

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

by Marie Davies

THE SCOTTISH CONNECTION



Tonight's fixture v London Scottish provides a good opportunity to recall some Scottish players who have played for Bedford, and maybe update their news.

Surprisingly, there have only been three players, spanning 86 years from first instance to last, who have gained Scottish caps while playing at Goldington Road!

THE SCOTTISH INTERNATIONALS

DM GRANT

Half-back, Centre or Wing
1909-1911

The first was D.M. Grant, who represented Bedford and East Midlands while still at Elstow School - making 25 appearances and scoring 12 tries. He was capped for Scotland twice in 1911. When he left school, he joined tonight's opposition, London Scottish. He later emigrated to Canada but returned to England in 1915.

WCC 'BILLY' STEELE

Wing
1970-1974



We had to wait 80 years for our second Scottish cap! W.C.C. 'Billy' Steele made 45 appearances for Bedford, while stationed locally in the RAF. He gained 23 caps for Scotland and in 1974, he became the third Bedford player to represent the British Lions in South Africa after G.T. Dancer (1938) and Budge Rogers (1962). The Lions were unbeaten and Billy's 'party piece' on tour was the little known 'Flower of Scotland' which officially became the Scottish National Anthem in 1990. When his RAF posting took him away from the Bedford area, he continued his international career as a London Scottish player.

Billy joined the former players for the London Lunch in the R.A.F. Club in 2019 and he and Tricia, his wife, also visited Goldington Road for their Autumn Lunch in 2019. They live in Burntisland, overlooking the Firth of Forth.

SCOTT MURRAY

Second Row
1996-1999



22 years later a 6ft 6in 20-year-old arrived at Goldington Road to make an impressive impact both on and off the field and became our third Scottish international. Scott Murray came from Edinburgh Academicals having accepted the terms offered by Bedford, when the game went professional. He spent three seasons here, making 76 appearances and gaining 12 caps for Scotland. Off the field, he was one of the stars of his team's social exploits at the club, in the town and at the notorious house in Cheltenham Close (and he didn't even live there)! In 1999, he moved to Saracens for three seasons and Edinburgh for five seasons. He then moved to France where he played for Montauban, before joining Castres Olympique in 2010 and then became coach at Stade Montois.

In 2007, Scott became Scotland's most capped player when awarded his 83rd cap. He gained another four caps, the last against the All Blacks in the 2007 World Cup and held the record until June 2008, when Chris Patterson won his 88th cap.

He moved to the USA with his wife Lisa in 2018, to firstly become Assistant Coach at the University of California in Los Angeles and then forwards coach at San Diego Legion. His contract there ended in 2023 and he now runs his own company - Ruck Drones/Ruck Films. Scott and Lisa have three sons - Jack, Josh and Sam.

Scott returned to Goldington Road for the Club Dinner in 2010 and also joined the former players for the London Lunch at The Churchill Rooms in 2011.

BEN HINSHELWOOD

Centre / Full-back
2000-2001



Ben made 30 appearances for Bedford in 2000-01, scoring six tries. When Ben moved to Worcester, he was capped 19 times and played in the 2003 World Cup in Australia.

DUNCAN TAYLOR

Centre
2008-2012



Duncan made 45 appearances for Bedford in the years 2008-2012, scoring 20 tries. His career continued with 11 seasons at Saracens and winning 28 caps for Scotland. He retired from playing in 2023 and is currently the backs coach for Saracens Women.

ALI PRICE

Scrum half
2011-13



Ali, a very lively scrum half in our Colts Academy, played 10 times for our 1st team from 2011-13. He joined Glasgow Warriors, and his international career took off. He has 66 caps to date and was a standout player with the British & Irish Lions in South Africa in 2021. He is currently playing for Edinburgh.

Thank you to all our Scottish players for their contribution to the game of rugby in Bedford.

NEIL COCHRANE

Hooker
2011-2013
60 appearances. 15 tries.



When Neil joined Bedford he moved from the back row to the front row as hooker, where he was a great success. In 2013, he joined Wasps until January 2014 when he rejoined Edinburgh, his hometown club. He now works for a Building Consultancy in Edinburgh where he and his wife Katie live with their three children - Annie, Lottie and Brodie.

CHRIS RICHARDS

Full-back
1998-99 and 2002-03
31 appearances. 45 points.



Chris sent an update on 'life now'. He said: Debbie and I are living in Perth, Western Australia with our grown-up son and daughter. I work as Operations Manager for a SIP Panel manufacturer. Still playing golf - 4 handicap - and enjoying the weather.

RORY MCKAY

Back row
2007-2009
54 appearances. 7 tries.



Rory sent an update on 'life now'. He told us: Nina and I live in Banochry, Aberdeenshire. We have 3 children - Kalle, 13; Elsa, 10 and Struan, 8. I am Head of Rugby at Robert Gordon's College in Aberdeen. I enjoy coaching, but I do miss playing sometimes. However, I don't miss the way my body felt on Sunday mornings! Nina is currently training to be a Primary School teacher. Sometimes it feels like yesterday we were living in Bedford and can't believe it's almost 15 years since we left!