

FORMER BLUES PLAYERS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

By Marie Davies



ROBIN WILLIAMS

SECOND ROW

2021-24. 70 APPEARANCES.



Robin joined Bedford Blues from RGC - Rygbi Gogledd Cymru - North Wales, just as the Covid pandemic was coming to an end in the summer of 2021.

Robin's first language was Welsh, and although the Welsh accents of North and South Wales are very different, he and Gareth always chatted in Welsh.

Robin was born in the house where he grew up, and where his parents still live, in a village in North Wales called Y Felinheli, in Gwynedd. It is a village and marina on the Menai Strait between Bangor and Caernarfon. The population is between 2,000 and 3,000, and Welsh is the main language spoken.



Robin writes:

My dad was a coach for the senior side of Caernarfon, my local club. I used to follow the team with him home and away, all over North Wales, from when I was about three years old.

Later, I played my school rugby at Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen. I played for my local club, Caernarfon, until I was sixteen, then joined RGC Academy and progressed into the senior side.

My Dad and brother were massive rugby influences for me. My Dad got me into rugby and supported me from when I started playing for Caernarfon until this day. I used to play rugby in our back garden or on the street with my brother all the time. Mark Jones, former Wales player and currently the Ospreys coach, was a huge influence. He was my first senior coach when I started playing for RGC, and I learned a lot from him. Of course, my favourite coach would have to be the legend that is Mike Rayer.

It was just as COVID was coming to an end in the summer of 2021 that I joined Bedford. I hadn't played rugby for over a year due to Covid and had been stuck at home in my local village throughout that time. I decided I needed to challenge myself and move away from home for the first time in my life, and see if I could play for a Championship Club.

My father and I got invited by Mike to come to Bedford to see the club and the area. After we made the five-hour journey to Bedford that day, I was delighted to sign for the Blues.

I soon found out I had joined a great group of lads.



2021-22 SQUAD. ROBIN, MIDDLE ROW, 5TH FROM RIGHT.

I got on with them all. There was a tight group of Tui Uru, Joey Conway, Jack Hughes and me. We would go out into Bedford after every home game and have a great time.

A 'highlight' game for me would have to be Ealing Trailfinders away in my first season.

We had a few injuries to 'big' players, and we were playing the best team in our league. After Ealing scored in the first two minutes, I thought it was going to be a tough day. However, we turned it around and beat the league leaders on their home patch.



I had a hard start to life in Bedford. I wasn't playing that much, and I must confess I was a little bit homesick. That game was one of my first starts. I felt I belonged in the team after that game, and had an amazing time at the club from that day onwards.

Obviously, another highlight of my rugby career, was when I was chosen as 'The Coaches' Player of the Season' in 2023. It was a new award and certainly meant a lot to me.

When I left Bedford, I travelled to Hong Kong and played there for a few months before leaving for Australia, where I continued to play for a while. I am currently in Sydney, where I am continuing with my early trade of plastering and labouring.

I have now been living abroad for over two years and haven't had the chance to come back to Goldington Road. I am certainly looking forward to coming back one day!

Goldington Road was a great place to play rugby. It was the best time I've had playing rugby, and I enjoyed living in Bedford too. Thanks to the fans, my teammates and all the staff at Bedford, especially Mikey and Crowler, for my time at Bedford Blues.



COACHES' PLAYER OF THE SEASON 2023