaple players well and hope their injuries are not so serious as would have appeared from the sidelines.

Doug Warren.