

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk

ON CENTRE
STAGE
– PART TWO

CENTRES FROM DAYS OF YORE WERE COVERED IN OUR ARTICLE IN THE PROGRAMME FOR THE LAST HOME MATCH AGAINST HARLEQUINS; NOW WE LOOK AT THE BEST OF GLOUCESTER CENTRES IN MORE RECENT TIMES.

RICHARD JARDINE

Richard Jardine was a long striding powerful centre who made 314 appearances for Gloucester between 1967 and 1982, scoring 89 tries. Early on he sometimes played at fly half and it took a while before he became established as a centre, but by 1970 he was a regular partner to John Bayliss. 1971 saw him in the County team and he was on the winning side in three out of four successive Championship finals (1972-75).

In all he played 31 games for Gloucestershire, scoring six tries. Richard played in the early rounds



Richard Jardine alongside John Bayliss for Gloucestershire

of the successful cup campaign of 1972, but missed the final through injury. He did, however,

play in every round of the 1978 campaign when Gloucester beat Leicester in the final, and his form that year earned him a place on the England B tour.

PAUL TAYLOR

Paul Taylor had played several seasons for Stroud before deciding to try his luck with Gloucester. His first game in October 1980 was a baptism of fire, playing in a Wednesday evening game at Pontypool. This was the Pontypool team in its pomp, but Gloucester won 17-15. In his third appearance he scored his first try in a big win over Leicester.

Paul was a durable no-nonsense centre who never seemed to get injured. In successive seasons from 1983 to 1986 he played in 47, 43 and 41 games respectively. He was a member of the team which drew with Moseley in the final of the John Player Cup in 1982.

Paul Taylor



Terry Fanolua

He also played for Gloucestershire in the Championship Final against Northumberland in 1981. In all Paul made 280 appearances for Gloucester and scored 58 tries.

TERRY FANOLUA

Terry Fanolua was born in Samoa and played his early rugby in New Zealand. His cousin, Junior Paramore, was another Shed favourite. Tom Walkinshaw, and the then Director of Rugby Richard Hill, persuaded Terry to cross the world and come to Kingsholm for the start of the 1997-98 season.

It was not long before he became one of the most popular players ever to play in the Cherry

and White colours. He developed a solid centre partnership with Australian Richard Tombs and they were together in the C&G Cup Final win over Bedford in 1998, when Terry scored a try. He was also in the Zurich Championship winning team that beat Bristol in 2002.

Not surprisingly Terry had a long run in the Samoa team winning 29 caps between 1996 and 2005. It was a sad day when his career at Kingsholm ended in 2006, and he moved to Brive and played there for two seasons.

"Terry from Gloucester" as he became popularly known, made 210 appearances for Gloucester, scored 60 tries, and is now back at Kingsholm working in the Community Department.



Henry Paul

HENRY PAUL

Henry Paul had a glittering Rugby League career, winning 23 caps for New Zealand and playing for Wakefield Trinity, Wigan, and most successfully for Bradford Bulls.

Expectations were very high when he switched codes and arrived at Gloucester, and were matched on his debut in 2001 against Caerphilly in a Parker Pen cup game when he scored 28 points. England recognition soon followed with six caps in 2002, but there his international career ended.

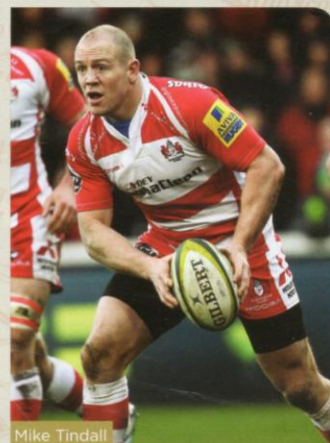
It has to be said that even at

Kingsholm he divided opinion, but the fact remains that he was a clever centre who could pass out of the tackle beautifully. He was a gifted goal kicker and in 2003-04 he scored 354 points, and won Gloucester's player of the year award.

However, early in season 2005-06 he appeared to be out of favour and left Kingsholm to return to Rugby League.

ANTHONY ALLEN

Anthony Allen came to Gloucester directly from Millfield School in 2005, and in only his third appearance scored a try in the overwhelming 106-3 defeat of Steaua Bucharest. That season (2005-06) proved to be a good one for Gloucester, and Anthony



Mike Tindall

only 11 starts that season and signed for Leicester at the end of it.

MIKE TINDALL

Mike Tindall, born in Otley, Yorkshire, was already a seasoned international before he arrived at Kingsholm. He won his first cap in 2000, amassed nearly 50 more as a Bath player, and was a World Cup winner with England in 2003. After eight years at Bath, Mike arrived in Gloucester for the start of the 2005-06 season, and following the departure of Henry Paul quickly formed a formidable centre partnership with Anthony Allen.

He was a hard crash ball centre, deadly tackler and effective leader of the back line. His style of play inevitably led to injuries. Even the Queen has lost track of the number of times his nose was broken. In April 2007 playing against Newcastle he broke his leg, which meant that he could take no part in the 2007 World Cup. His courage was demonstrated in February 2008, when, playing against Wales and tackling Mark Jones, he lacerated his liver. Typically, he was playing again by April.

Mike was made Club captain in 2008-09, and he continued to accumulate England caps, finishing with 75. He made 179 appearances for Gloucester, and announced his retirement from professional rugby in July 2014.