

AROUND THE CLUBS

RECORD FOR THE SKIPPER

HONITON skipper John Shotton has smashed the club points record set up only last season.

His try in the team's biggest win of the season — 48-6 against Barnstaple Athletic — took his points total to 308.

The tally is made up of 15 tries, 46 conversions, 46 penalty goals and six drop goals scored in 36 games.

The previous record was held by Neville Pritchard, last season's fly-half, who now teaches at St. Albans and plays on the wing for Honiton during the holidays. He scored 213 points.

Shotton has played a major role in revitalising Honiton, but modestly puts down the club's tremendous success this season to be the recruitment of two experienced backs, former Taunton centre Roger Marks and full-back Keith Edwards who learnt his rugby in South Wales.

"They just happened to join the club when I became captain," he said.

"My aim was to play 15 man rugby rather than the 10 man game which had brought some success in the past but not as much as a more comprehensive 15 man game would bring."

Best backs

"The idea has been to run the ball and open up the

game whenever possible.

"If you do that with conviction you are more likely to bring more success no matter what players you have in your team."

John said that Honiton had probably the best backs they had ever had and when Pritchard and the other wing, Robin Evans, were on holiday and able to play for the club, they could field a strong side.

An ex-Loughborough Colleges player, John says he is happy to continue playing for Honiton — he plans to stand as captain again next season — and has no intention of joining one of the bigger clubs.

Honiton's trip to France was an enormous success. They beat Aigrefeuille United Sport 22-20 and lost 17-10 to Oleron.

The hospitality was fantastic and after each match, every Honiton player received a bottle of wine and a rugby cap.

Although the players had hardly any sleep on the tour, they were in magnificent form over the Easter period with the resounding win over Barnstaple following a 4-4 draw in North Devon and a 46-18 victory against Poole.