



Bournemouth RFC
The English Clubs Rugby Union Championship – SSE National 3 South West
Season 2011/2012
Saturday, 10 December 2011, KO 2.30 p.m. at The Recreation Ground



Weston-super-Mare 3pts Bournemouth Lions.....63pts

HT: 3pts
Penalties: James Mackay/10 16.

HT: 27pts
Tries: Hardcastle 5 35, Searle 28 75, Connolly 42 73, Hart 47, R Lynch 60, Mallard 65.
Conversions: Pollard 5 28 35 42 47 73. **Penalties:** Pollard 11 19.

Bournemouth's relentless dynamism too much for a weakened Weston

Result: Weston-super-Mare 3/p v 63/9t6c2p Bournemouth. **HT:** 3/p v 27/3t3c2p.

Weather: Fine but overcast with very little wind.

Ground: The ground was soft under foot after much recent rain but with a good covering of grass.

Kick-off: Bournemouth (Scott Chislett) kicked off from right to left as viewed from the stand and to his left.

Bournemouth soon had Weston's line under threat and sure enough from a 5-metre line-out Bournemouth drove for the line for a touch down and a pat on scrum-half Hardcastle's head by a forward identified the scorer from the melee of bodies. Pollard kicked an excellent goal bending the ball in with the aid of what breeze there was to make the score 7-nil after just five minutes play. After an exchange of kicks, full back Lynch found touch down the right after Weston were penalized and they were penalized again as Bournemouth moved the ball right for a high tackle and Pollard punished Weston again with a similar kick to his earlier conversion to make the score 10-nil after ten or so minutes. After another exchange of kicks, Weston attacked down the left and when Hardcastle was penalized for knocking the ball down Mackay found touch to his left on the Bournemouth 22-metre line. As Weston looked to attack off the line-out, Connolly was shown a yellow card for a dangerous tackle and fly-half James Mackay showed why Weston entrust him with the kicks with a fine goal from outside the Bournemouth 22-metre line to reduce the arrears to 3-10 after a quarter of an hour. Just three minutes later, Weston were penalized for 'holding on' as Bournemouth exerted relentless pressure on the ball carrier and Pollard was on hand to kick another fine goal, this time from the Weston 10-metre line to restore the ten-point advantage. Weston strove to penetrate the Bournemouth defence and Mackay was able to find touch with a penalty outside the Bournemouth 22-metre to his left. Hardcastle was able to kick long to relieve the initial threat but Weston countered with some strong running by their backs although Bournemouth won a scrum as they defended. From inside their own half Bournemouth broke out through their backs and the ball was moved wide to Searle who with initial pace then a deft change of pace and step to unbalance the tackler he came back inside to find the gap and score to the right of the posts. Pollard again kicked a fine goal and Bournemouth were beginning to stretch away at 20-3 with less than half an hour gone. Weston again struck back after the score and full back Lynch was forced to 'mark' the ball to stop a threat down Weston's right. The full back found touch down his left for a Weston throw-in. As Weston drove off the line-out Bournemouth won the put-in from a scrum to set up an attack of their own. Joe Tarrant was very strong in carrying the ball forward and was able to off load to Forrest but the lock, who is increasingly making his presence felt in the loose, was unlucky to lose the ball forward as he went to ground. Weston were only able to clear right to their own 22-metre for a Bournemouth line-out. Hardcastle was lucky not to have his pass intercepted as perhaps he tried to force the play as Bournemouth went right but had a scrum for a knock-on instead on the Weston 22-metre line. However, Weston managed to fly-hack the ball from the base of the scrum only for Lynch to field the ball and counter. He linked with left wing Stewart who made a strong run deep into Weston territory to find Hardcastle supporting on his right and drawing the last defender beat him with a well-timed pass to enable the scrum-half to run in under the posts unopposed. Pollard duly added the extra two points for a comfortable 27-3 lead with just five minutes left to the break.

Bournemouth, as last week, were quickly on the scoreboard again in the second half. From the restart Hennings made a mark from a Weston kick into the Bournemouth 22-metre area and Hardcastle was on hand to clear to the right for a Weston-line-out. As the ball was moved right Bournemouth won a scrum and outside centre Connolly made a dazzling 40-metre run through the Weston defence to score under the posts for Pollard to kick his sixth successive goal. Thus with just two minutes gone in the second period Bournemouth were 34-3 to the good and had registered their eleventh try-scoring bonus point of the season. With Bournemouth increasing in confidence their non-stop play was rewarded just five minutes later when No 8 Hart burst through the tackle to force his way over and finish off a move after Connolly again made great inroads into the heart

Teams

Bournemouth: Karim Lynch/t, Robbie Searle/2t, Dan Connolly/2t, Scott Chislett, Ben Stewart (Mallard/t 60), Dan Pollard/6c2p, Sam Hardcastle/2t, Joe Tarrant (Burns 52), Frazer Wilford, Alan Manning/C, Tim Seward, Callum Forrest, Jack Hennings (Tarrant 52), Iain Crombie (Stanton-Ketchley 46), Gavin Hart/t.

Yellow Card: Connolly 15.

Coaches: David Dunn, Tim Collier.

Medical Team: Andy Curtis.

Video Analyst: Helen Ryan.

Weston-super-Mare: Chris Young, Paul Sprague, Mal Roberts, George Kimmins, Matt Watkins, James Mackay/p, Ross Bennett, Dave Swann, Craig Withers, Steve Donegan, Andrew Glen, Ashley Russell, Jamie Rudkin, George Wright, George Sparks/C. **Substitutes:** Darren Doughty, Shaun Eaton, Seb Harris.

Red Card: Ross Bennett 62.

Referee: Dan Parrott; Gloucestershire.

Referee Observer:

David Smith; Somerset.

Touch Judges:

Gavin Fisher, Bournemouth; Robert Harris; Weston-super-Mare.

League Points: Bournemouth 5 (Win plus try-scoring bonus point), Weston-super-Mare 0.

League Positions: Bournemouth remain second on 60 points. Weston-super-Mare drop from 7th to 8th on 31 points.

In All Matches: Scott Chislett plays in his 175th match; Sam Hardcastle passes 750 (758) points; Gavin Hart scores 50 points; Dan Pollard passes 300 (316) points; Neil Stanton-Ketchley plays in his 25th match

In the League: Jo Burns extends his own record as a substitute to 44; Scott Chislett extends his own record as inside centre to 57; Jack Hennings makes his 25th appearance as blindside flanker; Sam Hardcastle extends his own career try-scoring record to 114 and becomes only the second Bournemouth player to pass 600 (601) points; Alan Manning plays for the 125th time, extends his own record of consecutive appearances as tighthead prop, as a forward and as captain to 51 and extends his own record as captain to 57; Dan Pollard starts for the 25th time (all as fly-half).

of the Weston defence. Pollard again kicked the goal and Bournemouth led 41-3 after 47 minutes. Some desperate scrambling Weston defence coupled with enterprise of their own kept Bournemouth at bay for ten minutes or more but on the hour the strong Lynch eventually forced his way over wide out on the right but even then Weston almost forced him into touch before he could get the ball down. Pollard missed his first kick of the game when he was short with his effort. Ill fortune struck the home side two minutes later when scrum-half Ross Bennett was dismissed for abuse of the referee. Bournemouth almost immediately capitalized on his absence but Chislett was called back by the referee who adjudged the pass from Hardcastle to be forward. But that relentless pressure told just a few moments later when Mallard, on for left wing Stewart, got in the left-hand corner. Further scores from Connolly, who had an excellent match, and Searle rounded off



Dan Connolly

Photo by: Alex Williamson

proceedings and make it the seventh time Bournemouth have registered fifty or more points this season.

Clearly not a Weston side at their strongest but nonetheless an excellent result against always tough opposition who never gave up on their attempts to take the match to Bournemouth or in their determination not to give away 'soft' scores. Bournemouth had to work very hard for what they got. Dan Connolly had arguably his best game in Bournemouth colours and the general consensus in the bar afterwards was he was Bournemouth's Man of the Match (an argument eloquently animated by Barry Hook). Can there be an higher affirmation? Jack Hennings, despite having only just returned from doing his Sherpa Tensing bit on Mount Everest, made a typical robust contribution. But it is a team game and invidious to pick out individuals. Results elsewhere mean the top three pull further away from the remainder.

Doug Warren.

Match Results • 10 December 2011

Bridgwater & A 10-34 Chippenham
 Chinnor 33-5 Newton Abbot
 Exmouth 36-24 Amersham & C
 Old Patesians 47-0 Newbury Blues
 Oxford Harlequins 3-40 Barnstaple
 Redingensians 53-5 Old Redcliffians
Weston-s-Mare 3-63 Bournemouth

Season 2011/2012 • SSE National 3 SW Table • As at 10 December 2011

Team	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	Diff	Pts	T	L	A	Tot	Opponents on 17 December 2011
1 Chinnor	13	13	0	0	487	149	338	52	8			60	Redingensians (a)
2 Bournemouth	13	12	0	1	735	122	613	48	11	1		60	Exmouth (h)
3 Redingensians	13	11	0	2	477	177	300	44	9	3		56	Chinnor (h)
4 Barnstaple	13	8	0	5	285	217	68	32	5	2		39	Amersham & Chiltern (h)
5 Exmouth	13	7	0	6	408	346	62	28	5	4		37	Bournemouth (a)
6 Newton Abbot	13	8	0	5	324	271	53	32	3	1		36	Weston-super-Mare (h)
7 Old Patesians	13	7	0	6	395	348	47	28	8			36	Chippenham (a)
8 Weston-s-Mare	13	6	0	7	351	332	19	24	6	1		31	Newton Abbot (a)
9 Chippenham	13	5	1	7	323	415	-92	22	7	1		30	Old Patesians (h)
10 Old Redcliffians	13	4	1	8	255	346	-91	18	3	2		23	Bridgwater & Albion (a)
11 Amersham & C	13	3	0	10	229	435	-206	12	4	3		19	Barnstaple (a)
12 Oxford Hqns	13	5	0	8	210	484	-274	20	2		-5	17	Newbury Blues (a)
13 Bridgwater & A	13	1	0	12	187	578	-391	4	2	2		8	Old Redcliffians (h)
14 Newbury Blues	13	0	0	13	147	593	-446	0	1	1		2	Oxford Harlequins (h)