

A.D.WADLEY

Doug Wadley had an association with Gloucester RFC for over 60 years and was one of the club's best known and most respected officials. He served as club treasurer from 1963 until 1995, doubling as secretary in the early 90s and when the game turned professional in 1996 was appointed company secretary.

Alfred Douglas "Doug" Wadley was born in Gloucester in 1920. He was the son of Fred Wadley who captained Gloucester from 1932 to 1935 and who played over 200 games for the club. Fred Wadley later served on the Gloucester committee and was made a life member of the club.

Doug Wadley played for Gloucester in the 1938-39 season before the outbreak of war. During the war he served in South Africa with the RAF.

He became honorary treasurer of the club in 1963, at a time when support for the game was in decline. During the next thirty years of what was still an amateur game there were many improvements at Kingsholm and Gloucester remained one of the leading gate-taking clubs in the country. As treasurer Doug Wadley would only watch the first 10 minutes of home games before he went off to help count the gate money. He would turn his hand to any job that needed doing and was a truly "hands-on" committee man respected throughout the world of rugby.

Doug Wadley took on the joint roles of secretary and treasurer in 1993. Throughout the transition period leading towards professionalisation he played a leading role in the development of the club, joining the newly-formed board of directors as company secretary, although in his mid-70s. On his death in 2003 the club issued a statement which concluded "Kingsholm is a poorer place for having lost one of its greatest ambassadors".