

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK IN THIS MONTH...

Marie Davies looks back at some of the club's finest moments in the month of November.

50 years ago

3 November 1974

RFU Club Competition First Round

Bournemouth 6-66 Bedford

The match day was a Sunday and the game was played in summer-like conditions. Despite being outclassed, the home team showed great spirit and continued until the bitter end. Their try and conversion ended the afternoon's scoring!

Before that, however, Bedford had scored 11 tries, converted eight of them, added two penalty goals, making the final score a massive win for Bedford.

At the time, our points total was the highest in the competition since its inception, and it ranked as the second highest that we had ever registered away from home. This was soon after our 71-7 win vs Wasps at Sudbury in April 1974.

Wing Derek Wyatt scored six tries, a double hat-trick, equaling the records of H. Willett in 1907 and A.D. Heard's in 1908 of scoring that many in a Blues first-team match.

Our success in the RFU Club Competition continued with wins against Sale, Gosforth and Coventry. This meant we reached the Twickenham Final v Rosslyn Park where, with the tremendous travelling Town support, we won 28-12 and brought the 'Cup/Shield home!



1974. DEREK WYATT 6 TRIES!

40 years ago

10 November 1984

Bedford 15-6 Aberavon

In the sports section of Bedford's local newspaper Fred Plester wrote, 'The taste of victory against any Welsh side tends to satisfy the sweetest English tooth!'

The Town owed its win mainly to the pack with a particularly outstanding performance from Nick Bennett. 'He scored the try, tackled anything remotely Welsh that moved and even managed to pull down a passing three-quarter as he lay prostrate on the ground'. Other Bedford players mentioned in the report as having fine games were scrum half and captain Ian Peck and Bob Wilkinson who dominated the line out.

Aberavon were first to score a try and Bedford's only score in the first half was a penalty from Andy Finnie.

Finnie kicked another penalty when our winger Kevin Canning was 'laid low by a stiff arm tackle'. Bennett's try in the second half came from a tapped penalty which Finnie converted. It was after this that fighting broke out. Who started it was unclear, but the referee Tony Spreadbury's whistle was ignored for some time before he managed to lecture the captains at length. Finnie added a further penalty when an Aberavon prop hit one of our players with his elbow and was marched ten yards for arguing with the referee. 'A famous victory was in the bag'.



1984. ANDY FINNIE,
1 CON, 3 PENS



1984. IAN PECK CAPTAIN

30 years ago

5 November 1994

Pilkington Cup Third Round

West Park 14-40 Bedford

Bedford eased into the Fourth Round of the Cup with this win.

West Park didn't want to disappoint their home crowd, whose numbers were matched by the travelling Bedford supporters, so they made a good start providing strong competition in the forwards. They also took the lead with a penalty, but Andy Finnie soon levelled the scores with the first of his three penalties. Andy Goldsmith scored our first try, but the conversion failed and West Park pulled back three points with a second penalty.

After the break, Fletcher closed the gap with a penalty to make it 9-11. It was now time for Bedford to score tries which they did with four. West's O'Keefe touched down for the final try of the game. Bedford supporters were happy to journey home with a place secured in the 4th Round.

20 years ago

6 November 2004

Powergen Shield Second Round

Bedford 40-10 Halifax

This win meant Bedford could look forward to a home draw vs Exeter in three weeks.

Halifax arrived at Goldington Road as leaders of Division 3 North but were no match for the Blues (or Reds on this occasion) who scored six tries.

'Unfortunately, the game was soured by foul play, but the only player singled out was Bedford's Nic Strauss, who had been held in an armlock and was struck twice as Bedford drove over for their final try.



2014. SHAUN BRADY SCORES



2004. BEN WHETSTONE 2 TRIES

Presumably, he must have taken some revenge because he was shown a red card. This decision will probably go to appeal and maybe a Halifax player will be cited! The try stood as the red card was given after the ball was grounded.

Bedford's forwards were on top so we had plenty of the ball which pleased the backs. However, the try count was even - three for the forwards - Matt Stewart, Shaun Brady and Jon Phillips and three for the backs - Ben Whetstone (2) and Ian Vass. Leigh Hinton was on top form, converting five of the tries.

What happened later?

The Powergen Challenge Shield Final - Twickenham April 2005.

Bedford 14 -13 Plymouth Albion

10 years ago

14 November 2014

Bedford 15-10 Yorkshire Carnegie

This was the Blues first home match in four weeks and we battled hard to earn our first victory in five weeks. Two of our losses were by one point in the British & Irish Cup - 35-34 away to Cornish Pirates and 22-23 to Cross Keys at home.

Tries from Darryl Veenendaal and Jim Wigglesworth with one conversion from Jake Sharp, who also kicked a penalty, was enough for a Bedford win, which also took them above Yorkshire Carnegie in the Championship Table.

Credit must go to a resilient defensive effort and a pack that dominated the scrums and the lineouts. (It is interesting to note that in their next B&I meetings in December, Bedford won the away game at Cross Keys 48-10 and the return home encounter v Cornish Pirates 41-40).



2014. JAKE SHARP