

ON THIS DAY...

Marie Davies



50 YEARS AGO

1969

Amphill 0-32 Bedford XV

'On Tuesday, Amphill realised one of their dreams - their own clubhouse - Budge Rogers took over a Bedford side and then performed the tape-cutting ceremony.

It was a splendid evening all round with an excellent crowd. Bedford entertained with their usual running rugby and the home side emerged as a hard-tackling, fast-covering side who should have a good season. John Woodward of Amphill should be congratulated on preventing Bedford's strong running wing Neil Boulton from scoring. However, there were seven tries from Bedford - two apiece for Roger Slaughter, Tony Else and centre Jeremy Janion and one for centre Gareth Davies. Mike Nurton converted four and added a penalty.

After the game the Amphill President Dick Dillingham escorted the teams to the new clubhouse, Budge Rogers cut the tape and the celebrations began!

Bedford scorers

- T:** Slaughter (2), Else (2), Janion (2), Davies
- C:** Nurton (4)
- P:** Nurton



OPENING OF AMPHILL'S CLUBHOUSE

40 YEARS AGO

1979

Bedford 26-9 Exeter

'Blues destroyed Exeter scoring four fine tries.

New player John Blount showed his pace on the wing with a superb first half try when he kicked the ball ahead and raced to beat the defence to the touchdown. He added a second try in the second half. However, it was scrum-half Nick Youngs who stole the show with his immaculate service, powerful running and two fine tries. Steve Kerridge added two conversions and two penalties.

Exeter's points came from a try by Steve Williams and a conversion and penalty by Steve Webb.

Bedford captain Nick Martin said after the game that he was pleased with the team's performance, but that there was definitely more to come.'

Bedford scorers

- T:** Blount (2), Youngs (2)
- C:** Kerridge (2)
- P:** Kerridge (2)



1979 - NICK YOUNGS TRY SCORER

30 YEARS AGO

1989

Fylde 3-21 Bedford

'The weather conditions which dictated a somewhat scrappy game could not have been much worse with high winds and persistent rain.

The Fylde scrum-half was landed with some nightmare ball and Bedford's first try came when flanker Dave Francombe, who had an excellent game, got to a rolling ball first. Then Jim Chandler charged down a Fylde kick and touched down for the second try. Like Francombe Chandler's contribution was significant. Players he tackles go hurtling backwards! With Stuart Vaudin kicking a penalty the Blues led 13-0 at half-time.

Chandler got his second try when he crossed the line unopposed after a break by full-back Richard Greed.

The final try came from second row Martin Bayfield who stormed through, passed to Batty and then took the high return to crash over. Fylde could only respond with one penalty and Bedford had also ended their unbeaten home record.'

Bedford scorers

- T:** Francombe, Chandler (2), Bayfield
- C:** Vaudin
- P:** Vaudin



1989 - JIM CHANDLER - TWO TRIES

20 YEARS AGO

1999

Bedford 8-27 London Irish

With the prospect of financially difficult times ahead and an uncertain future for the Blues we had lost several players at the end of the 1998-99 season, after Rudi Straeuli's side had clung on to a place in the Premiership by the narrowest of margins.

Three of our last season's players turned out for London Irish 'on this day' - Ben Whetstone, hooker Richard Kirke and prop Neal Hatley.

'Unsurprisingly, Bedford Ben added two more tries to those he has already scored at Goldington Road. However, it wasn't plain sailing for the visiting team, who although they had control in the scrum were second best in the lineout mainly because of the accuracy of Mark Caputo's throwing in, of which Derwyn Jones was not slow to take advantage. Also far too often they dropped passes at crucial times.

After two penalties by Jarrod Cunningham, a move by the Irish was finished off in confident style by Whetstone. Bedford struck back with a try of their own when George Truelove delivered a perfectly timed pass to Dan Harris. He shipped it to Paul Sackey who showed what a lethal finisher he is. Two penalties extended Irish's lead and then improved handling set up Whetstone for his second try.

Bedford were first to score in the second half with Gareth Bowen kicking a penalty, but a try for wing Campbell left London Irish with a rather flattering score.

Bedford scorers

- T:** Sackey
- C:** Bowen



1999 - PAUL SACKEY

2009 - LUKE FIELDEN
TRY SCORER



10 YEARS AGO

2009

Bedford 5-6 Bristol

'The 4,067 crowd were certainly entertained by a cracking game of rugby which could certainly have gone either way.

The first half was very close and it was Bedford who gained most ground when they had the ball, but it was Bristol who led at half-time after Jarvis had kicked two penalties. Near the end of the first half Brendan Burke picked up a nasty ankle injury and was replaced in the centre by Luke Fielden.

Bedford came out flying in the second half and scored the game's only try. Scrum half Will Chudley passed to fly half Myles Dorrian who spotted a gap, drew the defence, passed to James Pritchard who offloaded to Fielden who raced over for the try. Unfortunately, the difficult conversion was missed.

This was a game of 'What if?' Fielden and most of the crowd thought he had scored the winning try in the last ten minutes, but Bristol got the benefit of the doubt. A penalty and a drop goal were missed in the final minutes and we were left to ponder 'what could have been'.

Bedford scorers

- T:** Fielden