

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

by Marie Davies



BEN RANSOM

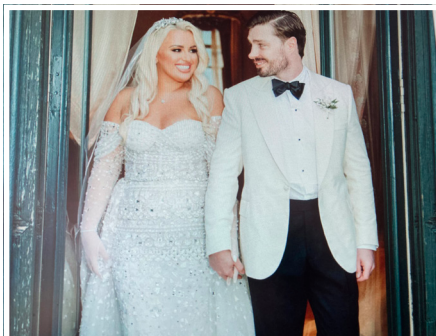
Full-back/wing. 21 appearances. 2011-2014. 7 tries.

Ben's rugby life

Saracens 2010-16
London Irish 2016-18
Oxford University 2018-19
Blackheath 2010-11 and 2019-20

Ben started his rugby career with Saracens, signing a full-time contract with them, after he left school at the age of 18. Alex Goode was the full-back for Saracens at the time and Ben acknowledges that although it was great to learn from him, Alex also prevented Ben from getting a starting position in the team. Ben first came on loan to Goldington Road in the 2011-12 season, but it was in the 2012-13 season that he made his mark for the Blues, making 19 appearances and scoring 7 tries. Of course, this was a particularly successful season for Bedford as we reached the Championship Play-off Final and the British and Irish Cup semi-final - both vs. Newcastle.

Ben was disappointed he couldn't attend the End of Season Dinner in May when the squad of 2012-13 met for a 10-year reunion. However, he did have a prior, very important engagement, as he was celebrating his wedding to Daniela.



BEN AND DANIELA'S WEDDING DAY - MAY 2023

Ben writes:

'I was born in Sidcup, Kent. Mine was a very sporting family. My parents played lots of sports, so I was always throwing or kicking a ball or holding a bat or racquet. My father was always a significant influence, having played rugby and football to a high level. He played for England Schools, Kent and Blackheath.

My first club was Old Elthamians when I joined the Junior section at seven and continued playing there, alongside school, until I was 17. In my last year at school, I played at Blackheath in National League 1 at weekends.

I attended Tonbridge School where Graeme Gales was a strong influence on my rugby career. Starting my rugby life as a Number 8 I then moved to full-back. One early rugby highlight was winning the National U18 7s in 2010. I played every sport imaginable at Tonbridge, not only rugby and football but hockey - reaching the National Schools Hockey Finals and tennis - winning the Schools Racquet Championship at Queens Club.

When I was 18 I decided to turn down an offer from Bristol University and signed for Sarries. I was able to continue my studies and undertook a degree in economics at Hertfordshire University, alongside playing rugby. It was good to find my feet in a professional environment and I was there for six seasons which included three Premiership, a Champions Cup and one Heineken Cup runners-up. I had Alex Goode ahead of me which meant he had the starting position, but this gave me the opportunity to be on loan to Bedford. I was fortunate to be part of the Blues' memorable



SARACENS 2010-16



TEAM PHOTO 2012-13. BEN, MIDDLE ROW, 5TH FROM RIGHT

2012-13 season when I made 19 appearances. The highlights for me were winning vs. Nottingham at Goldington Road in the 88th minute of the play-off semi-final and playing in the Championship Final vs. Newcastle. Leeds was probably my favourite ground visited that season, especially as we won 45-25.



BEN SCORES FOR BEDFORD AT GOLDINGTON ROAD

I made many friends at Bedford. Scott Spurling was also on loan from Saracens at the same time as me and there were great characters among our Bedford teammates - Luke Baldwin, Jake Sharp, Toops, Mark Atkinson - to name only a few!

In 2016, with Alex still first choice full-back at Saracens Ben decided to move to London Irish. It was a good first season as Irish gained promotion and Ben played in most of their 19 wins, including a close game at Goldington Road.

However, lack of experience made the year in the Premiership very difficult for the Irish and they were relegated. Ben decided to 'hang up his boots' and pursue a different career path. He gained a place to study for a master's degree in Business Administration at Oxford University.

Ben was chosen as a full-back for Oxford in the 137th men's Varsity Match refereed by Nigel Owens at Twickenham in December 2018. Oxford were hoping to bounce back from two defeats in a row. They did this with a convincing 38-16 win! Ben's excellent performance was rewarded with the 'Man of the Match' award.

Ben continues:

'My final rugby season saw a return to Blackheath just before Covid.

I went into Investment Banking and have now settled in technology at a Company called Storm Technologies in Watford. Since retiring from playing rugby, I have completed the London Marathon and the Copenhagen Ironman. I still keep fit in the gym or on a padel court. My wife Daniela, whom I married in May and I live in White City. We are hoping to be at Goldington Road today for Bedford's first League match of the season.'

OXFORD WIN THE VARSITY MATCH 2018.
MAN OF THE MATCH, BEN RANSOM

