

Marie Davies



## 50 YEARS AGO

1969

### Bedford 17-8 Gloucester

'A fifth win from five games made this a great start to the season.

It was certainly the hardest and probably the best win. Gloucester's intent was to draw Bedford into a forward confrontation at the expense of a running game. However, in close combat or open play, Bedford flew ahead.

The huge home crowd were rewarded with a rousing try in the first minute when fly half Pat Briggs sliced through a gap to send wing Gareth Davies racing over the line. The conversion was missed, but Page added a penalty before Gloucester took the lead with a penalty, quickly followed by a converted try from a scrum. However, their lead did not last long as Page added two more penalties.

Bedford's forwards started to dominate. Tony Else and Bob Barker showed they could cope with anything thrown at them and the chunky Norman Barker and Budge Rogers made ground, knocking all and sundry aside. However, it was flanker Landon who provided the opportunity for the last decisive try. From his great tackle the ball went out to the left wing where Davies cross kicked low and fast. Rogers deftly gathered the ball and passed to prop Onyett who crashed over. Page converted.'

#### Bedford scorers

**T:** Davies, Onyett.

**C:** Page

**P:** Page (3)



1969 - TRY SCORERS STUART ONYETT AND GARETH DAVIES

## 40 YEARS AGO

1979

### Richmond 3-26 Bedford

'Bedford ended a two year wait to win in London and did it in style.

Two years ago they beat Richmond 12-11, but this game was much more decisive. The aim was to move the ball wide, away from the heavy Richmond pack. Centres Steve Kerridge and Ian Vinter moved the ball smoothly along the line allowing wings Bob Demming and Nick Chesworth some elusive running. The Bedford forwards also did well with Graham Phillips and Andy Whitehouse playing their usual barnstorming games in the loose.

Four tries in thirteen minutes put 22 points on the board by half time. The first scored by Phillips when he pounced on a loose ball to go over.

The second when Demming raced through from his own 22, passing to Chesworth who put Martyn Humberstone over. The third when Chesworth went over on the left. The fourth when Humberstone put Chesworth in for his second try.

The second half was an anti-climax, lifted only by Humberstone's late try when he kicked on from half way and Mark Howe's break up the touchline which had neutrals checking their programmes that he was playing hooker and not centre!'

#### Bedford scorers

**T:** Phillips, Humberstone (2), Chesworth (2)

**C:** Youngs (3)



1979 - TEAM PHOTO

## 30 YEARS AGO

1989

### Bedford 20-22 Northampton

'Bedford made a thrilling comeback at home to Northampton on Wednesday.

The Blues were much improved in the scrum, winning most of the ball, but still found themselves 18 points down due to a combination of some missed tackles and missed penalties. After Tubb's three penalties and a drop goal Saints appeared to have sealed the match when forward Pask went over for a try, but on the stroke of half-time Bedford's forwards were rewarded with a penalty try which Finnie converted.

It was all Bedford in the second half with tries for Dave Twigden and Mark Howe. Neither was converted. Unfortunately, an interception from Saints allowed Bedford former player Dave Elkington to score a try which was converted, before Twigden went over for his second, converted by Finnie to make the score 20-22.'

#### Bedford scorers

**T:** Penalty try, Twigden (2), Howe.

**C:** Finnie (2).



1989 - TRY SCORER MARK HOWE

## 20 YEARS AGO

1999

### Bedford 29-5 Oxford University

'Although a 'win is a win' this was not a good display from the Blues. Poor decision making and far too many errors made a poor spectacle.

The Blues were without three key players called up for the League squad to play against England - Alistair Murdoch, Ronnie Eriksson and Andy Gomarsall.

Two new players did well. Marco Caputo who has hooked five times for Australia is going to be an asset and Warrick Brant is considered one of the best young props in Australia.

Fly half Gareth Bowen, who has been outstanding in all his matches so far was clearly upset by a ludicrous sin-binning against him by the referee.



1999 - TRY SCORER DAN HARRIS

It was Oxford who scored first with a try by Platt, but it wasn't long before Bedford replied with tries from Roy Winters and scrum-half Charlie Harrison who darted through to the line.

Bedford ran in three more tries in the second half - the first from centre Dan Harris who powered over the line, the second from wing George Truelove then the third when Florent Rossignaux emerged with the ball after a catch and drive from the line out. Chris Richards was successful with two conversions.'

#### Bedford scorers

**T:** Winters, Harrison, Harris, Truelove, Rossignaux.

**C:** Richards (2)

## 10 YEARS AGO

2009

### Plymouth Albion 3-38 Bedford Blues

'After wins over Doncaster and Coventry this victory made it three out of three with no tries conceded.

However, it was rather a slow start for Bedford who didn't score until the 17th minute. Centres Brendan Burke and Liam Roberts were involved in the build up, but it was scrum half Will Chudley who found the gap and darted over. James Pritchard converted.

After a missed penalty, Bedford worked the ball up the other end of the field and hooker Chris Locke went over for the second try. Pritchard converted before adding a penalty to make it 0-17 at half-time.

Plymouth scored first in the second half with a penalty from Hallett. This was quickly followed by a try under the posts from Burke. Myles Dorrian converted. The bonus point was secured when Ollie Dodge beat several defenders before unselfishly popping the ball to Dorrian to score and then convert. The fifth try came in stoppage time when Roberts went over and Dorrian converted.'

#### Bedford scorers

**T:** Chudley, Locke, Burke, Dorrian, Roberts.

**C:** Pritchard (2), Dorrian (3)

**P:** Dorrian



2009 - TRY SCORERS, CHUDLEY & LOCKE