

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Marie Davies

PATRICK BRIGGS

Fly Half

1962-73

238 appearances, 387 points

Captain 1969-72

In his first season as captain the Bedford team won the unofficial 'Sunday Telegraph' English-Welsh pennant, playing 35 games, winning 28, losing 6 and drawing 1. Similar results were achieved for the next two seasons.

Club Coach 1973-81

Pat became Bedford's first official coach when he retired from playing and there followed a 'golden age' of rugby at Goldington Road when supporters watched an exciting brand of rugby with skilful, mobile forwards, dazzling backs and deadly finishers on the wing. This culminated in the winning of the RFU Club Cup competition (later known as the John Player Cup).

The Cup campaign had started with an away win at Bournemouth 66-6, then an impressive 23-3 win at home against Sale. The next game v Gosforth was more difficult, but the home side Bedford managed a 12-6 win. The semi-final draw gave us another home game-this time against our old rivals Coventry. The stand was filled to capacity and the 'takings' topped £2,000, establishing a new record for the club.

CUP FINAL ACTION 1975



PAT THEN



It was a tight, exciting game but the two tries scored by John Howard and Andy Hollins, the first converted by Neil Bennett who also added a penalty, was enough to win the game 13-6. The Final, when most of the town travelled to Twickenham to watch their team, resulted in a fantastic 28-12 victory over Rosslyn Park.

On April 26th this year we shall be celebrating the 45th anniversary of that win. Pat also coached for the RFU, including the U23 England team for several seasons.

Pat was born in Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire and in school excelled at both cricket and rugby. He made his debut in County Cricket for Cheshire in 1960 in the Minor Counties Championship and continued until he left for Cambridge University where he gained his cricket 'blue'. After his studies, he resumed playing Minor Counties cricket for Cheshire until he joined Bedfordshire, where he continued playing until 1973.



1971-72 TEAM. CAPTAIN PD BRIGGS

Pat had also gained his rugby 'blue' at Cambridge and when he started teaching at Bedford School he joined Bedford RUFC. During his rugby playing career he was an England trialist and a Barbarian.

Pat writes:

"My years at Bedford were one of the best times of my life. Not only did I meet my future wife, Sha, but I was introduced to a real rugby club - treat the game seriously, but not each other! We played together, socialised together and have remained lifelong friends".

Pat's eight year tenure as coach was a record until 2014 - when it was broken by Mike Rayer. In 1987, Pat and his family moved to Manchester where he became headmaster of the William Hulme Grammar School for what he describes as 'ten wonderful years'.

"While in Manchester I helped coach Manchester RFC for a few seasons before I decided to extend my working life abroad. In 1997 we moved to Malaysia where I became Headmaster of a multicultural school (Kolej Tuanka Ja'afar in Negri Sembilan) which had a fantastic work ethic and an unbelievable politeness. We lived there until 2005 when I retired. When we came back to this country, (our three children were all grown up), Sha and I lived for quite a while on a narrowboat at Poynton in Cheshire. The plan was to sail around two thousand canals before we settled down to retirement! We were on the narrowboat for three years and almost achieved our goal-only missing out on one canal! After two years on the narrowboat we prepared for the future by buying a flat in Cambridge, which we let out for the final year of our canal travelling. In 2008, we finally settled in Cambridge".

PAT AND FAMILY
AT AUTUMN
LUNCH 2019



Pat and Sha still live in Cambridge, but as their eldest son Simon lives with his wife and two sons in Bedford they are often at Goldington Road. Simon's sons have carried on the family tradition and attend Bedford School. Their daughter Anna now also lives in Cambridge, returning there with her husband, daughter and two sons after several years of living in Australia. Marcus, their youngest son lives in Yorkshire with his wife, three daughters and a son.

Pat, in his spare time, enjoys walking, playing golf and attending the sporting, social and alumni events of Cambridge University. His interest in cricket continues and he often attends games at Fenners - the home of Cambridge University cricket.

He often attends Bedford's home matches, enjoying our style of play which no doubt reminds him of his playing and coaching years at Goldington Road. He is also a frequent visitor to the Former Players' social events.

REUNION SUMMER 2019

