

FORMER BLUES PLAYERS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Marie Davies

JOSH BUGGEA

Back row. 2014-20. 129 appearances.

No. of tries: Undisclosed, but Josh added he is waiting for 'Deano' to catch up with him!

Josh arrived at Goldington Road from Worcester Warriors Academy. One of our former players and former Bedford coach had strong family connections with a member of the Worcester coaching team, who had wholeheartedly recommended that Josh would be a great asset to our squad - and so he was, both 'on and off' the field. He was a 'regular' in the back row and was very popular with his teammates and the Blues fans.

Josh writes:

'I was born in Nuneaton, which some people know as 'Treacle Town'!

My parents were keen to get me involved from a young age in as much sport as possible. Apparently, this was mainly because I had a lot of excess energy that needed burning off! I dabbled in football, cricket and athletics, but it wasn't until I joined Bablake School in Coventry that my introduction to the beautiful game of rugby began, when I was about eleven.

From then the love story began and I joined my local rugby team Nuneaton RFC - 'The Nuns' and then onto the Old Edwardians 'Old Eds'. I mainly played No.8, but dabbled at centre, even managing to get a few kicks at goal. That was short lived though!

My schoolboy coaches Mr. Burdett and Mr. Wilson were massive influences, helping me to enjoy rugby while pushing myself.

My parents were also a great driving force in supporting me to move forward in the game, giving me the opportunity to travel all over the country to play, come rain or shine.

My favourite players at the time were the infamous 2003 England World Cup back row - Richard Hill, Neil Back and Lawrence Dallaglio.



After Bablake I joined Hartpury College. At the time I was linked with Worcester Warriors. The acceleration of the professional game came into my rugby career with coach Alan Martinovich at the helm. Daily training, weight programs and nutritional advice paid its dividends and we didn't lose a game in my two years there.

I loved my time at Hartpury where I was surrounded by like minded individuals, who all wanted to improve but also enjoy themselves. My friends at college were Ross Moriarty, Billy Burns, Elliot Stooke and Jack Cosgove, who have all gone on to excel in the sport.

While there I was selected to represent England U18s which was a huge honour for me and my parents. I managed to gain caps at this level v Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

Following a two year stint at Worcester Warriors Academy, plagued by injuries - dislocated shoulder and torn hamstrings Bedford Blues gave me a chance. Prior to joining I had heard that Bedford was a great environment to develop, play and of course, enjoy yourselves off the pitch. Also there were the Blues faithful fans, who always guaranteed a sell out at the infamous Goldington Road. A meeting with Mikey reinforced this and I became a Blues player.

Surrounded by the likes of Paul Tupai, Ben Gulliver, Jake Sharp, Phil Boulton, Charlie Clare and Myles Dorrian left me with no option but to grow up, follow the Bedford way and learn some drinking games. I loved it!

Toops taught me an early lesson in not to 'no arm' tackle, with a swift boot to the ribs. It's safe to say I learnt not to tackle him in training again!



2014-15 JOSH, MIDDLE ROW, 1ST ON LEFT.



2016 PLAYERS' PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Being headed up by Mikey, Martin '3rd Baron of Wigan' Hynes, Larks and the infamous Rob Crowle provided the perfect recipe to develop my rugby career. In my second season I was fortunate enough to be awarded 'Players' Player of the Season' which was a massive honour.

However, I am still trying to banish thoughts of me thinking I was Alan Shearer in the play-offs v Bristol!

I have amazing memories of Bedford, that helped to shape the person I am now and hold me in good stead for the future. Particular poignant memories I believe shouldn't be shared with those who were not present, but just let's say tours to Bruges and Barcelona and coach trips back from Penzance will never be forgotten.



I was lucky enough to meet my 'soon to be wife' while at Bedford. After delays due to Covid, Emily and I are now getting married in April 2022 and making our home in Nuneaton.

EMILY AND JOSH

I was fortunate to be given the opportunity by Andrew Davies of Woburn Country Foods to complete an apprenticeship in Butchery, Being taught by skilled ninjas allowed me to become a qualified butcher, which helped me to subsequently work in a factory while awaiting for my application to join the police force to go through.

I absolutely love working as a Police Officer and I believe playing rugby has many transferable skills in the policing world. It is something I recommend to any rugby player thinking about their future careers.

Thanks and appreciation go to all my former coaches and my teammates, who know how tough and under-appreciated Championship Rugby is. Also thanks to Andrew Davies for the opportunity and Howard Travis and Geoff Comb who offered their time to chat with me. Of course, not forgetting the Blues faithful who rock up, 'come rain or shine' and heckle and belt like no others. Love it!

Last but by no means least I must thank my Number One supporters - my parents and my fiancée Emily, who were and always are there for me through thick and thin.

I will definitely be back visiting the club whenever I can. Where else would you want to be at 3pm on a Saturday?

Budge

P.S. Sorry Deano!

