

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Marie Davies

STEFFAN JONES

Fly Half/Full Back. 2014-16.

43 appearances, 8 tries, 3 conversions, 6 penalties.

Steffan joined Bedford Blues in 2014 from Newport Gwent Dragons (now known as Dragons), one of Wales' regional teams along with Cardiff Rugby, Scarlets and the Ospreys. His favoured position was fly half, but he was a versatile player and played several games for Bedford at full back.



Steffan writes:

'I was born in Caerphilly, in South Wales, and was introduced to rugby at a young age. This was mainly because my father is one of four boys and rugby was a huge part of their lives. Growing up, I was always watching rugby and getting stuck in whenever I could.

My secondary education was at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni (a 'Welsh Medium' comprehensive school in the Rhymney Valley). This meant that all lessons were in Welsh so I am bi-lingual. I played rugby throughout my secondary school years as well as playing in the District and County teams.

The biggest influence on my rugby journey was, without doubt, my grandfather. He used to take me to the field in the local park to practise my kicking and I have fond memories of him running down the banking to retrieve the ball, when I was practising kicking for goal.

My first rugby cap was when playing for East Wales U11s against West Wales. (Steffan didn't say who won that fixture, but the Rayer family and I think it must have been Steffan's team while 'West is Best' Gareth, of course, doesn't agree).

My first club was Deri RFC. I had the privilege to be coached by Bryan Walsh and Dai Evans - both, sadly no longer with us. They played a huge part and had a massive influence on my early rugby playing career.

From Deri I went on to play for Newport Gwent Dragons. (The Blues has strong connections with the Newport club as both Gareth Alred, our Chief Operating Officer and Ryan Robinson, Media Manager worked at the Dragons.



IN ACTION FOR THE BLUES

But when I was fortunate enough to have been presented with an opportunity to play in the English Championship League, I left Wales with my now wife Toria and joined the Blues.

My time at Bedford was great. I loved the Goldington Road home ground and the loyal fans. I really enjoyed meeting and playing with a great bunch of boys and learnt a lot from the coaching staff of Mike, Hynesy, Larks and the conditioning coach Pettsy.

Toria and I made some great friends at Bedford, in particular Ben and Georgie Gulliver, both of whom were witnesses at our wedding. Having relocated from Wales and not knowing anyone, we were given a really warm welcome from everyone at the club, especially from the now COO Gareth Alred, who also comes from East Wales, and the captain at the time, Nick Fenton-Wells. I was also able to help Club President and kit manager Gareth to keep practising his Welsh language! (There were television interviews in Welsh with sports presenter Catrin Heledd at our B&I game v Scarlets Select at the Carmarthen Quins Ground in 2015 - Gareth at half-time and Steffan at the end of the game to obviously discuss our 35-6 win!).



THE JONES FAMILY NOW



I have so many fond memories of playing for the Blues but one stands out. It was a really memorable moment i.e. kicking to win the match against the then Yorkshire Carnegie. A video of it was posted on Twitter showing Goldington Road erupting-it still gives me goosebumps now!

After leaving Bedford I played a season 'down the road' for Amphyll before making the journey back home to 'sunny' Wales.



PLAYING RUGBY NOW

I am now a Hotpoint Engineer and have returned to play rugby at my home club of Bargoed RFC (in the Welsh Championship League) where I started my senior rugby.

We recently welcomed a baby daughter into our family - Mabli Amanda Jones who was born on the 8th June 2021, so life is very busy.

I'd like to thank everyone at the Blues for welcoming us to the club and making our time there such a memorable one. Thank you to all the coaches, staff, players and certainly not forgetting the amazing supporters who turn up at Goldington Road to encourage their team.'