



GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

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GLOUCESTER PROPS PART 4

THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE CLUB, GLOUCESTER BUILT AND MAINTAINED A FINE AND DESERVED REPUTATION FOR HARD UNCOMPROMISING PROP FORWARDS - OTHER CLUBS, INCLUDING THE WELSH, ALWAYS KNEW THAT THEY WERE IN FOR A TOUGH ENCOUNTER UP FRONT WHEN THEY FACED THE CHERRY AND WHITES.

The fourth of five articles on great Gloucester props takes us from the eighties into the professional era.

MALCOLM PREEDY
LOOSE-HEAD prop Malcolm Preedy was a formidable presence both in the scrum and in the loose from an early age. He played for Gloucester in the 1982 and 1990 cup finals and for Gloucestershire in the 1984 County Championship final.

in his first year.

After featuring prominently in Gloucester's record-breaking 1981-82 season, he was promoted from the Under-23 squad to take part in England's summer tour of North America.

He played for Gloucestershire in their County Championship victory over Somerset at Twickenham in 1984 and was then chosen for England's summer tour of South Africa, alongside Steve Mills and Phil Blakeway.

in a second Twickenham Cup Final in 1989-90, his last full season.

RICHARD PASCALL
RICHARD PASCALL, aka "Pasc", was a powerful and mobile tight-head prop who made 257 appearances for Gloucester and propped alongside Malcolm Preedy in the 1990 Cup Final. He played for South West Division against the 1988-89 Australians and won an England B cap against France the same season. He made twelve appearances for the South West in the Inter-Divisional Championship.

Born in Greenford Middlesex in January 1958, Pasc learnt his rugby at Upton Manor Secondary School, Gillingham and joined the Beckenham club from school. He played County Championship rugby for Kent at the age of eighteen before enrolling at St Paul's College Cheltenham to train as a PE teacher.

While there, he played for British Colleges and for English Students against Japan. After two years of teaching in Northamptonshire and playing for Bedford, Richard Pascall moved to Cheltenham and joined Gloucester RFC in winter 1980.

He made his 1st XV debut for Gloucester in September 1982 and, once established, held his place for the next nine seasons, a very successful period in the club's history. At times he was on the verge of greater things, as testified



• PASCALL, DUNN AND PREEDY

He toured North America in 1982 and South Africa in 1984, where he won his only England cap. He made 313 appearances between 1979 and 1992 and captained his club in 1986-87.

Malcolm Preedy, born in September 1960 in Gloucester, learned his rugby at Hucclecote Secondary School and arrived at Kingsholm at the age of 19 from Longlevens RFC, playing 24 games

The trio formed an all-Gloucester front row for the first test and appeared to have held their own against the formidable Springboks in a 33-15 defeat. All were dropped for the second test, however, and it was to be Preedy's only cap.

The durable Preedy played with distinction for Gloucester for another eight seasons, captaining the side in 1986-87. He appeared



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by his selection for the South West and England B.

Richard Pascall returned to Bedford to captain the club in Division 2 for the 1991-92 season, before ending his career playing for Cheltenham. He has since coached Stroud and assisted Gloucestershire as forwards coach.

PETE JONES

SCOTTISH born Pete Jones played 184 times for Gloucester from 1983 to 1998. He won a Scottish cap as a replacement and also represented Scotland A. Before playing for Scotland he played for the South West Division and had an England Under 23 trial.

Peter Martin "Pete" Jones (also nicknamed "Jonah") was born in Arbroath in December 1963, but was educated at Hucclecote Secondary School. When he made his debut for Gloucester in 1983, Phil Blakeway and Gordon Sargent were soon to retire but Gloucester still had a succession of formidable props and competition for places was fierce throughout his career.

Playing regularly in 1985-86, he won an England Under 23 trial but during the next few seasons he was in and out of the side. Pete regained a regular first team place in 1990-91 and changed his allegiance to the country of his birth.

He played for Scotland A several times before getting a full cap as a replacement against Wales in 1991-92. He toured Australia with Scotland In Summer 1992 but was not selected for the internationals.

Although his last big game was in 1994-95 Pete Jones played occasional 1st XV games until the end of the 1997-98 season.

ANDY DEACON

IT'S well documented that, when the game turned professional in 1996 and the 31 year old tight-head prop

from Longlevens RFC Andy Deacon was handed his first professional contract by Richard Hill, he said that "...it was just like winning the pools."

A 10-season veteran, "Deacs" had captained Gloucester in 1994-95 in a backs-to-the-wall struggle against relegation and had made 116 1st XV appearances in all as



an amateur. He went on to repay Hill's faith in him tenfold and to play a further 184 games as a professional (starting in 144 of them) in a distinguished career that spanned 18 seasons and made him a Shed hero.

Perhaps the highlights of his long career were first in 1998 when he toured South America with the Barbarians playing twice in a three match series against South American Barbarians, then in 1999 when he played for England A in a 28-21 victory over Ireland A at Donnybrook and finally in 2003 when he was sent up first by his victorious captain to receive the Powergen Cup at Twickenham, an indication of the regard in which he was held by his fellow players. He made 10 Heineken Cup appearances and started in Gloucester's only semi-final against Leicester in 2001.

After retirement Andy went on to become Director of Rugby at Cinderford and Cirencester.

TONY WINDO

YET another durable prop from the Longlevens nursery, Tony Windo had an equally

remarkable career, playing 190 games for Gloucester between 1988 and 1999 and a further 228 games for Worcester between 1999 and 2008. A mobile prop with good hands, he played for England at Under 21 and A level and toured Australasia and South Africa with England in 1998.

Anthony John Windo, or "Reg" to his fellow players, was born in Gloucester in April 1969. He came to Kingsholm in 1988 and although his 1st XV opportunities were limited, gained his first England Under 21 cap against France in 1990. By 1995-1996 he was well established and on 2 December 1995 he made his debut for the South West Division against London Counties. A week later he played for the South West against Samoa at Kingsholm.

During the first years of professionalism Gloucester struggled, but the strength of their front row was never in doubt. As a result, Windo was selected for England A in 1998 and this was followed by a summer tour of Australasia and South Africa with the full England side, alongside Phil Vickery.

After one more season with Gloucester, he signed for Worcester and played a pivotal role in the club's successful 2003-04 promotion campaign in which they won all 26 games. The ultimate team man, he was named in the 2005-06 Sky Sports Dream Team.

Tony Windo played his last professional game in May 2008, for Worcester against Bath in the European Challenge Cup Final at Kingsholm, but six months later, now Assistant Forwards Coach at Worcester, he played for Barbarians against Combined Services in his final big game.

