

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

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GLOUCESTER SCOTS

In the professional era we've been used to seeing Scottish internationals at Kingsholm.

Rory Lawson, Alasdair Dickinson, Chris Paterson, Alasdair Strokosch, Scott Lawson and Jim Hamilton have all worn the Cherry and White shirt.

In the amateur era the list is topped by the Gloucester born Anglo-Scottish back row Ian Smith, who was capped 25 times for Scotland, played in the 1995 World Cup and captained Gloucester from 1991-94.



Ian Smith



Ian Smith securing the ball

Pete Jones, the prop who was born in Arbroath but brought up in Gloucester, was capped by Scotland against Wales in 1992.

Winger Lewis Dick had been capped 14 times by Scotland when he came to Gloucester in 1978 and full back Ron Etheridge, No 8 John Simonett, and centres Don Caskie and Ruari Maclean all featured in Scottish trials or divisional games. But it all started with...

DONALD CRICHTON-MILLER

Gloucester's first Scottish international

The Gloucester club was approaching its Diamond Jubilee

when Donald Crichton-Miller took the field for Scotland against Wales in Cardiff in February 1931. He became the fifteenth player to be capped for his country while playing for Gloucester, but the first for a country other than England.

Crichton-Miller was born in 1906, in San Remo, Italy where his father, the eminent psychiatrist Hugh Crichton-Miller had a practice. Hugh Crichton-Miller went on to develop a treatment for shell shock victims while serving as a Lieutenant-Colonel in the 1914-18 war and, in 1920, founded the Tavistock Clinic.

Donald attended Fettes College, Edinburgh from the age of thirteen and eventually became head of school and a leading member of the first XV.

He went up to Pembroke College Cambridge in 1925 and played for London Scottish after the Varsity match, having failed to break into the university side. Competition for places was fierce and although he played a number of 1st XV games against leading club sides it was not until 1928 that he won his blue, following an outstanding performance in a 20-3 Cambridge win over Leicester.



Donald Crichton-Miller

After another fine performance in the Varsity Match, which Cambridge won 14-10, he was selected to play for Scotland versus The Rest in the final trial at Murrayfield. Scotland won 27-3, but he missed out on selection for the Home Internationals.

On leaving Cambridge, Donald Crichton-Miller took a teaching post at Monmouth High School and joined the Gloucester club at the start of the 1928-29 season.

He proved a great asset and, after a string of good performances, was chosen to tour South Wales with the Barbarians on their annual Easter tour. The Times said, "Donald Crichton-Miller at his best has few equals as a quick-moving forward who can use hands or feet effectively in the loose."

His second season with Gloucester was the climax of his rugby career. A fine performance for Scotland against The Rest in the final Scottish trial at Hawick in which The Rest held Scotland to an 11-11 draw ensured his selection against Wales in Cardiff. He scored both Scotland's tries in that game and was selected to play in all four internationals, although eventually missing the French game through injury. He also went on a second Barbarians Easter tour.

Crichton-Miller left Monmouth

High School in 1931 to take up a post at Bryanston School. He joined the Bath club and played for Hampshire in the County Championship.

As a Bath and Hampshire player he played for London Counties against South Africa that October at Twickenham, but never again hit the heights that he had reached while at Kingsholm.

Donald Crichton-Miller went on to become headmaster of Taunton, Fettes and Stowe public schools and while headmaster continued to coach successive generations of schoolboys.

And then there was...

DAVID GILBERT-SMITH

A Boys Own Story

David Gilbert-Smith was born in Poona, India in 1931, the son of a doctor in the Indian Medical Service and was educated at St Edwards School, Oxford.

He was a talented wing forward who, when he won his only cap for Scotland against England at Murrayfield in March 1952, provoked the Times comment that "...mere southerners have wondered for a long time why no place could be found for Gilbert-Smith in a moderate Scottish pack". He was a 20 year old army Lieutenant on National Service at the time!

Earlier that season, he had played for London Scottish against Gloucester and had played for the Army in the Services tournament at Twickenham.

The following year while serving with the 1st battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment he won the Military Cross in Korea, fighting alongside his lifelong friend British Lions captain Mike Campbell-Lammerton. Only one MC could be awarded and Gilbert-Smith received the award based on his seniority.

He returned to captain London Scottish and gained a final Scottish trial playing for the Whites versus the Colours in January 1955.

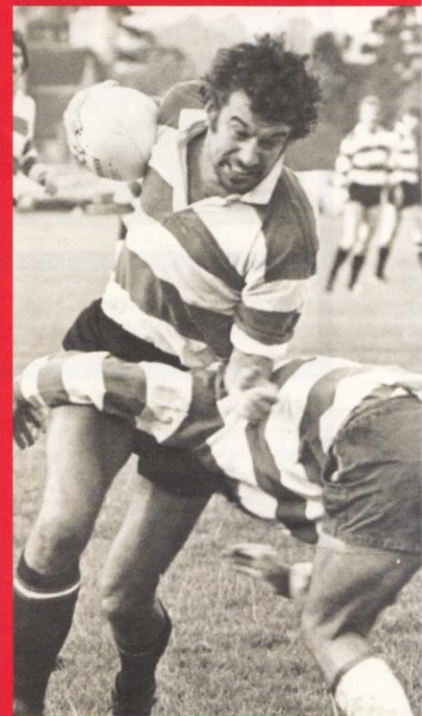
Later that year, while serving in

Northern Ireland, he persuaded a group of his fellow subalterns to canoe across the Irish Sea in home made canoes. When asked why they were doing it, he said:

"Because it's dangerous, because it's strictly forbidden and because it's never been done before."

Six years later, between 1961 and 1963, while serving as an instructor with the SAS, Gilbert-Smith played two seasons for Gloucester when his army duties would allow.

Despite limited opportunities to play he impressed the Kingsholm crowd. He retired from the army with the rank of major and went into industry. In 1975 he founded the Leadership Trust.



INTERVIEW WITH JOHN SIMONETT

An interview with John Simonett, the Scot who played No 8 for Gloucester in the 1977-78 cup campaign, will shortly be available on the Gloucester Rugby Heritage website: www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk