

FORMER BLUES PLAYERS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

by Marie Davies



HUW WORTHINGTON

Number 8

2017-20. 47 appearances. 9 tries.

Huw joined Bedford Blues during the 2017-18 season and we immediately discovered his first language was Welsh. When preparing the 'Where Are They Now?' articles, my first question is usually 'Where were you born?' In Huw's case, 'Where in Wales were you born?' Huw responded 'I try not to tell too many people but 'shockingly' I was born in England! Shrewsbury to be precise.'

Huw writes:

'I grew up in mid-Wales in a family of farmers. I didn't start playing rugby until I went to Llanfyllin High School in Powys. My brother and I were the only ones in the family who played rugby. We had a good team at Llanfyllin and in my last year there, we reached the semi-final of the Welsh Schools Cup. Unbelievably I started as a fly-half/centre! However, as I grew taller and wider I was pushed into the Forwards pretty swiftly! I also played football for T.N.S. (The New Saints is an English professional football club that is allowed to play in the Welsh League). I think I made the right decision to concentrate on rugby!

After school, my first club was Cobra R.F.C. a rural team in Mid-Wales. It's still a brilliant club, competing in North Wales Division 1.

Being from North Wales I naturally made my way through the R.G.C. (Rygbi Gogledd Cymru - North Wales Rugby) system. I played 100 games for them by the time I was 21. After that, I had a short stint at Newport with the Dragons and from there, Mike thankfully picked me up and my rugby journey continued at Bedford.

My first game away in Ireland vs Munster was a cracker, especially as we won. It also gave me a great opportunity to get to know everyone. My second season of 2018-19 was probably my

favourite and also it was my best personal season at the club. We finished 3rd in the Championship. Our nail-biting 30-29 win away in Penzance stands out. I always enjoyed the away games, which were usually followed by a good bonding session in the pub outside the ground. After a big win, Mike was great at getting the lads together and making sure we enjoyed each other's company!

I feel very lucky to have made lifelong friends at Bedford. I still regularly catch up with Alex Penny, Will 'Tree' Carrick Smith, Ed Taylor, Justin Blanchet and Jacob 'Cubby' Fields. We try and get together a few times a year over a few shandies and an 'all you can eat' buffet - basically to fill 'Tree'! I am unofficially Alex Penny's daughter's godfather - obviously, an inspired choice!

Our trips to Bordeaux and Barcelona will live long in my memory. Particularly Bordeaux - attending a vineyard at 9 a.m. set the tone for the whole trip. Some characters really came out of their shells. I would certainly do that trip again in a heartbeat.

After Bedford, I went on to play a season at Richmond. I feel I have been very lucky to play for two Championship Clubs, especially in terms of the people and the support.



FIRST CLUB RGC



WHITEHAVEN RL



2017-18 SQUAD. HUW, MIDDLE ROW, SECOND LEFT

And rugby now?

I am still playing but I've gone 'over to the dark side' - Rugby League!

I moved to Sydney, Australia to learn how to play and managed to get myself into the National Rugby League, Sydney Roosters, and played for their second team. Since returning home I've played at Leeds, Widnes Vikings and am currently with Whitehaven.

(Huw joined Whitehaven on a month's trial but after three appearances was signed on for the rest of the season in May 2024).

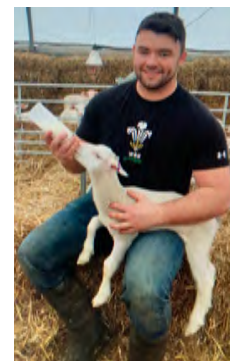
Friends for Life?

While in Sydney I also worked for a beer delivery company and on one Monday morning as I pulled into the warehouse, who should appear as my 'helper' for the day but Oli Curry! Astounded is putting it mildly! I thought 'I'd already got rid of him! What also surprised me was that I hadn't heard

him from a few miles away - the 'old Goldington Road foghorn'.

Earlier this week I won my first cap for Wales, a highlight of my rugby career.

I am now based between the family farm in Penybontfawr, which lies in the very scenic Tanat



FARMER HUW

Valley near Lake Vyrnwy in Mid-Wales, and the North of England, so I can still play Rugby League and also be a 'dogsbody' at home on the farm. I do try to get back to Bedford as often as I can to see my second parents - Steve and Bev from Bevisan Dairy, Valley View Farm, Carlton. They looked after me so well when I was in Bedford and I always enjoy getting to spend time with them.

I recently got engaged to Hattie and we are looking forward to hopefully seeing some 'Old Blues' next July to help us celebrate.

Sending best wishes for this season! Pob hwyl am y tymor yma! (for the Blues Welsh contingent).



HUW IN ACTION FOR BEDFORD