

## FORMER BLUES PLAYERS

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



by Marie Davies



## OLI CURRY

2018-21. Second/back row. 51 appearances. 2 tries.

Oli actually returned to play for the club when we played Cornish Pirates this season. Fortunately, he was at hand to step into a squad, depleted by injury, to travel to Penzance and play in the second row with Robin Williams for the whole game. Great performances and a brilliant 41-21 win for the Blues!

Most of us know where Oli is now as he runs The Training Company out of the Bedford Blues' Gym so as he says, 'I didn't go far!'

### Oli writes:

'I was born in Winchester and my friend's father decided I was too big to play football and dragged me to rugby training. My grandfather was the only other rugby player in my family and he was a massive inspiration to me. The biggest influences on my rugby journey were my family, siblings and schoolteachers, especially the rugby coaches. Hartpury College, where I played second row certainly helped my progress.

I got close to an U20s cap, but it was not to be. Sadly, I only got a blue tick on Twitter and a gum shield! My first club was Winchester where I was lucky enough to be coached by Mike Marchant, whose son now plays for England.

My Premiership debut was playing for London Irish and it was a fantastic experience. Winning away at Agen in one of my first Challenge Cup starting appearances will also stay in my memory. I was playing for Ealing Trailfinders in the season of the last British and Irish Cup competition. Winning the Cup was a great and memorable day, but I have to admit, it was mainly because of the night out after! I have played for several other rugby clubs including Esher, Rotherham, Chinnor, London Scottish and Coventry.

I joined Bedford for the 2018-19 season after former Blues player centre Piers O'Connor, who was

then also playing for Ealing, gave a glowing review of life at Goldington Road. Who doesn't want to play at a club, known for winning and for celebrating the wins in style?

Apart from enjoying Championship Rugby at Bedford I have made many friends and met great people. There are so many 'graffers' behind the scenes who keep the club running so well. A special 'thank you' to Chris Ashcroft, who looks after the great Goldington Road pitch. I have great respect for Chris as he kept myself and several other players going with work during the hard times of Covid.

My outstanding memories off the field are the great pre-season tours.

Our team trips to Bordeaux and Barcelona were both amazing. Unfortunately, all the best 'trip' memories can't be shared in the match day programme!

My life now is still in Bedford. I am currently engaged to my lovely fiancée Kara and we plan to get married next year.

OLI AND KARA



OLI NOW - IN THE GYM

My work now concentrates on running The Training Company, out of the Bedford Gym, so I stayed close.

I enjoy helping people of all ages to improve their health and fitness, no matter what stage of life they are in.

If you have been looking to improve your health and fitness, feel free to reach out. We have lots of options and help people in Bedford every day.

Our website is [www.thetrainingcompanyuk.com](http://www.thetrainingcompanyuk.com) for more information.

My current plans for the future are marriage, children and maybe a poodle! Obviously, like everyone else, I would like to be running a business that would allow us, as a family, to live in the Bahamas!

OLI, FRONT ROW 2ND FROM LEFT



I asked Oli about his September 2022 comeback.

'I knew some of the players at Worcester and they asked if I could help them out. I admit I was hesitant, but when I found out the game was at Kingsholm I decided to do it. My grandparents were massive Gloucester fans, but since my grandfather died my grandmother hasn't been, so to have the chance to get her back there was awesome. A lot of my family are from the west so came to watch.

The game was very quick and I was knackered! I had done a 40-mile cycle ride on a single-gear bike a couple of days before the game!

Then I got a message from Mike asking if I could help them out in Cornwall... Typical - it was the weekend of the Pirates. As I was somewhat 'match fit' I decided to say 'yes'. The game was massively physical, but I have to say I really enjoyed being back in Blue. I never thought it would be possible to get a result like that in Penzance - 5 points taken and one great big bus journey home - seeing some very questionable sights! 160 minutes of rugby in four days and it was back to retirement for me!

OLI TO THE RESCUE - VICTORY V CORNISH PIRATES

