

GLOUCESTER RUGBY  
HERITAGE

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THE MEN AT  
THE BACK  
- PART TWO

HAVING REMINISCED ABOUT GLOUCESTER FULL-BACKS FROM EARLIER ERAS IN THE LAST PROGRAMME, WE NOW TAKE A LOOK AT THOSE WHO HAVE EXCELLED IN THE POSITION IN THE LAST 50 YEARS.

**THE DON**

**Don Rutherford had already won five England caps by the time he arrived at Kingsholm in 1964, but still had to start in the United XV. He had previously played for Percy Park, RAF, Wasps and St.Luke's College, but came to Gloucester because of his interest in the daughter of the docks manager at Sharpness (now his wife, Sue).**

After playing in front of a man and a dog (and he says the dog didn't always turn up!) in the north-east, he found the passion and the size of the crowds at Kingsholm just wonderful.



Don Rutherford

Don was an early exponent of the attacking full-back, and, as club captain in 1967-68, introduced fresh ideas to complement the traditional Gloucester emphasis on forward power.

That was not an easy task with some of the established players, but Don himself led the way with 202 points from 32 games that season. Whilst with Gloucester he gained a further nine England caps and played once for the British Lions in 1966.

He also captained Gloucestershire for the 1965-66 season. After his playing days were over Don served as Technical Director of the Rugby Union from 1969 until his retirement in 1999.

221 games for Gloucester scored 1559 points. His best season was 1971-72, when he scored 388 points, including 102 penalties. Gloucester won the Knockout Cup, and Eric played a big part in that campaign, contributing 38 of the 68 points scored.

In the following season Eric was finally displaced by Peter Butler. He went on to captain Gloucester United and to serve the Club in various capacities right up to the present day as President.



Eric Stephens

**ERIC STEPHENS**

**An Old Cryptian, Eric first played for Gloucester in the 1961-62 season, turning out at centre, fly half and even in the back row, for his first two terms. He re-emerged in 1966 as a full-back.**

He was a prolific kicker, who in

**PETER BUTLER**

**Pete "The Boot" Butler, a graduate of Birmingham University, was an even more prolific goal kicker than Eric Stephens, indeed he has scored more points than any other Gloucester player.**

This is a record which is never



Peter Butler

likely to be beaten, considering the fact that far fewer games are played these days and players' careers are far shorter. In his 318 games Pete scored a staggering 3006 points.

His most prolific season was 1973-74 when in 45 games he scored 488 points. He was in the team that won the John Player Cup Final against Leicester in 1978, kicking the conversion of Richard Mogg's try.

Many thought that Pete should have won more caps than the two he was awarded in 1976. However, he did enjoy great success with Gloucestershire. In 54 games between 1972 and 1981 he scored 564 points.

In the winning Championship final against Middlesex at Richmond in 1976 (under the captaincy of John Bayliss) he scored all the 24 points, scoring a try, conversion and six penalties.

In all he played in seven County Championship finals, and was on the winning side three times (1974-75-76).

### TIM SMITH

Tim made his first appearance in the 1982-83 season, and in his full debut scored five penalties against Abertillery. He was fully established at full-back by the following season. In all he made



Tim Smith

347 appearances and scored 2681 points.

Tim was a full back who loved to attack and scored 90 tries in his career. His defence was also sound. He saw the start of the league system and played 94 games in it, scoring 588 points.

### CHRIS CATLING

In 1996-97, as the professional era dawned, Chris "Crazy Legs" Catling became Gloucester's regular choice at the back. He had already played for England at 18 group level, and Exeter University.

A great Shed favourite, he was another ultra-attacking player, scoring 35 tries in his 156 appearances for the club. Unusually for a full-back, he rarely kicked the ball, which was seen by some as his only weakness. He did, however, kick one drop goal in his career, and that was at Bristol in his first season.



Chris Catling

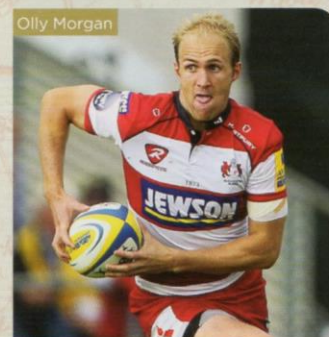
### OLLY MORGAN

Olly arrived at Kingsholm via Gloucester Old Boys and Bracknell. He had made one appearance off the bench towards the end of the 2004-05 season, but in the following game against Sale he announced his arrival with a try.

Olly was another very attacking full back, who was fearless under a high ball. Having plucked them from the air, he would often run them back, hoist another kick and follow up to catch the ball again at full pace, thus causing havoc in the opposition defence. It could be argued that, in a similar way to Jonny Wilkinson, he was too brave for his own good, for he regularly picked up injuries.

Olly played twice for England in 2007, and was taking to international rugby like a duck to water, but in his second game against Ireland, he was injured and did not play again that season.

In the following season he had made a good start, but dislocated his shoulder against Bourgoin in the Heineken Cup in December and did not play again until the end of March. It seemed that every time he was on the brink of getting back into the England side, he would pick up another injury.



Olly Morgan

Finally on 7th January 2012, playing against Worcester, Olly picked up a bad knee injury, which eventually led to the end of his career. He played in 131 games for Gloucester. It should have been so many more.