

FORMER BLUES PLAYERS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



by Marie Davies

THE SUPER SIX!

Bedford v Ealing Trailfinders. 1 April 2023
- not to be forgotten at Goldington Road -
the try that moved Deano from 6th to 5th
in our all-time try-scoring leaderboard.

How better to end the season than with a 'Where are they now?' update on the Super Stars?

Derek Wyatt

Wing. 1973-78

152 appearances. 145 tries

1 England cap. Oxford Blue. Barbarian.

Derek was a prolific try-scorer and holds the club record with 145 tries. What is more amazing is that 145 tries were scored in only FOUR seasons. He is one of only four players to score more than 30 tries in a season, which he did a record three times and one of three players to score 6 tries in a match. He also scored 5 tries in a match three times, 4 tries five times and 3 tries an amazing seventeen times!

It seems only appropriate that there was a Wyatt try in our 28-12 victory over Rosslyn Park, in the Final at Twickenham in 1975.

Derek has led a very busy life after rugby as a freelance journalist, a publisher and a T.V. executive. He has edited and written books about rugby and admits he is an internet geek. In 1997 he became the Labour candidate for Sittingbourne and Sheppey and won the seat. He remained an M.P. until 2010.

Derek has returned to live in his hometown of Ipswich. He is still an avid fan of Charlton Athletic and watches them play whenever he can.

On his most recent visit to Goldington Road he presented the club with his framed England cap and tie.



D.P. 'Budge' Rogers

Back row. 1956-76

485 appearances. 126 tries

Captain 1963-64, 1964-65,
1966-67, 1973-74, 1974-75.

Budge's Bedford and England rugby statistics are well-documented.

34 England caps. Captain 1966.
British Lion 1962 in South Africa.
Barbarian.

Budge was the first rugby player to be honoured by the Queen in 1969 with an O.B.E.

He lives near Bedford Park and attends all the Former Players' Reunions in Bedford and London. He is an Ambassador of the Blues Foundation and organises several money-raising events for the Sue Ryder Charity - the most recent in the Burrow at the Blues.

In 2017 Budge's biography 'My Life in Sport' was published.

He is an avid golfer, enjoys travelling and remains Bedford's most famous former player.

Barrie Williams

Wing. 1958-67

149 appearances. 126 tries

Captain 1960-61.

Barrie was a strong, speedy wing and prolific try scorer. He was also a keen and very good tennis player.

After he retired from playing rugby he continued to support the Blues regularly. He could always be found sitting in his usual seat in the stand and was a constant attendee at the Former Players' functions.

Sadly, Barrie passed away in 2017.



Ben Whetstone

Centre. 1992-2005

282 appearances 121/122 tries (club records vary).
Captain 2000-02. Barbarian.

Ben joined Bedford from Ely in 1991 to play for the U21 team and his impressive try-scoring resulted in rapid promotion to the 1st XV where he continued scoring tries.

With the advent of the professional era in 1996, Ben was a regular in a star-studded team, culminating in what was probably his 'best' season 1997-98, when the Blues won promotion to Premiership 1. Ben was not only the club's, but the League's leading try-scorer with 17 tries.

In 1999 he continued his successful rugby career with a season playing for London Irish, returning to Bedford in 2000.

In the 2002-03 season, he joined the illustrious list of players who have scored more than 100 tries for Bedford and currently, he is 4th in the club's try-scoring list.

'Bedford Ben' as he is affectionately known, was awarded a richly deserved testimonial in 2003-04 in recognition of his loyalty and commitment to the club.

Ben is the Player Recruitment Officer at the club and a constant presence.

Dean Adamson

Wing. 2014-23...

135 appearances... 114 tries...
more to come!

Junior Rugby Amptihill RUFC.
Blues Academy. Amptihill RUFC
2012-14.

Dean studied for his degree in Real Estate at Nottingham Trent University in his early seasons at Bedford.

During the 'lockdown' disruption Dean played at Rouen Normandie Rugby for the 2020-21 season.

His first season on his return from France saw him named in 'The Rugby Paper's' Championship Dream Team 2021-22 when he was the highest try-scoring back.



His previous appearance in the Dream Team was in the 2017-18 season.

We all know where Dean is now - still scoring tries on the left wing for the Blues and living and working in Bedford. Earlier this month he became an Ambassador of our charitable arm - the Blues Foundation.

Alan Towersey

Wing. 1968-80

179 appearances. 112 tries

Alan was born in Harpenden and attended St. Albans School. Peter Avery and Mike Nurton, two of his teachers also played for the town and sent him as a promising young player to Goldington Road. Bob Wilkinson, another pupil followed soon after. While studying at Newcastle from 1968-71 he played when available, and became a regular from 1971-78.

As a fast, try-scoring wing, he was an obvious choice for the club's 7s' teams. In 1975 he was in the very successful squad which went on tour to Canada and was unbeaten both in XV's and 7s.

Alan's rugby career ended dramatically. Strangely, Gareth has always kept a diary and his entry on September 19th 1979 reads:

'Went down club for treatment (nothing changes). Boys training on top pitch. Terrible collision between Nick Martin and Towers. Nick's head to Alan's face. Most horrendous injury I've ever seen.'

The next day Alan had an operation to wire his jaw and remained in hospital for four weeks. This horrific accident was likened at the time to someone running into a bus at full speed. Sadly, it was the end of Alan's rugby career, but the following season he was playing hockey on the wing for Bedford's 1st X1!

When his work took him to the Wirral he continued to play hockey for several years and still enjoys playing tennis regularly. Alan and his wife Liz, were enjoying their annual skiing holiday in the Alps when Alan sent a congratulatory message to Dean on overtaking him. Alan and Liz visited the club last year for the 1975 Canada Tour Reunion at the Former Players' Lunch.

