



GRFC player profiles

Charles Albert Smith

Charles Albert Smith was born in Gloucester on 18th July 1878. "Whacker" Smith was a sturdily built, auburn-haired, left wing who played for Gloucester from 1897 to 1908, making 269 appearances. He was a formidable character - a contemporary assessment said, " Whacker is fairly fast, kicks well, and tackles magnificently, and when near the line is difficult to stop". Defence was his main strength - he was "most resolute whatever conditions face him".

These qualities were recognised by the England selectors and in the 1900-01 season he played in 2 trial games - for the Rest of the South v London and the Universities, and for the South v the North. This resulted in his being picked for England on the right wing for the match v Wales at Cardiff on 5th January 1901, with the declared aim "to stop the Welsh backs scoring". Although, the following season, he played again for the Rest of the South v London and the Universities, the appearance at Cardiff proved to be his only international cap.

Alan Brinn



Alan joined the Kingsholm ranks in 1960 from Hereford RFC, making a remarkable 572 appearances for the 1st XV, a record that may well stand forever within the club's annals.

A lock forward who made 3 appearances for England, his debut being made against Wales in 1972, he was a member of the Gloucester team that won the inaugural RFU Knock Out competition in 1972 defeating Moseley RFC by 17-6.

After retiring from rugby, Alan became an England Rugby Union Associate national selector and also established a sports outfitting business in Eastgate Street, Gloucester, whilst serving Gloucester RFC in the official capacity as Chairman.

Rob Clewes



One of Gloucester's famous '500' club, Clewes passed the significant number of appearances alongside Alan Brinn, Peter Ford, Dick Smith and Richard Mogg.

Clewes was a member of the Gloucester team that beat Moseley by 17 points to 6 in the inaugural Knock Out Cup Final in 1972 and again in 1978 when Leicester were the beaten side by 6 points to 3 at Twickenham.

A free scoring three quarter he totalled 1,027 points for the club - a total not surpassed by many.

Charlie Dunn

A wing forward who joined Gloucester from local club Coney Hill RFC and a renowned character who was often seen leaving his work at the last minute to rush to Kingsholm to play on Saturday or Thursday evenings.

Well known in the area having held various occupations which included serving on boats on the River Severn, a helping hand at Gloucester Cattle Market and working for the local Council. Popularly known as 'Jigger' Dunn.

His career at Gloucester spanned five seasons, making 159 appearances and recording 32 tries.

Donald Rutherford



Donald Rutherford OBE was born in Tynemouth on 22 September 1937. During his early career he played for St Luke's College, RAF, Combined Services, Percy Park and Northumberland. However he is most closely associated with Gloucester and Gloucestershire for whom he played from 1964 to 1968. He won fourteen caps for England and toured Australia and New Zealand with the 1966 British Lions. He appeared for the Barbarians on a number of occasions between 1960 and 1968.

Don Rutherford trained as a physical education teacher at St Luke's College, Exeter. He did his National Service in the RAF. He played for the RAF and Combined Services and, while still in the RAF, he had his first England trial in 1958, playing for the Whites against the Colours (scrum half for the Colours in that trial was Micky Booth).

He had already joined Percy Park RFC and played for the club until 1963. During that time he won his first four caps for England in the 1960 Five Nations tournament and appeared against South Africa at Twickenham in January 1961. He played for North East Counties against the All Blacks in January 1964.

At the end of the 1963-64 season Don Rutherford joined Gloucester. He made his debut for Gloucestershire in November 1964 and was selected for the first of the 1965 Home Internationals.

He was an ever-present for England in the Five Nations in 1964-65 and 1965-66 and was then selected to tour Australia and New Zealand with the British Lions. As first choice full back he played in the only International against Australia but on the New Zealand leg of the tour he broke his arm playing against Manuwatu and had to be flown home. He played once more for England against New Zealand in 1967.

Don Rutherford had a very successful season for Gloucester and Gloucestershire in 1967-68. He captained the club, playing with remarkable consistency and scoring over 300 points. Then disaster struck when he broke his arm, again playing for the Barbarians against Newport in April 1968, and he was advised to retire from the game.

While with Gloucester, Don Rutherford introduced a coaching creed that was continued in the successful years that followed under the captaincy of Dick Smith.

Don Rutherford became Technical Director of the Rugby Union in September 1969 - their first-ever professional appointment. He returned to Kingsholm in October 1973, having assembled an

international team of glittering talent to play Gloucester in their centenary game. He was awarded the OBE in 2000 in recognition of his services to Rugby.

Frank Brown

John Frank Brown played for Gloucester from 1876 to 1883, and was captain from 1879 to 1883. He was a splendid and inspiring leader, who built the Gloucester side into a formidable team.

His final year as captain, 1882-3, was the club's first unbeaten season. Under his captaincy the game grew greatly in popularity in Gloucester, and it was mainly through his efforts that the club rose to high national status. This all happened before the formation of Gloucester Association Football Club in 1889, and was therefore instrumental in establishing Gloucester as principally a rugby city, a legacy which persists to this day.

Part of his leadership contribution was to expand rugby into the local community - he organised the Gloucester Post Office and Gloucester Thursday teams, and also encouraged the establishment of parish teams, which were later to prove such an asset in the development of players who would go on to play for Gloucester. Indeed the first 2 working class players, George Coates and Tommy Bagwell, were recruited into the Gloucester team under Frank's captaincy.

In 1884, his huge contribution to the club was marked with the presentation of a testimonial in the form of a gold watch and chain. £60 was collected for this purpose - it would undoubtedly have been more but for Frank declining to have collecting boxes placed around the ground - he wanted people to come forward voluntarily.

Frank Brown was born in Bristol, but his father, a railway foreman, moved the family to Gloucester and they lived at 41, Upper Falkner Street. Frank went to the Crypt School, and by the time he started as a Gloucester player he was employed as a post office clerk. The qualities which he had demonstrated on the rugby field served him well in his job as well, and later in life he ended up as Post Master General in South Africa.

He was a sportsman in many fields. He was captain of Gloucester Cricket Club, for whom he was a demon bowler, and he organised the County Cricket Club, as well as the Gloucester Amateur Athletic Association and Rowing Club, and was Chairman of the Lawn Tennis Club.

Francis Hartley

Francis Hartley is credited with being the prime mover in starting the game of rugby in Gloucester, and he was the first club captain from 1873 to 1875. He came from the city of London where he captained the Flamingos rugby team.

Francis Hartley, representing the Flamingos at the time, was one of the original committee members of the rugby football union. It was on 26th January 1871 that he assembled at the Pall Mall Restaurant in Regent Street, London, with 32 others representing twenty-one London and suburban football clubs that followed Rugby School rules. It was resolved at that meeting that the formation of a Rugby Football Society was desirable and thus the Rugby Football Union was formed.

A president, a secretary and treasurer, and a committee of thirteen were elected, to whom was entrusted the drawing-up of the laws of the game upon the basis of the code in use at Rugby School. Hartley's experience was therefore invaluable to Gloucester at the outset.

Harold Boughton



It would not have been unusual to see the former England International full back playing at Kingsholm on a Saturday afternoon and then, should you have popped on a bus later that day, to see him once again, as he was a bus driver.

Born 7th September 1910, Harold captained Gloucester when they returned to playing following the end of the Second World War, although it was in the inter-war period that he first came to national recognition. Harold was awarded 3 international caps, making his debut against Wales on 19th January 1935 at Twickenham. Regarded as a reliable kicker, Harold contributed three penalty goals and a conversion for England against Ireland on his 2nd international appearance and is recorded as kicking 401 conversions for Gloucester.

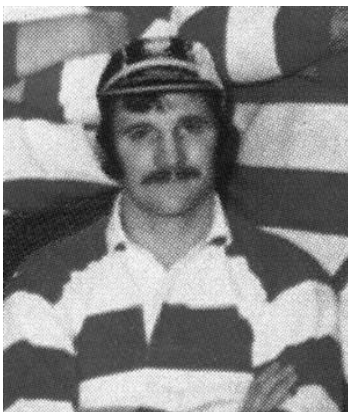
J Frank Brown

In 1876, J F Brown succeeded to the captaincy and it was during his seven years tenure of office that the game made such rapid strides in popularity.

Noted for his inspiring leadership, it was through his efforts the club rose to such pre-eminence in the rugby world. It was during the time of Brown that the earliest club records have been kept.

In the season of 1876-77 there were eleven matches; six were won, three lost and two drawn. Principal fixtures were with Hereford, Ross, Rockleaze, Swindon Rangers, Cheltenham Whitecross and Clifton.

John Bayliss



A player who suffered a broken neck but went on after this setback to achieve representative honours when selected for an England 'B' tour to Romania.

John joined Gloucester in 1960 and made 366 1st XV appearances, and during that time recorded 88 tries.

One of the hardest tackling three-quarters of his time, he represented Gloucestershire, winning the county championship in 1974 against Lancashire.

John G A'Bear

A player who formed a second row partnership with Roy 'Digger' Morris and was captain for two seasons prior to the outbreak of the Second World War.

During his captaincy of the 1937-38 season the club recorded 29 wins out of 36 matches. John also represented Gloucestershire when they won the County Championship in the 1936 - 1937 season.

John Gadd



Gadd scored two tries for England against Fiji in a non-cap international and was a highly regarded No.6 but was unfortunate not to receive a full cap.

The blind side flanker was born in New Zealand, although emigrating to England in his early years. He was educated at Newent School and represented Newent RFC and then Gloucester Old Boys RFC before joining Gloucester RFC in 1978.

He formed part of a formidable back row which included Mike Teague and Mike Longstaff, being a player who possessed speed and a hard work ethic that few could match. He appeared in the team which drew 12-12 against Moseley in the John Player Cup final in 1982 and once again at Twickenham in the Pilkington Cup Final against Bath in 1990.

Additional honours included representing England at U23s and B international level.

Malcolm Preedy



Within the first two seasons of joining Gloucester, the loose head prop alongside his Kingsholm front row colleagues, Phil Blakeway and Steve Mills had formed the England front row.

Preedy, born 15th September 1960 in Gloucester, was educated at Hucclecote Secondary School and began his rugby playing career at Longlevens RFC. It was from this club that at the age of 19 he joined the Kingsholm ranks.

A member of the team that shared the John Player RFU Knock-out Cup in 1982, sharing the honours with Moseley in a 12-12 draw. Preedy went on to captain Gloucester in the 1986-87 season, when the team won thirty of their forty-seven matches, accumulating 969 points and conceding 583. During his career he also represented Gloucestershire, the South West Regional Team and England U23s.

Mike Hamlin

Affectionately known as 'Hambo', the fly half was born in Gloucester and was educated at Oxstalls School, joining local club Coney Hill at the age of 16. After a short term at Cheltenham RFC, Hamlin moved to join Gloucester in 1982.

The more than competent fly-half captained his home town club in 1989-90 and 1990-91 and was the captain that led Gloucester out at Twickenham on Saturday 5th May 1990, against Bath in the Pilkington Cup Final.

Mike won representative honours with the South West regional team and was a member of the England 'B' touring team to Spain in 1989 playing against Basque Select XV and Spain. Mike made a total of 281 appearances for Gloucester.

Grahame Wilshaw



Grahame Wilshaw Parker OBE was born in Gloucester on February 11, 1912. He was educated at The Crypt School. His first visit to Kingsholm was for the Jubilee game in 1923. His father was a soccer player and during the 1929-30 season Grahame played football at left back for Gloucester AFC while playing centre threequarter for Crypt School.

Grahame Parker made his debut both for Gloucester United and for the first team in 1931. He was travelling reserve for Gloucestershire at the 1932 County Championship Final against Durham at Blaydon (He went on to play 15 times for the county). He believed that he had played in every

position behind the scrum for Gloucester before going up to Cambridge and gaining his first blue in 1932-33.

At Cambridge, he won blues at both Rugby (the 1934 side contained ten internationals) and cricket, scoring 94 against Oxford in 1934 and captaining Cambridge in 1935.

He returned to Gloucester at the start of the 1936-37 season, when Harold Boughton was unavailable, but whenever he stepped up to take a penalty someone in the crowd would shout "Where's Harold then?"

In 1937-38, now a schoolmaster, he realised that he would never be first choice at full back for Gloucester and played instead for Blackheath. He was selected at full back for England that season and kicked 24 points in his two internationals (including 15 points on debut - a record). He said he always regretted that "Blackheath" appeared after his name and not "Gloucester" although in fact in most international records he now appears as a Gloucester player. He also played for the Barbarians.

Grahame Parker continued to play cricket for Gloucestershire and in 1937 made three centuries, including 210 against Kent at Dover. He became a major in the RASC during the 1939-45 war and was awarded the military MBE (later upgraded to OBE for his work with cadets at Blundell's School).

He appeared occasionally for Gloucestershire after the war and then captained Devon in the Minor Counties Championship from 1953 until 1956. He became Secretary (Chief Exec) of Gloucestershire CCC in 1968 and later was their first ever Manager. He served as President in 1986 and 1987. On a visit to Kingsholm in 1970 to watch Western Counties play Fiji, he was greeted on arrival with the cry "Where's Harold then?" It was as if he had never been away. He died in 1995.

Tom Voyce



Regarded as one of the game's greatest back row specialists, he began his playing career at the local Gordon League club. The flank forward made 218 appearances for Gloucester in which time he scored 54 tries.

Tom appeared in every match of England's Grand Slam winning teams of 1921, 1923 and 1924, and also represented the Army and the Barbarians. Tom was captain of Gloucester from 1924-1927 and was a member of the British touring side to South Africa in 1924.

His career was an amazing achievement because of the serious eye defect he sustained whilst serving for the Gloucestershire Regiment in World War I. During World War II Tom served as a major in the Royal Army Signal Corp. Away from the game, he was Chairman of the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association and President of the St John Ambulance Brigade in the County. Tom became President of the Rugby Football Union in 1960 and was awarded the Order of the British Empire two years later. Later he became President of Gloucester, 1970-1978.

On the 1924 tour of South Africa he displayed his remarkable versatility and team qualities as the utility player of the side, playing out of position at full back, centre and wing threequarter as well as his specialist position of wing forward. He scored eight tries in thirteen games and kicked several goals. P.K. Albertijn, the South African captain, described him as "the second best wing threequarter in the British team."

"Since the War no man has fired the admiration of the crowd more than Tom Voyce, and in my experience I have never seen his equal. No man ever followed the ball throughout the two hard 'forties' so closely as he did, no man ever backed up his centre so closely, or attended his wing so assiduously as the 'King of Gloucester'. I shall always remember his wonderful attempt at a dropped goal, which would have saved the Twickenham record when Scotland beat England in 1926. He received a pass short of the half-way line, and ran a few yards forward as if he intended to open up a movement, but he suddenly paused, steadied himself, and took the most terrific hoof at the ball that I have ever seen, and only by inches did it fall short of the cross-bar." (The Theory of Modern Rugby Football, published in 1930, and written by I.M.B. Stewart, Irish international forward and assistant master at Harrow School)

'The name of Tom Voyce is synonymous with that of Gloucester. Think of one and the other springs to mind. For he was a great player from a great club - a wonderful inspiration to any side. Tom had that personality and mental, competitive outlook that makes up a great player; and he was a shining example to others in that he was determined to put something back into the game for all the pleasure he had out of it', (Wavell Wakefield, England Captain 1924 - One Hundred Cherry & White Years, pg 91)

Frank Hartley

Frank Hartley was the moving force in the formation of Gloucester Rugby Club. He was captain of the club in its first 3 seasons, and a useful half-back, who was notable as a good runner. But his lasting contributions were as an organiser and as a strong advocate for the game of rugby.

Francis Philip Hartley was born into a prosperous family, and received a private education, which resulted in his graduation from London University in 1867, and his entry into the legal profession. Whilst in London he joined the Flamingoes, one of the leading early rugby clubs, founded in 1867, which played in Battersea Park. He became captain, and represented the Flamingoes at the first general meeting, which marked the foundation of the Rugby Football Union, at the Pall Mall restaurant, Charing Cross, on 26th January 1871.

This meeting appointed the first RFU committee, and Frank was amongst the 13 selected. They were charged with organising the game, and in particular with proposing the laws of the game. In December 1871, Frank was also chosen to be a member of the selection committee. Frank thus played a significant part in establishing the role of the RFU as the premier body in English rugby, and in determining how the game should be played. This was a subject on which he had firm views - he was particularly concerned that hacking and tripping should be outlawed.

In 1873, he came to Gloucester to work as a solicitor at the law firm, Haines and Riddiford. The handling game of football had been played for some years in an unorganised fashion in the parks of Gloucester, but Frank soon applied himself to the task of adding some structure, and roped in one of the partners in his law firm, J P Riddiford to assist. On 15th September, a meeting was called at the Spread Eagle Hotel to recruit members into a [rugby] football club - about 45 gentlemen attended, and they appointed Frank Hartley as captain, and J P Riddiford as secretary.

So the Gloucester Football Club (as it was known for many years) was born. The first match was against the College (King's) School on 4th October 1873. Despite Gloucester managing to field only 10 against the 15 of the College, Gloucester's weight and experience told to the extent of a victory by 2 goals and 6 tries to nil, with Frank Hartley and J P Riddiford each scoring 3 tries. And thus the great journey of Gloucester RFC was underway.

Frank brought with him the principles on which the RFU was establishing the game nationally, and with this background, and as captain, he would have been a major influence on the way in which Gloucester sought to play. He influenced their playing skills and techniques, and Gloucester soon acquired a reputation for the "short-passing game".

The club which Frank created was socially exclusive, being drawn only from the middle classes to which Frank himself belonged. The founding members had strong associations with the church and Gloucester Cricket Club, and included 3 solicitors, 2 corn merchants, and several clerks. This exclusivity was reinforced by the cost of membership (5/- entrance and 5/- annual fee), by holding practices and matches on weekdays, and by a 2 black ball system to keep out undesirables. However, this membership did ensure sound financial and commercial management of the club, which was a significant factor in the subsequent success of the club.

In February 1876, Frank's old team, the Flamingoes, travelled down from London to take on Gloucester. Financial guarantees were the norm for visiting teams, and this probably accounted for

the fact that this match was the first for which Gloucester charged admission. Even in those early days, the social side of rugby was regarded as important, and Frank would certainly have wanted to make his old friends and relatives welcome. The match was played on a Saturday, and the post-match socialising was held at the Ram Inn. It seems to have gone extraordinarily well, if only judged by the fact that, whilst one of the Flamingoes made it back to London on the Saturday night, the rest of the team didn't make it home until the following Tuesday.

Frank stood down as captain at the end of the 1875-6 season, when the club presented him with a gold watch in recognition of his contributions. It was left to his successor as captain, Frank Brown, to build on Frank's foundations to establish Gloucester as one of the most successful clubs in England, and to start sowing the seeds from which Gloucester grew to be a club for all.

Harry Berry

Harry Berry made 137 appearances for Gloucester between 1907 and 1912. He started his playing career as a threequarter, but Gloucester moved him into the pack, where he proved to be a fast and clever forward who particularly shone in the lineout and in loose footwork.

His talents were recognised by the England selectors, and he won 4 caps in 1910 - against Wales and Ireland at Twickenham, France at the Parc de Princes, and Scotland at Inverleith. He scored a try in each of the away games. His first international on 15 January 1910 against Wales was also the first match for England at their new stadium at Twickenham.

Harry was born in Gloucester on 8 January 1883, and became a career soldier when he joined up in 1899. He served in South Africa, India, and St Helena, but then returned to his home town, where he started his playing career with Gloucester. He was a tower of strength for the 2nd Battalion Gloucester Regiment rugby side, which reached the Army final in 1910. He is the only Gloucester to gain international honours whilst a serving soldier, but strangely never played for the Army - he was debarred because he was an "other rank".

Corporal Henry Berry, service no. 005711, rejoined the Army at the start of WW1, and was killed in action in France on 9 May 1915. He is buried in grave MR0022 at Festubert.

Tommy Bagwell

Tommy Bagwell was a mere 5ft 4ins tall and just managed to turn the scales at 10 stones, but that small frame concealed a determined and gifted outside-half and three quarter, who made a huge impression on the rugby field. He was recognised as a fitness fanatic, renowned for his tactical ability, and was very difficult to bring down. But he had a much wider influence on the game in Gloucester, because he was instrumental in demonstrating to the working classes that they could make it to the top in rugby in the City, and to the middle classes that they could benefit greatly from an infusion of working class men into the club.

In its early years Gloucester was exclusively a middle class club, but those early pioneers did feel that they had a mission to promote the game, and achieved this by encouraging spectators from all walks of life, and by encouraging the formation around the city of local clubs. These were often associated with churches, and it was such a club which brought Tommy Bagwell into playing organised rugby.

Tommy was born in Gloucester in 1860, and lived at 55, Mitre Street. He and his bosom chum, George Coates, both became labourers at the Wagon Works, and started to play rugby for their local side, St Luke's Red Cross. Tommy's first games were in 1879, when he was age 18. Given this platform on which to perform, the two friends forced themselves by sheer merit into the Gloucester team. Existing members of the Gloucester club were concerned that their presence would erode club

values, but Tommy in particular came to be valued as much for his conduct and attitude as for his formidable playing skills.

In fact, George was the first to break into the Gloucester first team in 1881. Tommy was invited to play for the Colts team that same year, but did not step up to the first team until 1883. He soon made an impression - on team-mates, opponents and the media. Reports of his early matches speak of his "collaring and dodging powers", his explosive hand-off, and that "he knows how to get tries". He first played for the Club as a centre three-quarter, but soon took up the outside-half position, "where he performed brilliantly" and was "a positive delight".

Very early in his career in 1883, he was selected to play against the first London team to travel to Kingsholm, a game in which Gloucester were particularly keen to perform well. The only score of the match was a try by Tommy Bagwell - "a marvellous individual effort, in which he zig-zagged practically through the whole opposition".

He went on to accomplish many other heroics for Gloucester and for the County team.

In 1890, A W Vears, otherwise known as the Commodore from his days in the Navy, and one of the most respected officers of the club, proposed Tommy as club captain. This met with approval, and so Tommy became the first working class captain of Gloucester. His first season was very successful, with all but two matches won. This was no flash in the pan - under Tommy's leadership, the club enjoyed some of their most successful seasons.

In October 1891, Tommy was captain of Gloucester in the first match played at Kingsholm, when Burton were defeated 18-0. Although he always conducted himself properly, Tommy had a good sense of humour and was not shy of expressing an opinion - at the dinner after that first match, he described that afternoon's encounter as "a very pleasant match, which I attribute to the presence of a good referee [Rowland Hill, Secretary of the RFU], which the Club does not often get, especially in Wales". At the AGM at the end of the season he asked that Sydney Starr the club's secretary ask permission of the committee before he applied salt to the Kingsholm pitch (a reference to the reason why the club were obliged to leave the Spa ground).

By this time the matches against the Welsh clubs were regarded as the most prestigious of the season. Tommy was always keen to put right a loss and, after defeat in Cardiff in 1891, he was quoted as saying "wait till we get 'em on Kingsholm, we'll give 'em Taffy-whack".

At the end of season dinner in 1891, and despite the fact that he had not missed a game for more than two seasons, Tommy announced that he was ending his playing career with Gloucester. He gave as his reasons that he had been playing for 12 seasons, that his home ties were growing, his advancing years, and his desire to make way for younger players. "Younger but not better, Tommy" was the response shouted from the floor. And indeed during the close season he was prevailed upon to play on, and to remain as captain

However, he retired from the captaincy at the end of the 1891-2 season, when age 32. The Gloucester Amateur Dramatic Club held a series of well-attended benefit performances for him, which raised over £11. In 1893/4, the Club attempted to organise a financial testimonial for him, but

was advised by the RFU that this would professionalise him. The Club was not well placed to challenge this ruling, since it was under investigation by the RFU in early 1894 over an illegal player, which resulted in the suspension of the club for a fortnight, and of their captain for the rest of the season, much to the mortification of the club committee, who then felt obliged to be seen to be squeaky clean by the RFU.

Tommy played on for Gloucester into the 1894-5 season, and on finally retiring from senior rugby, he played for the local St Catherine's side for a while. However, Gloucester rugby had become his life and he soon returned to the club, initially as trainer, and later as baggage and kit man. He was made a life member of the club, and served on the committee. Although he was never given an administrative post, he was held up to succeeding generations as the role model for the working man at Gloucester Rugby.

In summarising Tommy's career, that doyen of Gloucester rugby journalism, Bill Bailey, wrote: " a stickler for training, Bagwell made great sacrifices to keep fit, and what success the veteran achieved on the field he attributed largely to this fact", "he was a most difficult player to check when on the run, for he possessed remarkable dodging powers, and was up to every move in the game", and he had a "specialty hand-off, which opponents, after one experience, took every precaution to avoid". Tommy died in 1943 after 60 years' association with the Gloucester club.

Ian Smith



Born 16th March 1963 and educated at Sir Thomas Rich's School, Gloucester, Ian joined the Kingsholm ranks after moving from local club Longlevens RFC.

The open side flanker captained Gloucester in 1991-92, 92-93 and 93-94 during which time he also gained a regular place in the Scottish international team. His grandparents were Scots, therefore enabling him to be eligible for Scotland.

Making his international debut against England at Murrayfield in 1992 and gaining further honours as a representative in the Scottish World Cup Squad of 1995, he made 25 international appearances in total.

John Watkins



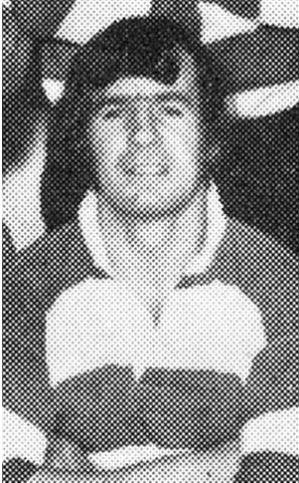
An outstanding wing forward who, at a mere 14 stones, also packed down for his Country at tight head. This memorable moment occurred when Stack Stevens had to leave the field with an injury during a tour of South Africa.

Born 28th November 1946 in Gloucester, John was educated at Linden Secondary Modern School and played for local club Gordon League before moving to Kingsholm.

John went on to make 386 1st XV appearances for Gloucester scoring 104 tries and appeared in the XV that won the RFU National Cup Competition in 1972 beating Moseley at Twickenham.

A seven times England international, Barbarian and member of the Gloucestershire County team that won the championship in 1974, 1975 and 1976.

Mickey Booth



During his distinguished career Booth was regarded by many as the best scrum half of his era and a favourite with the press who often referred to him as 'the general'.

He made 471 appearances for Gloucester and 42 for Gloucestershire. He was club captain for two seasons - 1964-65 and 1965-66 - before going on to be a club committee member, club 1st XV coach, South West regional selector and member of the England management team for a period.

Educated at Sir Thomas Rich's school and a founder member of Longlevens RFC, he made his first team debut for Gloucester against Oxford University. Not just a great rugby player, Booth was a fair cricketer and also a bowls player, being awarded a county badge and former captain of the Barnwood

bowls club.

Mike Burton



Mike Burton, the tight-head prop, formed one of the most formidable partnerships with Phil Blakeway that has ever packed down at Kingsholm. Mike was one of a number of players to be nurtured by local club Longlevens. He made his debut in 1964 versus Moseley, going on to span more than a decade at Kingsholm with 360 appearances. He was a member of the Club's national cup teams who reached the final in 1972 and 1978; he was capped on 17 occasions by England and was a member of the British Lions team to tour South Africa in 1974.

Mike Nicholls



A player who led quite literally from the front. He captained Gloucester for three seasons, 1970-71, 1971-72 and then again 1973-74.

During the second year of his reign Gloucester collected their first ever domestic trophy, winning the National Knock-Out Cup by defeating Moseley 17-6 in the final at Twickenham.

Mike's career was at a pinnacle in the club's centenary season of 1973-74 when his team recorded a club record of 39 wins and scored 1000 points. During a playing career that spanned 17 years he made 483 first team appearances and 15 appearances for Gloucestershire. Regarded as one of the finest captains the club has known.

Mike Teague



Nicknamed 'Iron Mike' by the Kingsholm faithful, he played flanker or number eight, making his debut during the 1977-78 season and soon becoming one of the most revered and finest back row forwards of his time.

During the 1981-82 season he scored 21 tries. His talent was recognised by England selectors and he made his debut as a full international for England at Twickenham on 2nd February 1985 against France. The following year he was selected for the summer tour to New Zealand.

The Lions tour to Australia in 1989 is generally regarded as his finest hour. Despite not being selected for the 1st Test due to injury, he was named Man of the Series for his dynamic and destructive displays in the 2nd and 3rd Tests. He was a member of England's Grand Slam team of 1991 and played in the World Cup final team that year which narrowly lost to Australia 12-6 at Twickenham. A total of 291 appearances for Gloucester and 22 international caps.

'He was not just an England international, but an unbeaten British Lion. For greats in cherry and white, they don't come much greater', (Gloucester Citizen, Legends Souvenir Special, 2008)

Peter Butler



'Butler the Boot' was one the most prolific goal kickers to have represented Gloucester. A local lad who used to catch the bus to Kings Square and walk to Kingsholm. Educated at the local Crypt Grammar School, the almost mechanical boot of Butler scored an incredible 2,961 points for the club. On his international debut versus Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground, 24th May 1975, he kicked a penalty goal and landed a conversion in a 16 points to 9 defeat. At international level it was a mystery that he never represented England on more that two occasions. For the Gloucestershire County team Peter scored 367 points in 31 matches, scoring all 24 points in a county cup final against Richmond. He was a member of the Gloucester team that defeated Leicester 6 points to 3 in the 1978 RFU National Knock-Out Competition.

Peter Ford



Born 2nd May 1932 and educated at Central Modern School, Gloucester, Peter Ford joined Gloucester RFC from Gordon League RFC. A player and man who epitomises the Gloucester Club.

There are few who have represented the Club in such a devoted and faithful capacity as player and representative. A captain from 1955 to 1958 with a one year break and then returning to the helm for a further two seasons.

One of a small number of an elite group of players who have made more than 500 appearances for Gloucester, scoring 146 tries. His debut came in 1951 after one United game. A frequent trialist and an international reserve, he was finally capped against Wales at Twickenham in 1964, aged 31, and played in all four home internationals that season.

He announced his retirement in August 1965 and was playing again in a 9-3 victory over Bristol within a month of the announcement! Club's leading try scorer in 1954-55. A Barbarian in 1962-3 and 1963-64 and 46 games for Gloucestershire (captain in 1963-64)

An unassuming character best illustrated by his reaction to the fact he had been selected for England. When told the news, it is reported that Peter replied, 'Eh, hang on a minute, say that again!'

A former RFU selector and President of Gloucester RFC.

Phil Blakeway



Widely regarded as one of the finest prop forwards to represent Gloucester, Phil commenced his playing career with Cheltenham RFC in 1968 before joining Gloucester in 1971. He soon became a familiar figure in the City of Gloucester where he worked for the family business, wholesale fruit and vegetable merchants. In a career blighted by injury he played many games for Gloucester and was a member of the of the National Cup final team of 1982. He made 19 international appearances for England. Playing in an era when Welsh opposition provided the greatest test, Blakeway recalls one of his finest days was when Gloucester visited Pontypool who had been unbeaten at home for three seasons; he said, '*we went down and did a job on them. It was a performance full of pride in the shirt - which was what Gloucester were all about*'.

Phil Vickery



Born of farming stock on 14th March 1976 at Kirkhampton, Cornwall and educated at Bude Haven Secondary School, the tight head prop carved out a significant rugby career at the highest level.

He joined Gloucester from Bude RFC where he had already been recognised for his potential having appeared for England Colts. Philip then graduated through the England ranks from U16s, U21s and to full England honours, making his debut against Wales at Twickenham on 21st February 1998.

During his time at Gloucester he was awarded three test caps with the British Lions during their tour of Australia in 2001 and went on to become a World Cup Winner at the Telstra Stadium, Sydney, Australia, 22nd September 2003, after being part of the team that won an epic match against the hosts 20-17. Phil was awarded an MBE and was also granted Freedom of Gloucester in 2004.

Terry Fanolua



Fanolua was one of the very first overseas players to represent Gloucester alongside Frenchman Phillippe St Andre and Australian Richard Tombs. Born in Moto'otwa, Samoa he became a cult figure at Kingsholm, appearing in every position across the club's back line apart from scrum-half, making 215 1st XV appearances and scoring 51 tries.

The highlight of his career at Kingsholm came in 2003 when the team defeated Northampton in the EDF Cup Final at Twickenham. Fanolua was a member of the 1999 and 2003 Samoan International World Cup squads and made a total 29 international appearances for his Country between 1996 and 2005.