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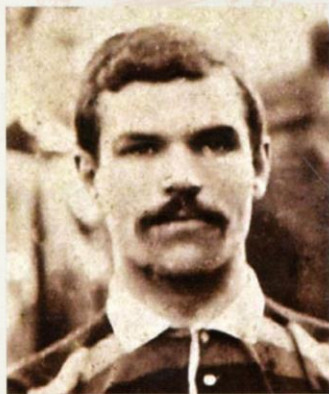
TAKING  
WING  
- PART ONE

## PRE WORLD WAR II STARS ON THE WING FOR GLOUCESTER

**WALTER TAYLOR**

**Born at Frampton in 1871, Walter Henry Taylor was one of the first of those Gloucester players who would send a hum of anticipation rippling through the crowd whenever he got the ball. This was due to his breathtaking speed which enabled him to score spectacular tries from deep inside his own half.**

He was the club's leading try scorer for seven seasons. In a career which spanned the years 1890 to 1904 he played 250 games, scoring 127 tries. One of the very best wing three-quarters of his generation in England, he never played for his country, although he appeared in two



international trials, scoring a try in each.

In a remarkable first season, he made his debut for Gloucestershire while still only nineteen and kept his place, going all the way to the final against

Lancashire. He also appeared for Western Counties against the Midlands in an England trial that season. Taylor captained Gloucester with great success from 1896 to 1900.

When he died in September 1955, he was the Grand Old Man of Gloucester Rugby, the last survivor of the inaugural match at Kingsholm.

**CHARLES  
"WHACKER" SMITH**

**Charles Albert "Whacker" Smith was, as his nickname suggests, a robust and sturdily built wing who was a formidable defender and tackled magnificently. However, when near the line, he was difficult to stop and in 270 appearances for Gloucester between 1897 and 1908 he scored 141 tries.**

Establishing himself in the 1st XV in the 1899-1900 season, he scored a try in Gloucester's 13-0 defeat of the Barbarians at Kingsholm that April. The following year he played in two trials and was selected for England against Wales at Cardiff in January 1901 specifically "to stop the Welsh backs scoring." Although he put in some good defensive work, Wales won the game 13-0 and he was not selected again.

His record of eight tries against Clifton in the opening match of the 1901-02 season has never been equalled. He went on to score 29 tries in 27 games that season and to play in the County



Championship Final against Durham at Kingsholm.

In his last outstanding season, 1905-06, he played for Gloucester against the first All Blacks at Kingsholm and finished with 27 tries in 33 games. He did play for Gloucestershire against the first Springboks at Kingsholm in November 1906, but by then the injuries sustained as a result of his robust style of play were catching up with him and he retired in March 1908.

**ARTHUR HUDSON**

**Arthur Hudson was the most prolific try scorer in the history of the Gloucester club, with an astonishing career record of 235 tries in only 260 matches played between 1902 and 1920.**

His first love was football and he made his Kingsholm debut playing for the City Albion AFC on what is now the club car park before switching codes in 1902, at the age of 20. His career took off in 1904-05 when he scored 35 tries in only 31 games and his tally of 41 tries for Gloucester in 1905-06



is a record that has never been approached.

Arthur combined his try scoring ability with a sound defence and played eight internationals for England, scoring eight tries, including four tries in one match against France in Paris in 1906. He played for Gloucester against the 1905 All Blacks and for Gloucestershire against the 1906 Springboks, both matches at Kingsholm.

He scored two tries in



his club's leading scorer with 20 tries from 25 matches and he was again the leading try scorer in 1922-23 and 1923-24. His try scoring feats attracted wider interest and he was capped by his native Lancashire.

Sid Brown switched his county allegiance to Gloucestershire in 1924. He played for Gloucestershire against the Second All Blacks (the "Invincibles") in September in a creditable 6-0 defeat at Kingsholm and then played throughout the County Championship campaign, ending with the final which was lost 14-6 against Leicestershire. He also played in Gloucester's Golden Jubilee game against the RFU President's XV in November.

Elected vice captain in 1925-26, Sid Brown had played 26 games scoring 21 tries, when he was injured playing against Aberavon at Kingsholm on Easter Saturday, 1926. He was taken to Gloucester Royal Infirmary where he died the following day.

The death of such a popular player who had scored 116 tries in his 185 appearances and had frequently captained the club in Tom Voyce's absence, aroused much public sympathy and an appeal on behalf of his widow and son raised over £1600, a substantial sum in those days.



Gloucestershire's first County Championship Final victory over Yorkshire at Kingsholm in 1910 and at the age of 37 played throughout their successful 1920 campaign, scoring four tries in the competition.

Arthur Hudson was an outstanding captain of Gloucester for five successive seasons 1908-1913. After his retirement he served as club secretary for 35 years and was revered as Gloucester's "Mr Rugby."

### **SID BROWN**

**Salford born Sidney Albert Brown was brought up in Gloucester where he excelled as a schoolboy rugby player and was capped by England at schools level.**

He was an attacking wing three-quarter who occasionally played in the centre. After serving with the 7th Gloucesters in World War One he joined Gloucester RFC, scoring two tries in a 13-0 win over Abertillery in his first game in September 1919.

The following season he was

was described as "one of the loveliest sights ever seen at Kingsholm" and rather than kick, which he did rather clumsily, he would throw the ball from one wing to the other with deadly accuracy.

Cheltenham College educated Tanner was up at Pembroke College Cambridge, but had failed to get his 1929-30 Blue, when asked to play for the Barbarians against East Midlands at Northampton in March 1930. He scored a hat trick of tries in a 22-6 victory in front of the England selectors and two weeks later played for England against Scotland at Twickenham.

He gained his Blue in December 1930 and played three times for the Barbarians but missed further



England selection. After the Varsity match he made his debut for Gloucester.

He was back in favour with the England selectors and capped four times in 1932, scoring a try in his last international against Scotland.

Ordained in 1935, he became a curate at St Mary de Lode church in 1937 and was one of three clergyman playing in the Gloucester side. On the outbreak of WW2, Kit volunteered as a naval chaplain, and was posted to the cruiser, HMS Fiji.

When the Fiji was attacked by the Luftwaffe off Crete in May 1941, he spent hours in the water and was personally responsible for saving the lives of close to 30 men before succumbing to exhaustion. He was posthumously awarded the Albert Medal for saving life at sea.

### **KIT TANNER**

**Cheltenham born Christopher Champain "Kit" Tanner played just 66 games for Gloucester, spread over eight seasons 1930-38 but in those eight seasons he scored 42 tries and left an indelible impression on all who watched him play.**

His running, when in full flow,