

## **GORDON HUDSON**

Arthur Gordon Hudson was born in Gloucester in 1915. He made his debut for the club in 1935 as a three quarter before moving to wing forward and gaining a regular first team place in 1938-39. He quickly established himself and by January 1939 was described by The Times as the “pick of the Gloucester pack.”

Corporal A G Hudson was an RAF PT Instructor during World War II, a time when he played much of his best rugby. He played for West of England, the RAF and for the Barbarians. He also played for England in three of the wartime Services Internationals against Wales at Kingsholm and for England against the New Zealand Services XV in 1946.

After the war, Hudson played regularly for Gloucester, captaining the club from 1947-1950. He also made 37 appearances for Gloucestershire, playing in the County Championship Final in 1946-47 and for Western Counties against the Australians at Kingsholm in 1947-48. He retired in 1953-54, having played 312 matches for the club and scored 72 tries.

On retirement, Gordon Hudson served first as team secretary and then in Gloucester's Centenary Year 1972-73 he became Club Chairman, a post he held for ten years. This was a great period in the playing history of the club. Formal coaching was introduced and the first official coach was appointed. Gloucester climbed to the top of the English game, winning the John Player Cup in 1978 and sharing it in 1982, a season in which only 3 matches were lost and 49 won.

At the time of his death in December 1993, he was one of three Vice Presidents and continued to maintain an active interest in the club until his final illness.