

ON THIS DAY...

Marie Davies



50 YEARS AGO

1969

Bedford 3-0 Gosforth

The result of this game turned out to be another 'W' on the card for Bedford - their 12th win in 14 games. It was played in Arctic conditions. The ground was hard and slippery and there was a biting wind, but at least there was no more snow falling to add to the already light covering. The 'fun' started well before kick-off when every player's arrival was greeted with rapture as phone reports came through of players stuck in snow and traffic jams. Five players from the East of England failed to arrive, and Gosforth, who had travelled the previous day, kindly agreed to a 3.15pm kick off so a team could be rounded up.

The only score came in the first half when Rogers, Thomas and Davies produced a great move. Then Small robbed one of their players of the ball to send Davies off again. He collected the full weight of Gosforth's biggest player and the deepest snow in the left-hand corner! However, a good position had been gained, and when Norman Barker took one of several heels against the head Roger Landon picked up at the back and stretched out for his first Bedford try.

In the second half Bedford, continued to play pretty well with scrum half Smith giving them a fast, accurate service, but were unable to score. Any danger was covered particularly by Landon, the game's outstanding forward.'

Bedford scorers

T: Landon



1969 - NORMAN BARKER AVOIDS THE TACKLE

40 YEARS AGO

1979

Bedford 25-13 Neath

The Welsh visitors were the first to score, when scrum half Gnojek sent Peter Jones over for a try which Gnojek then converted.

Bedford responded with two well worked tries. First Andy Hollins picked up at the scrum and linked with scrum half Nick Youngs who put Mark Lloyd-Williams in for a try. Ian Vinter was put in by Kerridge for the second. Both were converted by Kerridge. Neath then scored an unconverted try through Carwyn Jones, before Kerridge and Neath full back Pritchard exchanged penalties. Bedford's speedy wing Blount put in Andy Whitehouse for a try which Kerridge, who had a fine game converted, before Phillips sealed the win in the final minute with the final try.

Bedford scorers

T: Lloyd-Williams, Vinter, Whitehouse, Phillips

C: Kerridge (3)

P: Kerridge

30 YEARS AGO

1989

Bedford 16-7 Vale of Lune

'This was Bedford's 4th win of the season. The selectors had been forced to make sweeping changes to the team for various reasons. The back row changed completely with Steve Harris, returning after a spell in the centre, deputising as captain. In fact, all but one of the pack had changed from last week. This was a relatively easy fixture for the home side and the youngsters brought in to deputise did well.

1989 - STEVE HARRIS, CAPTAIN



1979 - MARK LLOYD-WILLIAMS - TRY!



Bedford scored their first try when Simkins fed to McCarthy and the ball was shipped through the hands of Williams and Patterson leaving Greed with a clear run to the line. Minutes later Simkins took a quick tap penalty, passed to Simmonds, who put Berry over in the corner.

The next points went to the opposition from a penalty in front of the post.

Early in the second half the Vale got a try from their danger man winger Baines, leaving the score 8-7 in Bedford's favour.

Bedford retaliated when Simmonds linked with Clarke who went over for a try. Although Vale threw all they had at Bedford in the final minutes, it was Bedford who had the final say when Stephenson ran in a try under the posts. All four conversions failed.

Bedford scorers

T: Greed, Berry, Clarke, Stephenson

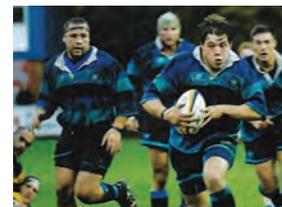
20 YEARS AGO

1999

Rovigo 24-33 Bedford

European Shield

My personal recollection is that Gareth, the then team manager, after making sure that all the squad's bags were on the coach, forgot to load his own which remained in his car at Goldington Road!



1999 - AARON DAVIS - TRY!

This resulted in a quick visit to an Italian supermarket and borrowing a club tie and a shirt (several sizes too big) from travelling supporter, Bernard Henry!

'Bedford should have beaten Rovigo more comfortably. They always seemed to be in command, but disappointing goal-kicking and wrong options taken, allowed the Italians to stay in touch. It took George Truelove's last minute try to put a respectable distance between the sides.

Rovigo led 12-8 at half time with four penalties while Bedford scored a try by Aaron Davis and a penalty by Andy Gomarsall.

However, Bedford pulled away at the start of the second half through a penalty by Gomarsall and two tries in a minute from Adrian Olver and Paul Sackey. Rovigo responded with two tries - one converted - before Bedford were awarded a penalty try followed by Truelove's great effort in the last minute.'

'Bedford will have to go some to match Rovigo's club and council's hospitality off the field for the return fixture in January.'

Bedford scorers

T: Davis, Olver, Sackey, Truelove, Penalty try

C: Gomarsall

P: Gomarsall (2)

10 YEARS AGO

2009

Coventry 15-15 Bedford

'Although the Blues seemed in complete control scrum-half and backs coach Nick Walshe blamed 'a crazy ten minutes' when Coventry, with a late surge, were gifted points and therefore managed to gain a draw when in truth Bedford should have been out of sight.

The Blues got off to a perfect start, when in the fifth minute, Gregor Gillanders and Myles Dorrian linked well before Ian Vass sent a perfect kick over the defensive line and Ollie Dodge was there to score an unconverted try.

Bedford was happy to have Mike Howard back to control the lineout. The usual bout of fisticuffs resulted in Cov prop James Hall and Bedford's Paul Tupai being sent to the sin bin for ten minutes. The half ended after Dorrian split the defence with a great run and put Liam Roberts in for a try which Dorrian converted.

At the start of the second half Dorrian added a penalty, but the rest of the points went to Coventry with a try from Hall and two tries from Carpenter. Bedford held their breath, but the final conversion which would have won the game for the home side failed and in the end a draw was a relief.'

Bedford scorers

T: Dodge, Roberts

C: Dorrian

P: Dorrian



2009 - TRY FOR OLLIE DODGE