NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

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Player Profiles

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As part of the Black, Green and Golden Age of Northampton Saints project, we've explored the stories of the men who proudly represented Northampton Saints RFC between 1950 and 1969.

We hope you enjoy discovering more about these remarkable players and the era they helped to shape.

If you spot anything that needs updating, or if you have memories, photos, or information to share about any of the players featured, we'd love to hear from you.
Please get in touch with Clare and the Heritage Team at
blackgreengold@northamptonsaintsfoundation.org

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R.H. Adams

SAINT No: 1166
Name: R. H. Adams
Career: 1952 - 1953
Appearances: 1
Position: Second row

Adams, a second row forward, played once for Northampton on the 22nd November 1952 against Old Merchant Taylors at Franklin's Gardens. Northampton won the match 22 – 3.

George Adkins

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SAINT No: 1029
Name: George Adkins
Career: 1945 - 1951
Appearances: 149
Position: Full-back
Scores: T: 0 C: 0 P: 5 DG: 2 Total Points: 46

Adkins learned his rugby at Towcester Grammar School, along with the Pell brothers, John #1011 and Bob #1012, and was full-back for the first XV. However, due to the war, it wasn't until the 1945/46 season, aged 27, that he first pulled on a Saints shirt, having been a prisoner-of-war in Germany.

A talented all-round sportsman, in January 1946, George was offered a contract with the Northampton Town FC but turned it down, preferring to keep his job with London Midland Scottish British Rail (which went on to form British Railways in 1948) and turn out for the Saints.

He was described as being cool, safe and courageous and a staunch last line of defence. His confident kicking, tackling and dives on the ball in the face of rushes greatly helped in keeping down the 'points against' column. The matchday programme against Sale on 31/12/1949 states "when he dives on the ball in face of the fiercest rushes, one always wonders whether he will get up again, but up he springs, with his cheery grin, and once again a dangerous move has been foiled".

George enjoyed a prank and was probably the biggest joker of them all, always at the centre of the sorts of mischief for which rugby clubs became notorious. Brian Barron recalls a number of incidents Adkins was involved with in his book 'Nothing Without Labour'.

In later years, George went on to become a pillar of the establishment at the Saints as touch judge, team secretary and President.



George Adkins

R Aitken

SAINT No: 1358
Name: R. Aitken
Career: 1968 - 1969
Appearances: 2
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Aitken made two appearances for the Saints during the 1968/69 season.



Gerry Allen

SAINT No: 1314
Name: Gerry F. Allen
Career: 1964 – 1970
Appearances: 24
Position: Winger
Scores: T: 21 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 63

Allen made 24 appearances for the club between 1964-1970 as a winger, scoring a total of 21 tries.

The annual report for the 1964/65 season stated: "G. F. Allen another young newcomer also showed encouraging form and could serve the club well".

Geoff Allen

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1283
Name: Geoff Allen
Career: 1962 - 1972
Appearances: 136
Position: Centre
Scores: T: 27 C: 1 P: 1 DG: 0 Total Points: 110

Allen's playing career as a centre for Northampton Saints started at the age of 19 in 1963. Having attended Kislingbury Primary School and then Northampton Grammar School, rugby had always been on his radar. "My mother tells the story that when I passed the eleven plus in 1954 all I said was 'Good, I'll be able to play rugby now!"

He made his Saints debut against Moseley in 1963, parachuted into the first team, having not even previously featured for the seconds. The 1962/63 annual report states: "Another young player who may serve the club well in the future, G. Allen from Old Northamptonians at fly-half showed marked ability".

After 136 appearances in the first team as a centre, Allen's playing career was curtained by a knee injury, having had two operations by the age of 29.

But Geoff is better known around Franklin's Gardens for what he did after retiring, having fulfilled the roles of Team secretary, Club secretary, President, Chairman and Chief Executive and match-day PA announcer over a period of some 37 years, retiring from the latter role in 2019.

In recognition of his unwavering dedication and outstanding contribution to the club and the sport, Allen was proudly inducted into the Northampton Saints Hall of Fame in 2018.



Geoff Allen

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Keith Allen

SAINT No: 1332
Name: Keith L. Allen
Career: 1966 - 1975
Appearances: 88
Position: Centre
Scores: T: 28 C: 3 P: 4 DG: 4 Total Points: 123

Allen made 88 appearances for the Saints during his nine years at the club, scoring 28 tries during this period.

Keith Allen

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SAINT No: 1134
Name: Michael G. Allison
Career: 1950 - 1963
Appearances: 29
Position: Scrum-half
Scores: T: 3 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 9

Allison made his debut for Northampton at scrum-half on 27th December 1950 against Birmingham in a 17 – 3 victory. He also played for England schoolboys that season and the club had high hopes for him. However, due to National Service commitments he was rarely available to play.

Similarly, Michael only played a few games each season up until the 1955/56 season due to a combination of playing for Oxford University, where he obtained a Blue playing on the wing, and the fact that Dickie Jeeps was the established first choice scrum-half at Northampton.

After the 1955/56 season he didn't play again for Northampton until the 1962/63 season when he made 10 appearances before retiring.

Michael Allison

M. Amos

SAINT No: 1325
Name: M. Amos
Career: 1965 - 1966
Appearances: 1
Position: Back row forward
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Amos played for the club once as a back row forward during the 1965/66 season, scoring a try against Old Alleynians on the 30th April 1966.



Mike Amps

SAINT No: 1167
Name: Mike Amps
Career: 1952 - 1956
Appearances: 14
Position: Centre
Scores: T: 2 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 6

Amps, a local supermarket owner, was a regular player for the Wanderers
(2nd XV) during the early 1950s, primarily at centre but with enough pace to play on the wing if required. He appeared three times for Northampton in the 1952/53 season, scoring his first try against Old Merchant Taylors on 22nd November 1952.

In each of the following three seasons Mike would play on three or four occasions for Northampton, mainly providing cover as required at either centre or on the wing and scored one further try.

Later in life he played for the 'Latter Day Saints' a veterans team made up of former players and in 1979 he toured Canada with them.

K Anderson

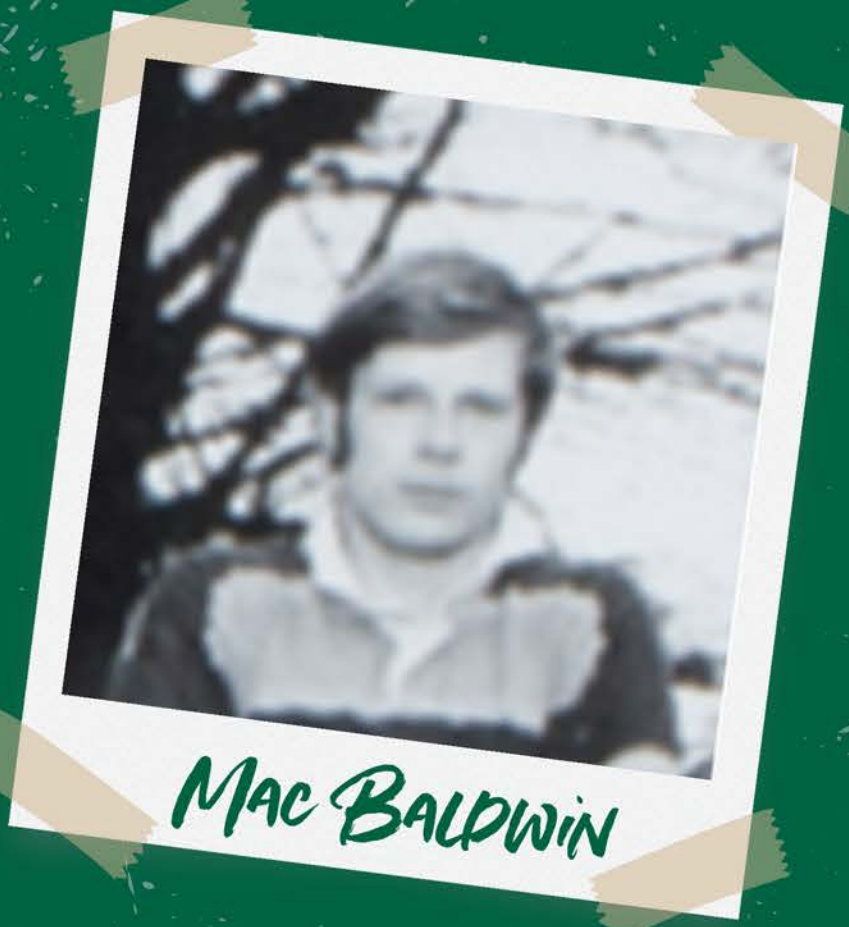
SAINT No: 1208
Name: K. Anderson
Career: 1955 - 1956
Appearances: 1



Anderson played once for Northampton in the 1955/56 season.

Mac Baldwin

SAINT No: 1349
Name: Mac Baldwin
Career: 1967 - 1969
Appearances: 11
Position: Centre
Scores: T: 4 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 12



Baldwin made 11 appearances at centre for Northampton Saints between 1967-1969.

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David Bagnall

SAINT No: 1348
Name: David Bagnall
Career: 1967 – 1969
Appearances: 18
Position: Scrum-half
Scores: T: 6 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 18

Representative Honours: Regional: Southern Counties

Bagnall played for the club 18 times between 1967–1969 at scrum-half, scoring a total of 18 points. His career at the Saints came to an end after breaking his thumb in the 1968/69 season.

Before and after Saints he played for Oxford RFC and was Chairman there on three separate occasions - 1976, 1983–1985, and 2009.

On the 1959 Oxford RFC Colts tour of Wales, he contracted Tetanus from a leg wound in a match against Roath Park. Records show he was the first person to ever recover from Tetanus in Oxford.

He went on the Southern Counties tour of South Africa in 1970. David died on the 26th June 2023.



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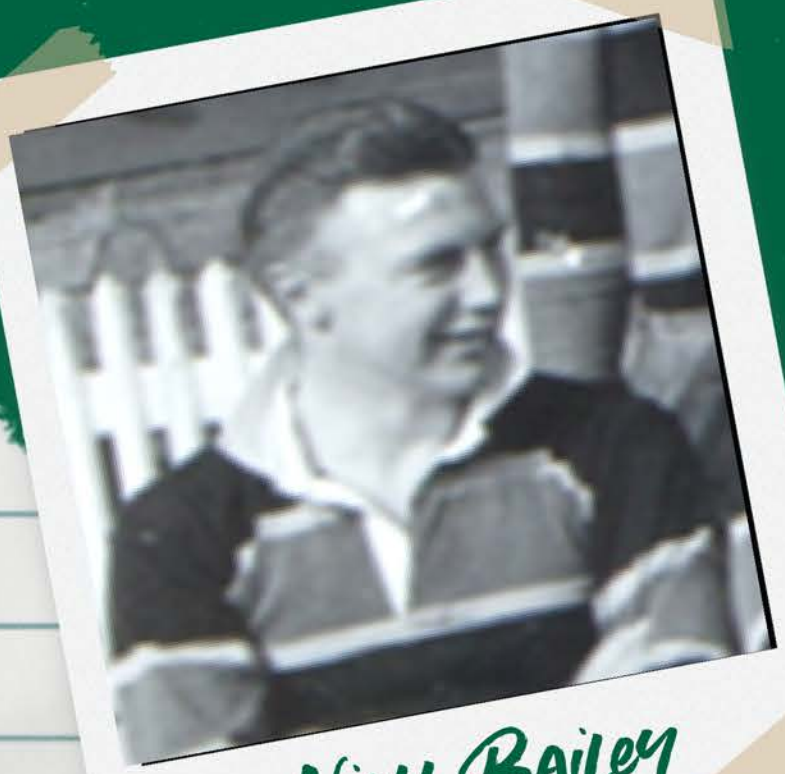
Niall Bailey

SAINT No: 1085
Name: Niall Bailey
Career: 1947 - 1954
Appearances: 156
Position: Wing
Scores: T: 74 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 222

Representative Honours: International: Ireland (1 cap)

Bailey was the nephew of Irish international centre Aidan Bailey and started playing on the wing for Northampton in the 1947/48 season aged 19. Before moving from Ireland, Niall had previously played for Leinster. At Northampton for seven years, he was part of a superb wing duo with John Hyde #1089; both players averaging a try every two matches. Bailey was described as a strong runner with a great turn of speed and a resolute tackler.

The 1950/51 annual report states "there is no greater enthusiast than N. Bailey and it is pleasing to record his improvement during the season. Due to receiving more opportunities, by his well-balanced, strong and determined running he scored some magnificent tries, and we all hope that he will soon catch the eye of the Irish selectors". This he did and the following year he won his solitary Ireland cap against England at Twickenham.



Niall Bailey

In 1954 he left Northampton and went to play for the first team at Coventry and then Kenilworth. On retirement he ran a building company in Warwickshire.

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A. Baker

SAINT No: 1209
Name: A. Baker
Career: 1955 - 1956
Appearances: 8
Position: Second row

Baker was one of a number of second rows who played a relatively small number of games for Northampton during the 1955/56 season, due to the club struggling with injuries and unavailability in this position.

He played eight times during the first half of the season making his debut against Cheltenham on 10th September 1955.

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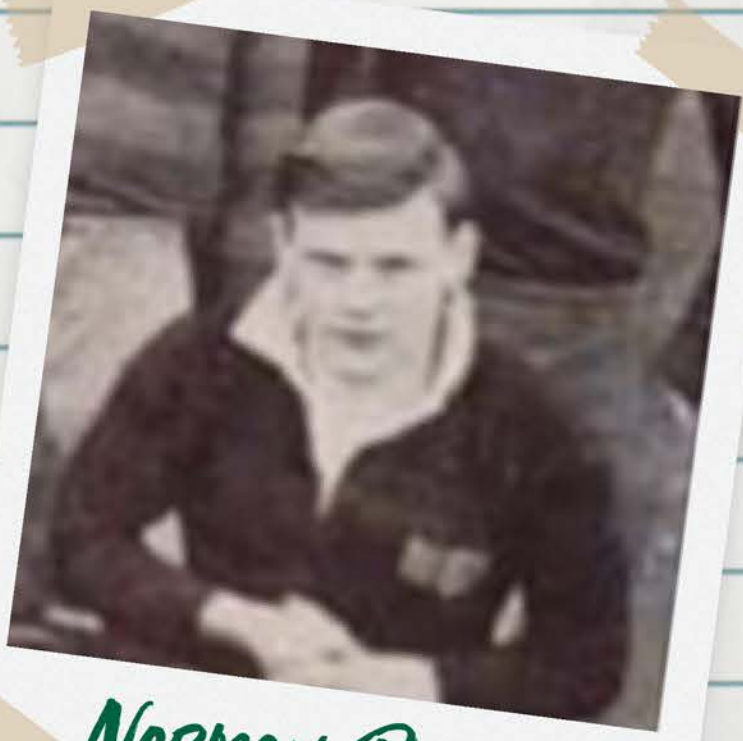

Norman Barker

SAINT No: 1326
Name: Norman Barker
Career: 1965 - 1966
Appearances: 1
Position: Hooker

Born in Northampton in 1942, Barker attended Northampton Grammar School before training as a teacher at Loughborough College. At Loughborough he excelled as a gymnast and a rugby player, starring in the outstanding Loughborough 7s teams of the 60s. This continued at Bedford Blues with several 7s tours. Norman made 347 appearances for Bedford Blues between 1966 - 1977.

Norman made one appearance for Northampton during the 1965/66 season.

He taught at Bedford School and Stamford Road Secondary School in Kettering before being appointed Head of Physical Education at Sponne School, Towcester.

In 1992, Norman joined the Physical Education team at Northampton School for Boys.

Norman also had a strong affiliation to Towcester Rugby Club, as a coach and mentor.

Norman Barker

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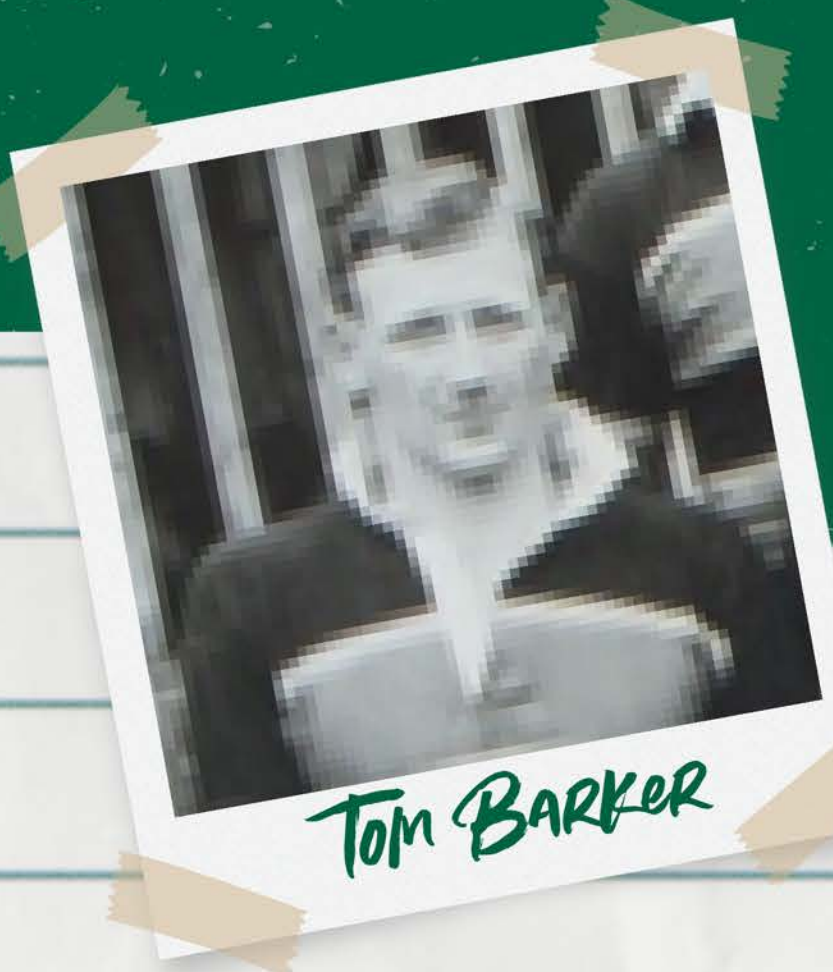
Tom Barker

SAINT No: 1097
Name: Tom Barker
Career: 1948 - 1952
Appearances: 59
Position: Prop
Scores: T: 2 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 6

Barker was a young prop forward, who could also play in the second row, and made his debut for Northampton against Cambridge University on 11th November 1948; a match that Northampton lost 14 – 0. He went on to make 22 appearances that season and the annual report states "T. Barker is another young player who should have no difficulty in winning a regular place, full of fire and dash, he has not yet specialised in any one particular position in the pack, but he is a player such as cannot be left out of any side and it will be surprising if higher honours do not come his way."

He did establish himself as a regular player and in the 1949/50 season made a further 31 appearances. However, Tom only made 6 further appearances for the Saints, four in the 1950/51 season and two in the 1951/52 season.



The 1950/51 annual report states "The loss of T. Barker was unfortunate, although he assisted us on a few occasions. His play demonstrated what an accomplished player we had lost and we only hope his business will enable him to return to Northampton in the not too distant future."

R.D Barnett

SAINT No: 1168
Name: R. D. Barnett
Career: 1952 - 1953
Appearances: 1

Barnett made one appearance for Northampton in the 1952/53 season.

P. Baron



SAINT No: 1350
Name: P. Baron
Career: 1967 - 1969
Appearances: 32
Position: Centre/Winger
Scores: T: 4 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 12

Baron made 32 appearances, playing on the wing and at centre, for the Saints between 1967-1969.

J.M.G. Barrell

SAINT No: 1239
Name : J. M. G. Barrell
Career: 1957 - 1958
Appearances: 1

Barrell played once for Northampton in the 1957/58 season.

M.D. Barrett

SAINT No: 1186
Name: M. D. Barrett
Career: 1954 - 1956
Appearances: 2
Position: Full-back
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Barrett played twice for Northampton at full-back. His first appearance was against Old Alleynians on 23rd April 1955, scoring a try in the 39-3 victory. He played one further match for Northampton in the following season.

John Barton

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1179
Name: John Barton
Career: 1953 - 1958
Appearances: 46
Position: Number 8/Winger
Scores: T: 3 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 9

Barton, a rugged winger/number 8, made 46 appearances for Northampton over a 5 season'between 1953-1958, as well as playing regularly for the Wanderers (2nd XV). He made his debut on 12th December 1953 in an 11-3 victory over Old Merchant Taylors.

The 1954/55 annual report states "J Barton at wing forward justified his selection and should maintain his position".

Later in life he played for the 'Latter Day Saints', a veterans team made up of ex-Northampton players and he toured Canada with them in 1979.



John Barton

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

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Keith Baughan

SAINT No: 1359
Name: Keith M. Baughan
Career: 1968 - 1969
Appearances: 26
Position: Hooker
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Baughan made 26 appearances for Northampton Saints during the 1968/69 season at hooker.

Keith joined the Saints from Old Saltleians RFC in Birmingham.

After his rugby career, he became Vice President of research at Nokia and was awarded an OBE in 2002.



Keith Baughan

B.W.J. Baxter

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SAINT No: 1187
Name: B. W. J. Baxter
Career: 1954 - 1957
Appearances: 37
Position: Hooker
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Baxter was a hooker who made his debut for Northampton towards the end of the 1954/55 season, going on to make a total of seven appearances that season. The following season, after the retirement of R. MacEwen #1199, he established himself as the first-choice hooker for the club making 27 appearances that season.

In the following 1956/57 season, after playing in the first three matches, according to the annual report he was "compelled to leave the club" and didn't play for Northampton again.

He scored his only try for the club in his final appearance on 15th September 1956 in a 19-10 victory over Richmond.



D. Baxter

SAINT No: 1135
Name: D. Baxter
Career: 1950 - 1955
Appearances: 2
Position: Back row

During the 1950's Baxter played regularly in the back row for both the Wanderers (2nd XV) and the Crusaders (3rd XV) but on two occasions he was called up to play for the first team.

The first occasion was in the 1949/50 season against United Services Portsmouth on 30th September, and then five years later he was again selected against Old Millhillians on 9th October 1954, a match the Saints lost 3 – 17.

A. Beavers

SAINT No: 1297
Name: A. Beavers
Career: 1963 - 1964
Appearances: 4
Position: Fly-half

Beavers made four appearances for the Saints at fly-half during the 1963/64 season.

K.J. Beard

SAINT No: 1136
Name: K. J. Beard
Career: 1950 -1952
Appearances: 12
Position: Full-back

Beard played 12 times for Northampton between 1950-1952, eight times in the 1950/51 season and four times in the 1951/52 season. He played at full-back and the 1950/51 annual report states that although he was not regularly available, he was a useful player and an able deputy for Tommy Gray #1074.

In the 1951/52 season, he suffered a long-term injury and, although he was back playing for the Wanderers (2nd XV) by the end of the season. He didn't play for the first team again, continuing to play for the Wanderers (2nd XV) for a number of years.

Dusan Beim

SAINT No: 1351
Name: Dusan Beim
Career: 1967 - 1968
Appearances: 1

Beim made one appearance for Northampton during the 1967/68 season.

He is the father of ex-England, Gloucester and Sale winger, Tom Beim.

C. Bellamy

SAINT No: 1360
Name: C. B. Bellamy
Career: 1968 - 1969
Appearances: 1

Bellamy made one appearance for Northampton Saints during the 1968/69 season.

D. Bennie

SAINT No: 1180
Name: D. Bennie
Career: 1953 - 1954
Appearances: 1

Bennie made one appearance for Northampton in the 1953/54 season.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's he played regularly for Kettering RFC.

J. D. W. Bennie

SAINT No: 1271
Name: J. D. W. Bennie
Career: 1960 - 1961
Appearances: 1
Position: Scrum-half

Bennie made one appearance for Northampton in the 1960/61 season playing against Wasps at home on the 17th December 1960.

Les Berridge

SAINT No: 1333
Name: Lesley Berridge
Career: 1966 - 1968
Appearances: 10
Position: Full-back
Scores: T: 1 C: 7 P: 6 DG: 0 Total Points: 35



Les Berridge

Berridge made a total of ten appearances at full-back for Northampton Saints between 1966-1968.

He made his debut in a match against Rosslyn Park on 11th March 1967.

Mike Berridge

SAINT No: 1033
Name: Mike Berridge
Career: 1945 - 1955
Appearances: 251
Position: Prop
Scores: T: 8 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 24

Representative Honours:
Regional: East Midlands International: England 2 caps

Born in Huntingdon, Berridge, a local farmer, first pulled on a Northampton Saints jersey when rugby resumed at the end of World War II. The prop who started his playing career at Peterborough kicked off a golden era of Northampton props, paving the way for the likes of Ron Jacobs #1121 to join the club.

From the start of his career, it was thought that Mike would go onto higher honours and in 1949 he gained two caps playing for England against Wales and Ireland. He was Vice-Captain of the club in 1950/51 and played as forcefully as ever.


Mike Berridge

Although he was selected for the England trials, injury forced him to miss a large part of the middle of the season and he did not add to his international caps.

Like many great props, the annual reports from the period indicate his performances improved year upon year. The 1951/52 annual report states "M. J. Berridge experienced a very fine season, and even surpassed his form which gained him two England caps and we felt a sense of pride when he was honoured by captaining the Barbarians in one of the games on their Easter tour".

In his final season Mike captained Northampton and led the team with enthusiasm, keenness and determination. After announcing his retirement at the end of the season, the 1954/55 annual report stated, "Joining the club over ten years ago, Mike has been one of the stalwarts responsible for its successful revival after the war, and deservedly won practically all the honours the game can give."

Mike died from cancer aged 50 in 1973.

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W. J. Bevan

SAINT No: 1286
Name: W. J. Bevan
Career: 1962 – 1965
Appearances: 37
Position: Centre
Scores: T: 4 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 12

Bevan made 37 appearances for Northampton between 1962-1965.

The 1962/63 annual report states: "W. Bevan played some good games either at centre or fly half".

Eddie Birch

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1035
Name: Eddie Birch
Career: 1945 - 1951
Appearances: 77
Position: Back row/Second row
Scores: T: 9 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 27

Birch was a member of a family with strong Northampton Saints' connections as both his brothers played for Northampton; A. Birch #1034 on four occasions during the 1945/46 season and W. Birch #1099 once during the 1948/49 season. The best known though is his father, Jim Birch #293, who played 99 times for Northampton between 1906-1913, and in 1911 whilst playing for Neath won two caps for Wales.

Eddie, like his father, was a police officer in Northampton and although he had a trial for Wales in 1946/47, Eddie was never capped. The 1945/46 annual report stated that Birch showed excellent promise in his debut season.

He was known as a "grand battler in the loose" and the 1947/48 report states "he was a particularly valuable member of the pack, his sound defensive covering round the scrum being a noticeable feature". In the following season, after an excellent start, Birch suffered an illness which forced his withdrawal from the side halfway through the season. Over the next couple of seasons, he played a few games for Northampton but never recovered his previous form.



Eddie Birch

David Bland

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1150
Name: David Bland
Career: 1951 - 1958
Appearances: 50
Position: Number 8/Second row
Scores: T: 5 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 15

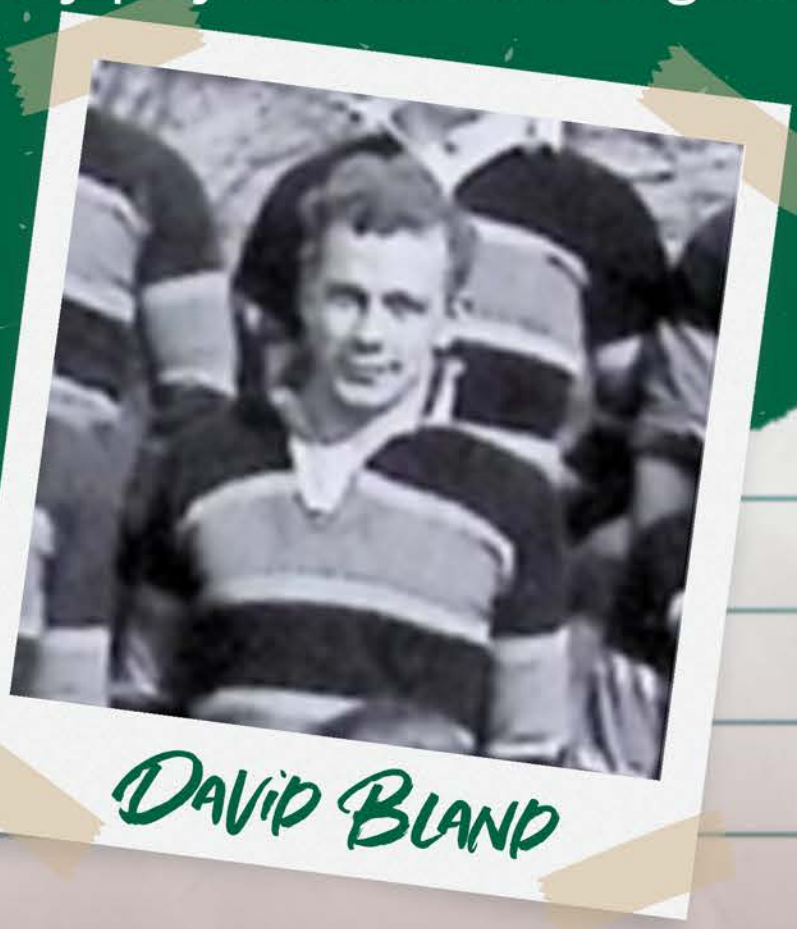
Representative Honours: Cambridge University

Bland first came to prominence in the 1951/52 season. Although only playing on three occasions, the annual report for that season noted "Of the younger members who gave excellent support.... D. Bland could be a regular member of the first team". A similar sentiment was written of the number 8 the following season after making 13 appearances.

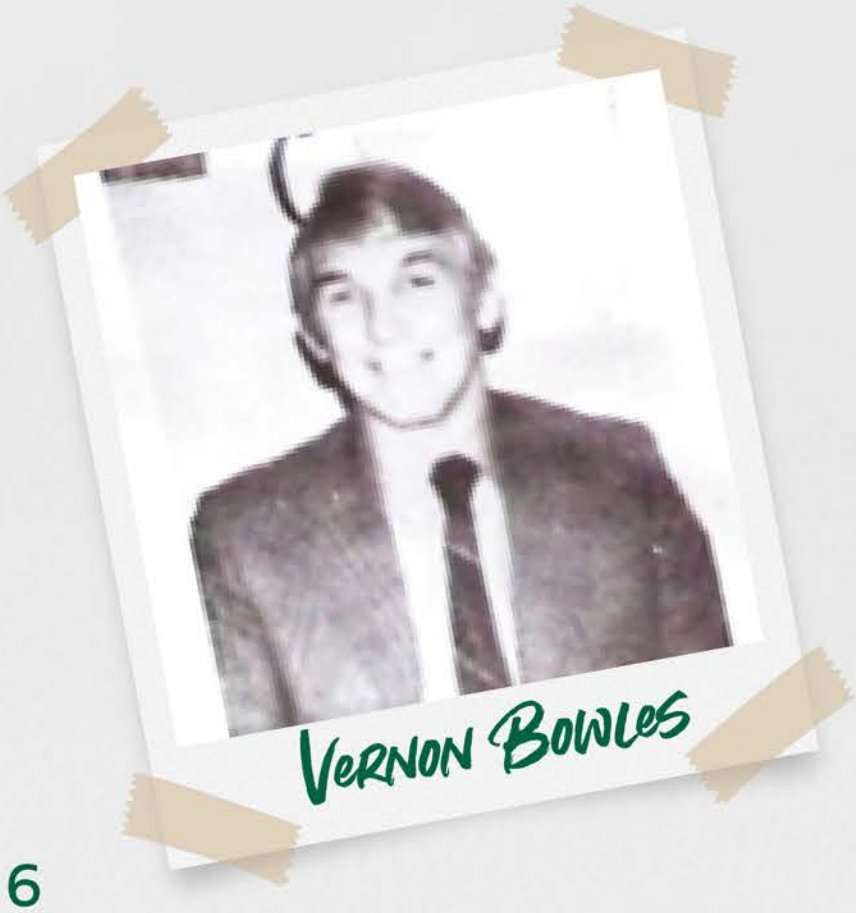
However, it was the 1953/54 season when he really made his mark, playing 28 times with the annual report stating, "D. Bland who played in the middle of the back row, more than confirmed the high opinion formed of his play the previous season, and was unquestionably the most improved player in the team".

Over the following four seasons though he only played a handful of games for Northampton.

He had one major impact at Northampton though, in that he introduced a fellow student from Cambridge University, Jim Hetherington #1195 to the club, who converted from playing football to rugby and had six magnificent seasons playing as a full-back for Northampton and England.



Vernon Bowles



SAINT No: 1188
Name: Vernon Bowles
Career: 1954 - 1955
Appearances: 16
Position: Back Row
Scores: T: 2 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 6

Bowles, a local doctor, only played for Northampton for a single season in 1954/55. Vernon made his debut against London Scottish on 2nd October 1954 playing in the back row, a game in which he crossed the whitewash for the first of the two tries he scored that season. He played regularly throughout the rest of the season.

Later in life he played for the 'Latter Day Saints' a veterans team made up of past Northampton players and in 1979 he toured Canada with them.

J. Brennan

SAINT No: 1189
Name: J. Brennan
Career: 1954 - 1956
Appearances: 2
Position: Winger
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Brennan was a loyal clubman who played regularly for the Wanderers (2nd XV) and Crusaders (3rd XV) during the 1950s. On two occasions he was called into the Saints side; the first against Bective Rangers on 29th October 1955 which the Saints lost 11 – 5, although Brennan did score their only try.

His other match was two months later on 10th December 1955 against Old Merchant Taylors, a match Northampton won 23 – 0.

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F. BROOKMAN

SAINT No: 1151
Name: F. Brookman
Career: 1951 - 1954
Appearances: 34
Position: Fly-half/Full-back
Scores: T: 1 C: 1 P: 1 DG: 3 Total Points: 17

Brookman was primarily a fly-half but could also play full-back if required. He made his debut in the 1951/52 season playing 15 times, scoring his only try for Northampton on 12th January 1952 against Middlesex Hospital in a 31 – 5 victory. The following season he made 17 appearances and the annual report for that season acknowledges his flexibility as a player, as he was able to turn out and provide cover at full-back when needed.

He played two matches at the start of the 1953/54 season and then left the club to play for Bedford RFC.



F. BROOKMAN

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E. Broomfield

SAINT No: 1040
Name: E. Broomfield
Career: 1945 - 1954
Appearances: 52
Position: Hooker
Scores: T: 2 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 6

Broomfield was a talented young hooker who was around the Northampton first team after the war, but it wasn't until the 1948/49 season that he finally established himself as first choice hooker. Unfortunately, he suffered a broken leg on New Years Day 1949 when playing against London Welsh. He resumed playing the following season and was a key member of the Wanderers (2nd XV) for the next few years but only played occasionally for the first team each season when they were short.



E. Broomfield

John Brown

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

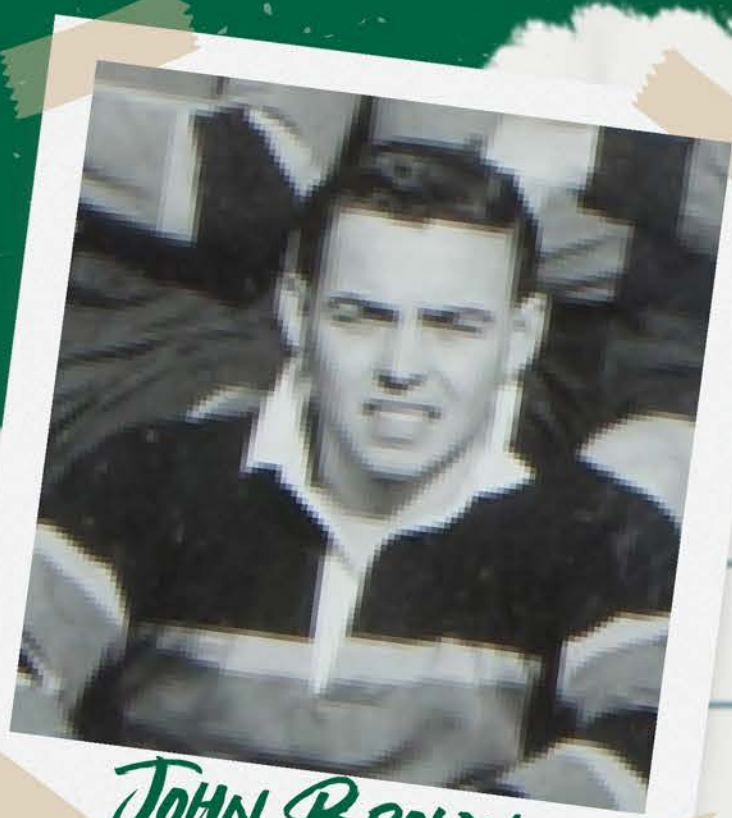
SAINT No: 1191
Name: H. John C. Brown
Career: 1953 - 1958
Appearances: 40
Position: Fly-half/Centre
Scores: T: 9 C: 10 P: 10 DG: 0 Total Points: 77

Representative Honours: Barbarians
Regional: Somerset County
International: British Lions - Toured in 1962 to South Africa

Brown was a young fly-half who joined Northampton in 1953. He made his debut on 12th December in an 11 - 3 victory over Old Merchant Taylors, scoring one conversion and a penalty. The annual report for that year states "H. J. C. Brown .... came straight from schoolboy football to show form which promises him a bright future possessing all the attributes that make a first-class player, he now needs experience".

Due to his army career, he only made five appearances the following season and none at all in the 1955/56 season. In 1956/57 he played 16 times at both fly-half and centre and the annual report stated he showed exceptional promise, but his availability would continue to be limited due to his career. He played three times in the 1957/58 season but in 1959 he moved to Blackheath and then in 1963 to Harlequins. During this period, he was unlucky not to be capped by England, mainly due to injuries, but in 1962 he was called up to the British Lions tour of South Africa and played in 6 matches.

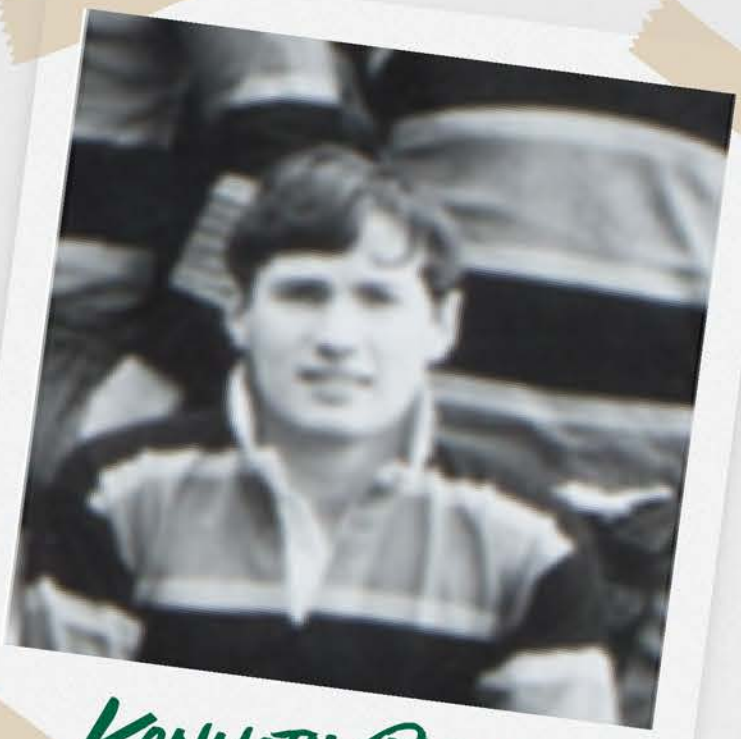
After retiring from rugby, he became a member of the British 4-man bobsleigh team that won a bronze medal at the 1968 European Championships in St Moritz, and later in the same year competed in the winter Olympic Games at Grenoble.



John Brown

Kenneth Brown

SAINT No: 1334
Name: Kenneth A. R. Brown
Career: 1966 - 1968
Appearances: 27
Position: Fly-half
Scores: T: 3 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 24



Brown made a total of 27 appearances at fly-half for Northampton between 1966-1968. He made his debut against Bristol on the 28th January 1967.

R.T. Brown

SAINT No: 1315
Name: R. T. Brown
Career: 1964 - 1965
Appearances: 1
Position: Full-back
Scores: T: 0 C: 1 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 5

Brown played only one match for the club in the 1964/65 season at full back playing against Wasps on the 19th December 1964.

C. P. Bruce

SAINT No: 1254
Name: C. P. Bruce
Career: 1958 - 1959
Appearances: 3
Position: Back row

Bruce made three appearances for Northampton in the 1958/59 season playing in the back row.

Those appearances included matches against Penarth on 26th December 1958 and against London Welsh on 3rd January 1959.

T. H. Bryan

SAINT No: 1255
Name: T. H. Bryan
Career: 1958 - 1960
Appearances: 6
Position: Winger
Scores: T: 3 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 9

Bryan, a regular member of the Wanderers (2nd XV), made six appearances for Northampton over two seasons mainly as injury cover and scored three tries in those games from the wing.

His debut came on 6th December 1958 in a 3 – 3 draw against Aberavon. He played two further matches that December, scoring his first try against Old Merchant Taylors on the 13th.

His final appearance of the 1958/59 season was in a 32 – 14 victory over Rosslyn Park on 14th March 1959 when he again scored a try.

He played twice at the start of the 1959/60 season with his final appearance being against Old Millhillians on 10th October 1959.

Peter Bullock



SAINT No: 1371
Name: Peter Bullock
Career: 1969 - 1972
Appearances: 34
Position: Scrum-half
Scores: T: 3 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 9

Bullock made 34 appearances for Northampton Saints, playing at scrum-half between 1969-1972.

C.R Buswell

SAINT No: 1263
Name: C. R. Buswell
Career: 1959 - 1960
Appearances: 1
Position: Back row

Buswell made his one and only appearance for Northampton on 10th October 1959 against Old Millhillians. It was a weakened Northampton team lacking a lot of first team experience, and they subsequently lost 22 – 16. The reason for the lack of experience was that Northampton were fielding two first XV's on that date with the stronger team playing away at Cardiff.

Jeff Butterfield

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1152
Name: Jeff Butterfield
Career: 1951 - 1963
Appearances: 227
Position: Centre
Scores: T: 67 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 2 Total Points: 207

Representative Honours:
Regional: Yorkshire
International: England 28 caps (4 as captain) British Lions: 4 caps 1955 and 1959

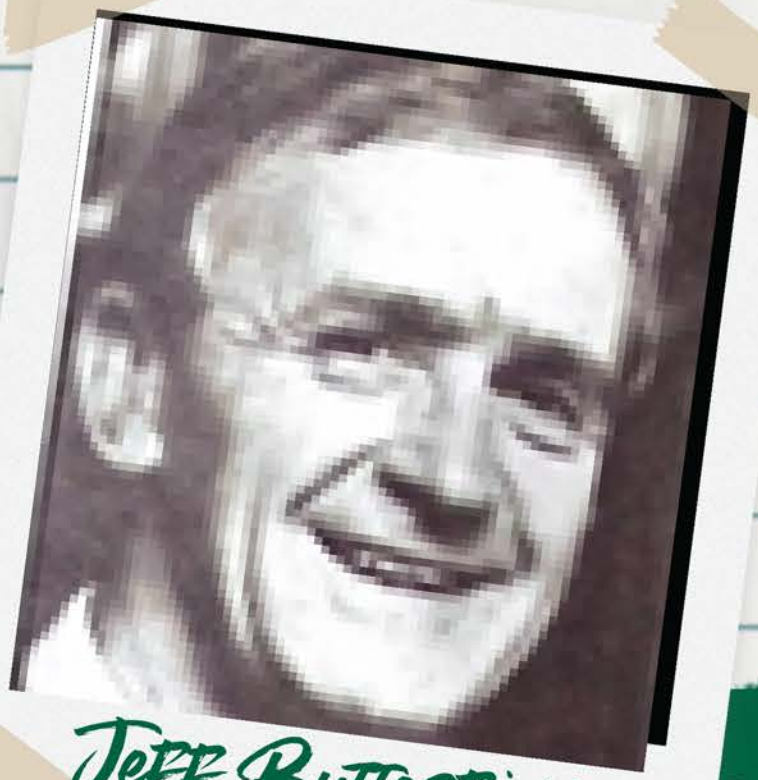
Butterfield is right at the very pinnacle of the pantheon of great Northampton Saints players. Four times a Lion, 28 times an England international (including four caps as Captain) and 227 times a Saint, the majestic centre starred in every team for whom he turned out.

A Yorkshireman, born in Heckmondwike on 9th August 1929, joined Northampton in 1951. Like all centres he was judged not only on the number of tries he scored- three for the Lions, five for country and 67 for club- but in how he brought those playing around him into the game. In this aspect, Jeff was right up there with the very best.

A sportsman from his school days at Cleckheaton College, where he was a star athlete and swimmer, he taught P.E. at Worksop College. His chosen career also came in handy on the pitch as he organised training sessions for both club and the 1955 Lions.



Jeff Butterfield



Jeff Butterfield

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

The Saints team of the early 1950s was truly legendary. In 1952/53, in a bout of 41 matches, only six were lost and a further six drawn. On the back of his form, Jeff was selected for England in the 1953 Five Nations and made an immediate impact by scoring a debut try.

This started a run of 28 consecutive international appearances until 1959, a campaign in which he also led the national side. He also starred in England's 14-man 1958 victory over Australia, setting up Peter Jackson for the match-winning try.

In 1955, Jeff established himself in Lions folklore, scoring a debut try, thus becoming the only man to do so for Lions and country, he inspired the tourists to a one-point first test victory that day. Further tries followed in the second and third tests, the latter by carrying three Springboks over the line with him (he was not just about grace) - and he ended the series as the Lions' top try scorer. Jeff also toured Australia and New Zealand in 1959, but hampered by a thigh injury he could not add to his tally of caps.

His Northampton career continued until 1963 and Saints maintained record-breaking form until his final season. After retirement his name remained revered, especially in South Africa. He continued to be involved in the sport by setting up the European Golden Oldies Movement, and seven months after his death in 2004 Jeff was rightly inducted onto the Twickenham Wall of Fame.

Jeff was also one of the first inductees to the Northampton Saints Hall of Fame.

Jeff Butterfield

B. Byrne

SAINT No: 1335
Name: B. Byrne
Career: 1966 - 1967
Appearances: 5
Position: Prop

Byrne made five appearances at prop for Northampton Saints during the 1966/67 season.

R. P. Campion

SAINT No: 1277
Name: R. P. Campion
Career: 1961 - 1962
Appearances: 1

Campion made one appearance for Northampton during the 1961/62 season.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

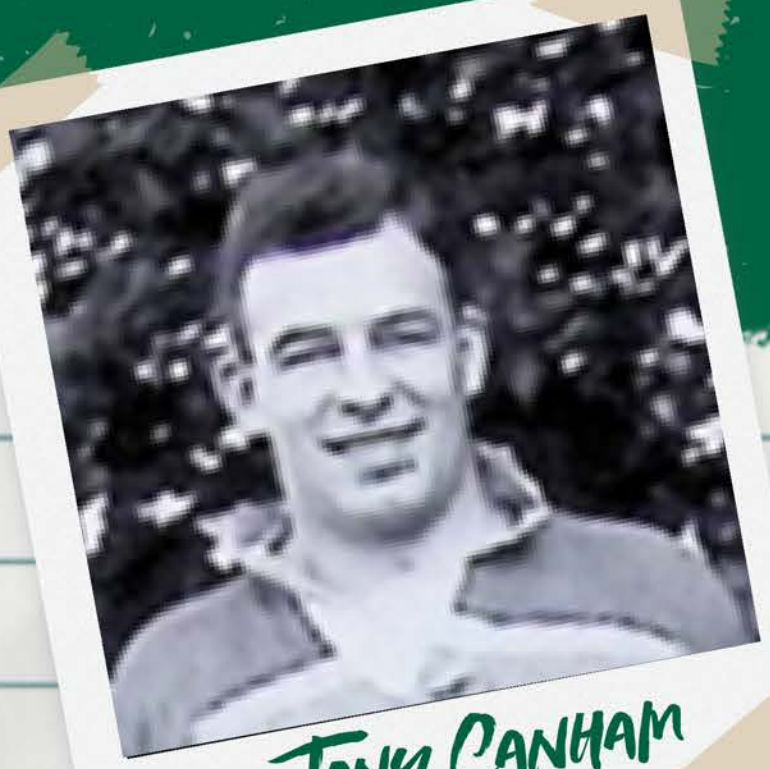
FOUNDATION

Tony Canham

SAINT No: 1227
Name: Anthony L. Canham
Career: 1956 - 1962
Appearances: 83
Position: Prop
Scores: T: 2 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 6

Canham made his debut for Northampton on 24th November 1956 playing away against Sale, his first home fixture would come the following weekend against Aberavon. Tony had a six-year-long career with the Saints, turning out for both the first XV and the Wanderers (2nd XV), captaining them in the 1960/61 and 1961/62 seasons. During his captaincy of the Wanderers (2nd XV), Tony would often be called up into the first team as cover for injury or absentees.

His final first team match for Northampton was on 15th February 1962 against Oxford University. He was forced to retire during the 1962/63 season through injury but was described in that season's annual report as a first class loose-head prop who gave efficient and loyal service for six years.



Lewis Cannell

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1043
Name: Lewis Cannell
Career: 1945 - 1960
Appearances: 138
Position: Centre
Scores: T: 97 C: 7 P: 2 DG: 2 Total Points: 317

Representative Honours: Barbarians & International: England (19 caps)

Cannell's family moved to Northampton from Coventry during the war after the family home was bombed. He attended Northampton Grammar School where he started playing rugby and was subsequently recommended to the Saints by one of his schoolmasters.

Lewis was an instant success on the rugby field but only managed to play 138 games during his 15-year career, due initially to his studies and his subsequent medical career. He did manage to score 97 tries during his time at Saints though. He played for both Oxford University and St Mary's Hospital at different stages of his career, although he always retained a strong affinity for the Saints mainly though his relationship with Club President G. Sturtridge #798, another medical man.

Brian Barron writes in 'Nothing without labour' that Cannell agreed he had a reputation at Northampton for being a greedy player, once saying "I used to get ticked off a lot by R. Longland #678, when he was skipper, for not passing the ball more. But that wasn't for me. I loved to run with it. I just loved running."

Between 1948-1957, Cannell earned 19 caps for England although it would have been more if not for the fact he twice wrote to the selectors asking not to be considered as he was taking medical exams. Similarly, he also turned down a place on the British and Irish Lions tour to New Zealand and Australia in 1950 as he could not spare 6 months away from his studies.



Lewis Cannell

A.E. Carmell

SAINT No: 1256
Name: A. E. Carmell
Career: 1958 - 1959
Appearances: 1
Position: Centre

Carmell played once for Northampton at centre against Wasps on 20th December 1958, a match the Saints lost 14 – 16.

S. Chamberlain

SAINT No: 1257
Name: S. Chamberlain
Career: 1958 - 1959
Appearances: 1

Chamberlain played one match for Northampton in the 1958/59 season.

J. Clarke

SAINT No: 1240
Name: J. Clarke
Career: 1957 - 1958
Appearances: 9
Position: Back row

Clarke, a back-row forward, made nine appearances across the 1957/58 season, a challenging one for Northampton considering the success they had had in previous seasons.

D.B Coates

SAINT No: 1285
Name: D. B. Coates
Career: 1962 - 1963
Appearances: 1
Position: Prop

Coates made only one appearance for Northampton during the 1962/63 season playing against Old Millhillians.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

David Coley

SAINT No: 1210
Name: David Coley
Career: 1955 - 1962
Appearances: 166
Position: Back row
Scores: T: 34 C: 17 P: 4 DG: 1 Total Points: 151

Representative Honours: Barbarians (1 appearance)

Coley grew up in Weston Favell and was the eldest son of former Saints player Eric Coley #0532 who made 292 appearances for Northampton and capped twice by England. Like his father, David was a very keen and able all-round sportsman.

He made his debut for Northampton on 22nd October 1955 in a local derby against Leicester, scoring a try in a 19-10 victory. The 1956/57 annual report states, "with added experience he has a bright future....and his experience as three-quarter make him a most accomplished footballer" and the 1957/58 report states "D Coley had some excellent games".

Coley was a regular player for Northampton over a 7-year period, making 166 appearances in total, a hugely impressive figure when considering he was playing at the same time and in the same position as Don White #1028 and Phil Taylor #1204, both of whom were internationals and captained England at various times in their careers.



David Coley

John Cooley

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1298
Name: John R. Cooley
Career: 1963 – 1972
Appearances: 221
Position: Fly-half/Centre
Scores: T: 52 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 24 Total Points: 231

Representative Honours: Barbarians (1 appearance)
Regional: East Midland & Midlands Counties
International: Rest of England team.

Cooley was one of at least half a dozen players who, at the time, were tried in the playmaker role following the retirement of Tommy Gray #1074 many years earlier. John had moved from Bedford because they would not always play him at fly-half—a choice Saints repeated by playing him, as Bedford had, at centre, where his powerful tackling was so effective. As a result, he threatened to quit the Saints but relented and went on to play a total of 221 games, scoring 231 points over a nine-year spell.

The annual report for the 1964/65 season stated "J. Cooley ... developed into a strong thrustful player and played for the Rest of England at the end of the season." His tackling was described as "destructive".

He represented his country playing for a Rest of England side v Warwickshire on the 3rd April 1965.

He was awarded his Saints cap during the 1964/65 season. John was picked and played for the East Midlands v Barbarians on 7th March 1968.

John finished his career where it started, at Bedford RFC.



John Cooley

J. Cosby

SAINT No: 1153
Name: J. Cosby
Career: 1951 - 1952
Appearances: 3
Position: Hooker

Cosby played at hooker three times for Northampton during the 1951/52 season. He made his debut on the 21st September 1951 against United Services Portsmouth.

Bernard Cotton

SAINT No: 1361
Name: Bernard Cotton
Career: 1968 - 1969
Appearances: 1
Position: Centre
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Cotton made his only appearance for the club against London Scottish on the 5th October 1968.

Ian Coutts

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1169
Name: Ian D. F. Coutts
Career: 1952 - 1959
Appearances: 110
Position: Fly Half/Centre
Scores: T: 13 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 1 Total Points: 42

Representative Honours: Regional: Oxford University
International: Scotland

Coutts joined Northampton at the start of the 1952/53 season having previously played for Oxford University where he gained his Blue. Whilst at Oxford, Ian was capped twice by Scotland, playing at centre against France on 13th January 1951 and against England on 15th March 1952. He was a talented all-round sportsman, also earning a Blue playing first-class cricket for Oxford University as a right-arm fast-bowler.

Coutts started his career at Northampton at the same time as Dickie Jeeps #1174 and the annual report for the 1952/53 season reads as follows: "Two newcomers to the backs, R.E.G. Jeeps and I.D.F. Coutts proved most welcome and accomplished acquisitions.... I.D.F. Coutts already capped for Scotland played many sound games in the centre particularly in defence, and when required proved a most capable fly-half".

He continued to play regularly for Northampton over the next six seasons as well as regularly turning out for Old Alleynians (having been educated at Dulwich College).

In 1955/56 he made 28 appearances for Northampton (his most in any season) and the annual report for that season states "I.D.F. Coutts played his best football since joining the Club and through his regularity was the mainstay of the back division with his splendid defence always evident". Reports from other seasons also highlighted his soundness, devastating tackles and correctly timed passes.



Ian Coutts

Colin Cross

SAINT No: 1264
Name: Colin Cross
Career: 1959 - 1960
Appearances: 3
Position: Fly-half

Cross made three appearances for Northampton at fly-half during the 1959/60 season, including matches against Old Millhillians on 10th October 1959 and away to Sale on 28th November 1959.



D.Curtis

D. Curtis

SAINT No: 1103
.Name: D. Curtis
Career: 1948 - 1950
Appearances: 9
Position: Centre/Winger
Scores: T: 3 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 9

Curtis made his debut against Nottingham on 29th January 1949 in a 11 – 9 victory, playing on the wing, although his usual position was at centre. In total he played seven times for Northampton in the 1948/49 season and the annual report stated he showed promise in the centre but the call up of the forces due to national service was a big handicap that prevented young players like him from settling down.

The following season he played twice for Northampton but that was the end of his career for the Saints.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

T. V. DANGERFIELD

SAINT No: 1265
Name: T. V. Dangerfield
Career: 1959 - 1960
Appearances: 2
Position: Back row

Dangerfield, a back row player, made his debut for Northampton in the most challenging of fixtures, an away match at Leicester on 27th January 1960 a match that ended in a 6 – 6 draw.

His only other appearance for Northampton came the following month in a 38 – 3 home victory over Waterloo on 13th February 1960.

The club clearly had great hopes for Dangerfield as the annual report of that year states "Other young forwards waiting only for the opportunity to make their mark include T. V. Dangerfield". However, he never played for the club again.

Clive Daniels

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1170
Name: Clive Daniels
Career: 1952 - 1967
Appearances: 320
Position: Second row
Scores: T: 27 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 81
Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands

One of only a handful of players to have donned the Black, Green and Gold shirt more than 300 times, with Daniels being one of this select group, making his debut in 1952 as a schoolboy. He would go on to become a constant in Saints' second row for the next 15 years making some 320 appearances before hanging up his boots in 1967.

An engineer by profession, Daniels was a part of what is widely considered a 'golden era' of rugby in Northampton, playing alongside Hall of Fame legends Jeff Butterfield #1152, Roger Horwood #1259, Ron Jacobs #1121, Dickie Jeeps #1174, David Powell #1307, Bob Taylor #1295 and Don White #1028.

Daniels also featured at county level during his time at Saints but missed out on an international cap by what team mate White was convinced was a shirt number mix up at a trial.

He was regularly mentioned in the season ending annual reports of the era with the 1961/62 report saying "Once again C P Daniels was outstanding in the lineout" and the 1964/65 report stating "C P Daniels again played a major part in the second row and strangely it is not until he is missing from the team it is realised what a big contribution he makes".

After more than a decade on the pitch, Daniels remained an avid Saints supporter in his retirement too, enjoying nothing more than watching his old side triumph over local rivals Leicester Tigers.



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

K. Davies

SAINT No: 1192
Name: K. Davies
Career: 1954 - 1957
Appearances: 15
Position: Hooker

Davies made his debut at hooker for Northampton on 16th September 1954 against Nottingham, going on to play a further four times that season. He unfortunately suffered a serious knee injury and did not play again for almost two years.

He made his return from injury on 6th October 1956 against London Scottish. The programme from that match states "After a long spell of injuries, K. Davies returns to us after a knee operation, which we sincerely hope has put his trouble right and will allow him to show the form of which we know he is capable".

He went on to play a further nine matches that season but didn't play again after the 1956/57 season.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

P.D.A Deans

SAINT No: 1272
Name: P. D. A. Deans
Career: 1960 – 1961
Appearances: 11
Position: Prop
Scores: T: 2 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 6

Deans played for Northampton 11 times during the 1960/61 season.

The annual report for that year states "After playing very well indeed for half of the season, the front row fell into trouble.....it was not until the closing weeks of the season that P.D.A. Deans completed a satisfactory front row".

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1273
Name: John Beresford Deeks
Career: 1960 - 1971
Appearances: 3
Position: Blind-side-flanker / Scrum-half

Deeks known affectionately as 'Bez' was born in Northampton on November 4, 1938, he made his debut for the Saints on February 4, 1961, in a home game against Harlequins, which the Saints won 11–6.

In addition to playing for the Saints' first and second team, the Wanderers (2nd XV), he was a prominent member of the Mens Own Rugby Club. He also took part in the Golden Oldies Festival with the Northampton "Latter Day Saints" team. His profile in the 1979 Canadian Tour programme humorously described him:

"Has the ability to tackle anything above grass height with devastating effect. With a built-in homing device programmed on opposition half backs he can become a very sore point. Expert at climbing the back of line outs and peering over scrums. Speciality is crawling about scoring tries and deep mud diving!"

John 'Bez' Deeks

M. Deighton

SAINT No: 1299
Name: M. Deighton
Career: 1963 - 1964
Appearances: 1
Position: Hooker
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Deighton made his only appearance for the club against Waterloo on the 18th April 1964, scoring a try.

C. M. Dennis

SAINT No: 1137
Name: C. M. Dennis
Career: 1950 - 1951
Appearances: 1

Dennis played one game for Northampton during the 1950/51 season.

Geoff Desborough

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1072
Name: Geoff R. Desborough
Career: 1946 - 1956
Appearances: 42
Position: Scrum Half
Scores: T: 2 C: 2 P: 4 DG: 0 Total Points: 22

Desborough was a loyal clubman for Northampton after the war, regularly turning out for the 'A' team (known as the Wanderers (2nd XV) from 1950 onwards) and occasionally turning out for the first team, often at short notice and great inconvenience to himself. But according to the 1950/51 annual report he put in some plucky displays.

The 1951/52 report states "Once again G. R. Desborough deserves our thanks for the ready manner in which he was always ready to support the club, he played some sound games at the base of the scrum, and it does seem unfortunate that there is something just lacking in his play to ensure his regular selection." The 1952/53 annual report also references Desborough, stating "G. R. Desborough is another player deserving of mention for he has willingly stepped into the breach whether it be "Saints", "Wanderers (2nd XV)" or "Crusaders (3rd XV)" a great club man and a sound rugby footballer."

The 1954/55 season was his most prolific in terms of first team matches with ten appearances mainly in the second half of the season when he was used as cover for injuries. For the first half of that season, he had been Captain of the Crusaders and the annual report states "...a player of ability and considerable experience, his enthusiasm helped to maintain a high standard of football."



Geoff Desborough

Roy Dickerson

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

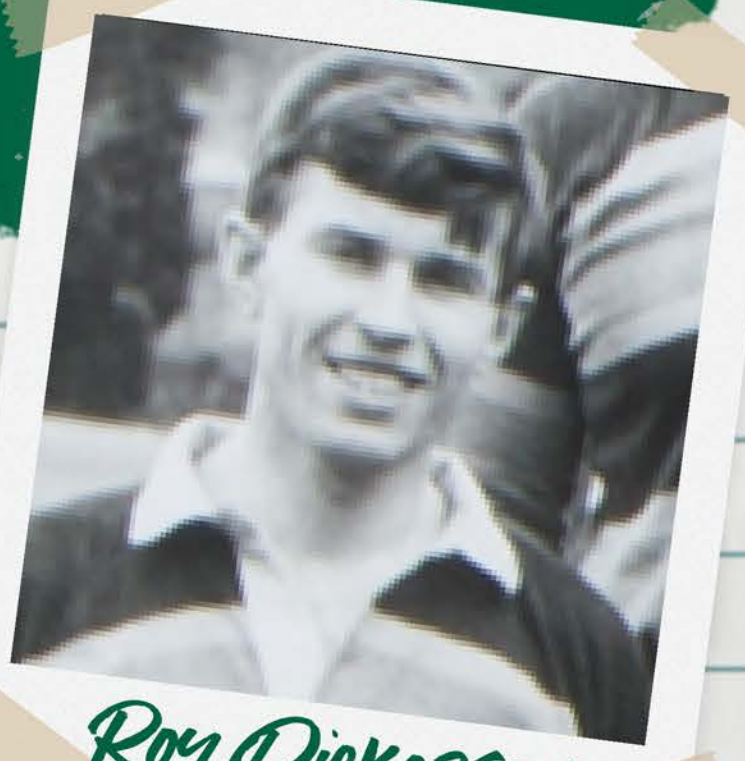
SAINT No: 1193
Name: Roy Dickerson
Career: 1954 - 1964
Appearances: 79
Position: Fly-half/Centre
Scores: T: 19 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 57

Dickerson, a local lift engineer, was a loyal servant to Northampton over a ten-year period, playing 79 times for the first team and many more times for the Wanderers (2nd XV) and Crusaders (3rd XV). He made his debut in the 1954/55 season playing four times that year and nine times in the 1955/56 season.

The 1955/56 annual report stated that "he continued to improve and should be of great service in the future".

Unfortunately, the number of games Roy played was curtailed by injuries, in three of the next five seasons injuries sustained at the start of the season saw him miss most of it, only returning for the last few games. Nevertheless, when he was fit his play was always of a high standard and he was awarded his club cap at the end of the 1958/59 season.

Although retiring from the game in 1964 he did later turn out for the 'Latter Day Saints', a veterans team consisting of former Northampton players and toured Canada with them in 1979.



Roy Dickerson

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



Peter Duffy

SAINT No: 1336
Name: Peter F. Duffy
Career: 1966 - 1975
Appearances: 200
Position: Prop
Scores: T: 5 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 19

Representative Honours: Barbarians
Regional: East Midlands & Midlands

Duffy also known as "Duff" joined Northampton Casuals in his early years where he was shaped into a tenacious tight-head prop before attending trials at Franklin's Gardens and subsequently joining the Saints in 1966. He made his home debut against Sale on the 26th November 1966.

In 1975 he moved to Zambia where he played for Roan Antelope RFC in Luanshya, helping them win three Zambian championships, as well as turning out for the Zambia Lechwe team in 1976.

He returned to the UK in 1984 where he joined Northampton Men's Own RFC as player/coach.

After his rugby career finished he became a publican and went on to run 'The Plough' in Shutlanger and 'The Crown' in Ashton.

Peter Duffy

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1154
Name: M. Duncombe
Career: 1951 - 1954
Appearances: 2
Position: Winger

Duncombe played twice for Northampton, firstly on the wing against Sale (away) on 29th September 1951. A game the Saints lost 9 – 6. The second match was in the 1953/54 season.

He played regularly for the Wanderers (2nd XV) in subsequent years and in the 1952/53 season converted from a winger to a prop/hooker!

M. Duncombe

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1266
Name: Keith T. Earl
Career: 1959 - 1960
Appearances: 1
Position: Centre

On the 10th October 1959, Northampton put out two first teams in order to fulfil fixture commitments. The stronger team travelled to Cardiff whilst a team consisting mainly of debutants played at home against Old Millhillians.

Earl, along with his centre partner that day Trevor Underwood #1269, was one of three players in the team for whom this would be their only ever first-team appearance.

Saints lost the match 16 – 22, and they continued playing Old Millhillians annually until 1976 but never lost to them again.

Keith Earl

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

JOHN EBSWORTH

SAINT No: 1278
Name: John L. Ebsworth
Career: 1961 - 1968
Appearances: 52
Position: Winger/Centre
Scores: T: 13 C: 0 P: 2 DG: 0 Total Points: 45

Representative Honours: Regional: Welsh Schools & East Midlands

Ebsworth previously represented Welsh schools, Llanelli, St Luke's, London Welsh and East Midlands before making his first appearance for Northampton in 1961.

He retired in 1968 but famously came out of retirement in 1972 when Saints were playing Coventry at Franklin's Gardens. When the side's winger, Roger Morris #1374, broke down on the M1, the team had to struggle on with 14 players for the first half. Ebsworth then went down to the dressing room at half-time and asked whether there was a spare pair of boots he could borrow. Ebsworth went on to play the entire second half, Saints running out 19-18 winners.

The former committee man at Saints was also instrumental in setting up the first Saints Academy team in the late seventies and made a crucial impact on how the Club's system works today.

The winger, who moved to Spain in his later years, also helped to recruit a number of players into the squad, including Saints Hall-of-Famer Tim Rodber #1588.

Ebsworth's sons, Jonathan #1487 and Matthew #1463, both played for Saints throughout the 80s.

He sadly passed away in August 2018 following a long battle with cancer.



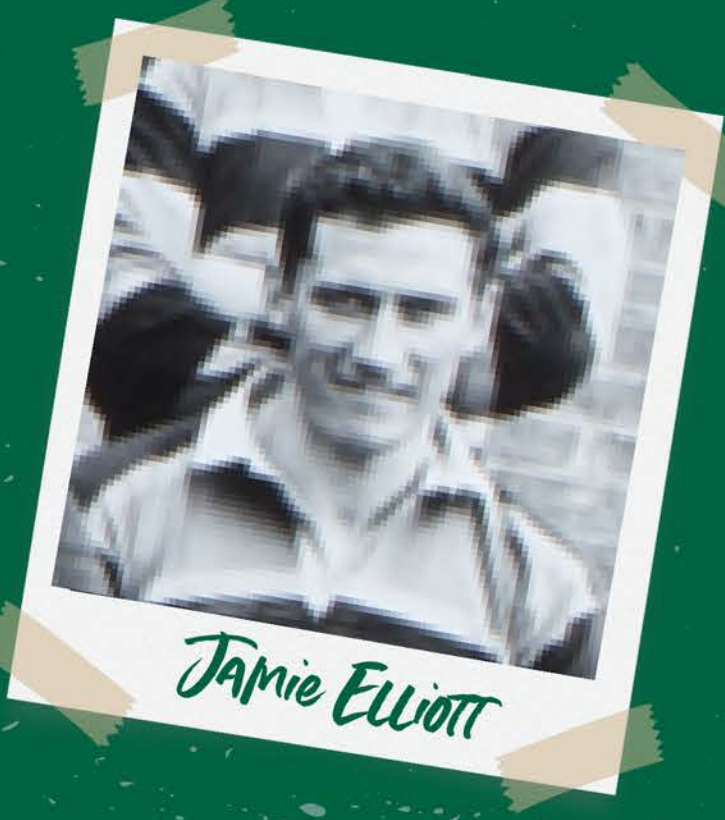
JOHN EBSWORTH

D.B. Edwards

SAINT No: 1155
Name: D. B. Edwards
Career: 1951 - 1952
Appearances: 6
Position: Fly-half

During the 1951/52 season the regular Northampton fly-half Ronnie Knapp #1075 suffered with injuries and subsequently retired from playing the game. Over the season several people were selected to try and fill the position with one of those being Edwards who made six appearances that season.

Jamie Elliott



SAINT No: 1337
Name: Jamie Elliott
Career: 1966 - 1967
Appearances: 18
Position: Back row forward
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Elliott played for the club 18 times during the 1966/67 season as a back row forward. He scored his only try against Llanelli on the 3rd December 1966, winning 11-3.

David Emms

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No : 1138
Name: David A. Emms OBE
Career: 1950 - 1957
Appearances: 62
Position: Back row
Scores: T: 8 C: P: DG: Total Points: 24

Representative Honours: Barbarians (1 appearance)
Regional: Eastern Counties

Emms made his debut for Northampton in the 1950/51 season in an 8 – 0 victory over Sale on the 30th September 1950 having played for Oxford University for the previous two seasons. It was in the 1951/52 season that he really established himself. The 1951/52 report states the following "...a newcomer to the Saints D. Emms proved a tower of strength, capable of playing anywhere in the pack, he showed all round football ability and was a most valued addition to our playing strength."

In the following seasons his unavailability, due to being an assistant master at Uppingham School, meant he didn't play huge numbers of games each season, but each annual report would refer to his immense ability. His final matches were in the 1956/57 season when he made two appearances.

After retiring from rugby, he became headmaster of Cranleigh School from 1960-1970, headmaster of Sherborne School from 1970-1974 and then master of Dulwich College from 1975-1986. Additionally, he served on numerous educational and other bodies and in 1995 he received an OBE for services to Education.



David Emms

J. Farrow

SAINT No: 1139
Name: J. Farrow
Career: 1950 - 1951
Appearances: 8
Position: Prop

Farrow was educated at Wellingborough Grammar School and was a member of Wellingborough RFC when invited to make his debut for Saints as a prop forward. The match was against Sale on the 30th September 1950 with Northampton winning 8 – 0. He played a further seven times that season around the Christmas/New year period and then on the Easter tour of Wales.

The annual report for that season described him as a young forward who showed good promise, however, he did not play for Northampton again after that season.

M. Faulkner

SAINT No: 1372
Name: M. Faulkner
Career: 1969 - 1974
Appearances: 7

Faulkner made seven appearances for the Saints between 1969 and 1974.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

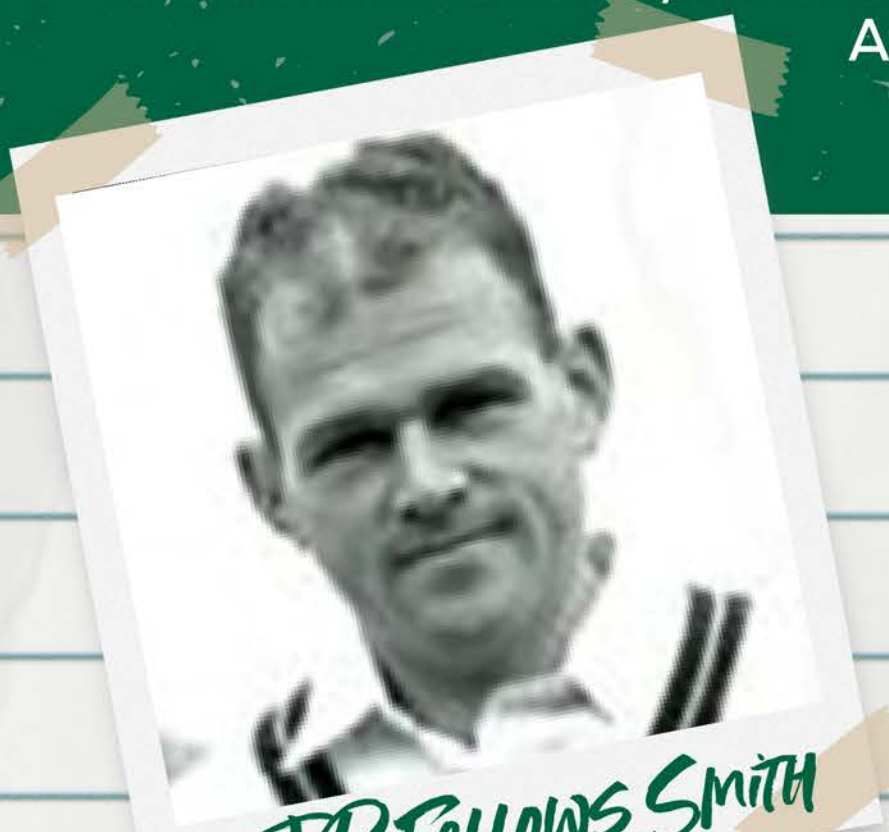
Jonathon Fellows-Smith

SAINT No: 1211
Name: Jonathon P. Fellows-Smith
Career: 1955 - 1958
Appearances: 26
Position: Prop

Fellows-Smith was born and raised in Durban, South Africa and gained a place at Oxford University in the mid 1950s. A talented all-round sportsman whilst at Oxford he gained Blues at both cricket and rugby. When not playing rugby for the university he played for Richmond during the 1955/56 and 1956/57 seasons although he also made one guest appearance for Northampton in the 1955/56 season.

After finishing university in the summer of 1957, he joined Northamptonshire County Cricket Club and at the end of their season stayed on in Northampton and played rugby for the Saints, making 25 appearances in the 1957/58 season with the annual report describing him as a strong robust front row player.

At the end of the 1957/58 rugby season, he returned to South Africa, but, in the summer of 1960, he returned to England as a member of the South African cricket squad who were touring that year and played in four of the five test matches against England.



JP Fellows Smith

G. J. Fitzhugh

SAINT No: 1300
Name: G. J. Fitzhugh
Career: 1963 - 1964
Appearances: 10
Position: Centre
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Fitzhugh made ten appearances at centre for Northampton Saints during the 1963/64 season.

J. P. Flavell

SAINT No: 1241
Name: J. P. Flavell
Career: 1957 - 1959
Appearances: 2

Flavell made two appearances for Northampton, once in the 1957/58 season and once in the 1958/59 season.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1338
Name: Alan J. S. Folwell
Career: 1966 - 1971
Appearances: 35
Position: Second Row
Scores: T: 5 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 15

Representative Honours: Regional: Cambridge Blue

Born in Pattishall, Northamptonshire in 1946, Folwell grew up in South Northants, eventually going to Towcester Grammar School, alongside future Northampton Saints contemporaries Barry Oldham #1322, Pete Sweet #1344, Mike Whitehead #1347, Frank Osbourne #1366, and taught by Barry White #1296.

Folwell played his first game for the Wanderers (2nd XV) in 1964,and made his debut for Northampton Saints first team in 1966, totalling 35 appearances at second row for the Saints in his five seasons at the club. He was doing this alongside studying natural sciences, and going onto complete a PHD at Cambridge University. Whilst studying at university, Alan also played for Cambridge University Rugby Union Football Club, earning his Cambridge Blue.

Alan Folwell

M.C. Foster

SAINT No: 1171
Name: M .C. Foster
Career: 1952 - 1953
Appearances: 1

Foster played only once for Northampton in the1952/53 season, whilst still at school. However, the club clearly hoped for more from him as the annual report of 1952/53 stated "M. C. Foster, whilst still at school, showed ability well above the average".

Sadly, he never played again for Northampton.

D. Franklin

SAINT No: 1172
Name: D. Franklin
Career: 1952 - 1957
Appearances: 13
Position: Full-back/Wing
Scores: T: 3 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 9

The aptly named Franklin was a regular player for the Wanderers (Second XV) throughout the 1950's but was called up to the first team, often at short notice, on 13 occasions over a five-year period. The majority of these appearances, seven, came in the 1952/53 season in which he also scored two tries.

In the 1956/57 season he made his final appearance for the first team scoring his third try for them.

D. Freeman

SAINT No: 1194
Name: D. Freeman
Career: 1954 - 1958
Appearances: 4
Position: Winger
Scores: T: 2 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 6

There was a lot of hope and expectation around Freeman when he played three games on the wing for Northampton at the end of the 1954/55 season, whilst still a schoolboy at Northampton Grammar School.

However, he only ever played one further match for Northampton, in the 1957/58 season, scoring two tries.

G. H. Gane

SAINT No: 1316
Name: G. H. Gane
Career: 1964 - 1965
Appearances: 3
Position: Back row forward

Gane made three appearances for Northampton Saints during the 1964/65 season playing in the back row.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1156
Name: J. Garner
Career: 1951 - 1954
Appearances: 11
Position: Wing
Scores: T: 6 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 18

Garner, a winger, made the first of his 11 appearances for Northampton on the 19th April 1952 against Old Alleynians, scoring two tries on his debut. However, he had to wait another 18 months before he played again for the Saints, a match against Bedford on the 21st November 1953.

The remainder of his Saints appearances all came in the second half of the 1953/54 season, scoring a further four tries. The 1953/54 annual report states "J. Garner showed considerable improvement, although a torn thigh muscle kept him out of several games. We hope he can keep fit, for his speed and natural elusive running, make him a dangerous player."

The following season he played occasionally for the Wanderers (2nd XV), but that year's annual report notes he was not regularly available.

J. GARNER

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



Joe Gaston

SAINT No: 1228
Name: Joe T. Gaston
Career: 1956 - 1958
Appearances: 18
Position: Winger
Scores: T: 9 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 27

Representative Honours:
International: Ireland (8 caps prior to joining Northampton)

In January 1957, Gaston, an Ireland international, moved to Northamptonshire to work as a doctor at Northampton General Hospital. At this time the Saints were blessed with a star-studded back line and Gaston was used as an understudy to England winger John Hyde #1089.

Nevertheless, in the year Gaston was working and living in Northampton he played 18 times for the first team scoring nine tries. He would happily turn out for the Wanderers (2nd XV) and helped to increase attendances for those games. The annual report of 1957/58 describes him as "a most dangerous attacking player".

In 1958 Gaston returned to Ireland.

Joe Gaston

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

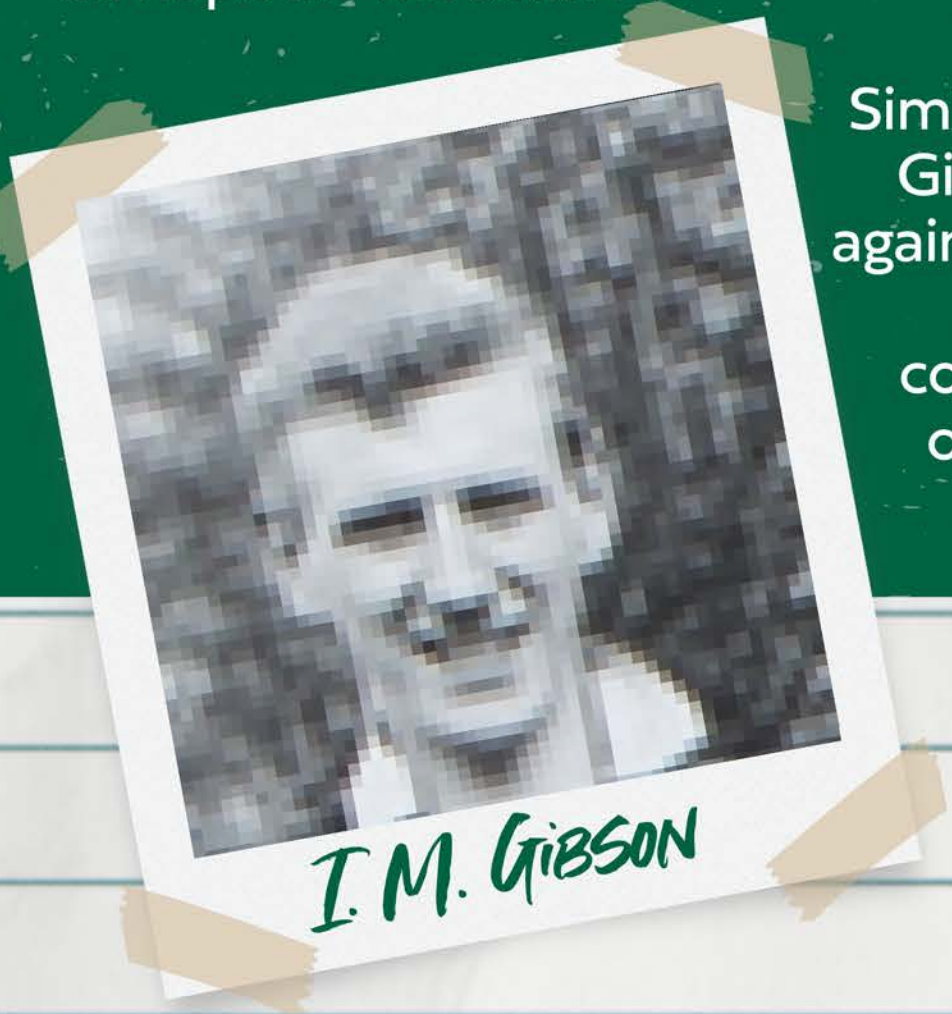
I. M. Gibson

SAINT No: 1258
Name: I.M. Gibson
Career: 1958 - 1961
Appearances: 72
Position: Centre
Scores: T: 34 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 102

Representative Honours: Regional: Yorkshire

Gibson was a young centre who played 72 times for Northampton, scoring 34 tries. He made his debut on 20th September 1958 coming in as a late replacement for John Hyde #1089. Northampton won that match 14-0. He played a total of 19 times that season and the annual report states "I. M. Gibson is a young player with more than average natural ability who continued to improve throughout the season. First class match experience is all that is needed to consolidate his game".

Whilst Gibson was a regular starter for each of the next two seasons his form would vary. The 1959/60 annual report states "I. M. Gibson was not quite so consistent either in attack or defence. At times his play was brilliant which probably made an adequate ordinary game appear disappointing. His natural ability, speed and clever running however should ensure him the progress we all hope he will attain".



Similarly, the 1960/61 annual report states "I. M. Gibson of whom high hopes were entertained again experienced an uneven season, brilliant on occasion he frequently appeared to lack confidence at the crucial moment." At the end of that season he moved away from the area and didn't play for Northampton again.

J.W. Gilbert

SAINT No: 1173
Name: J. W. Gilbert
Career: 1952 - 1953
Appearances: 3
Position: Centre

Gilbert was a young centre of some promise, playing three times for Northampton in the 1952/53 season. By the end of the season, he had moved away from the area and didn't play for Northampton again.

Les Gilliland

SAINT No: 1287
Name: Lesley J. Gilliland
Career: 1962 - 1963
Appearances: 3

Gilliland made three appearances for Northampton during the 1962/63 season.

The annual report said, "L Gilliland ... showed considerable promise in his games".

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

B. Golbie

SAINT No: 1157
Name: B. Golbie
Career: 1951 - 1952
Appearances: 15
Position: Wing
Scores: T: 2 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 6

Golbie, a winger, played for Northampton for only the 1951/52 season, making 15 appearances and scoring two tries. His debut was in a 25 – 9 victory over United Services Portsmouth on the 29th September 1951.

The annual report for 1951/52 describes both he, and W Gurney #1140, as "most promising players, both being athletes on the running track of no mean ability and who would only improve with experience".



B. Golbie

Tommy Gray

SAINT No: 1074
Name: Tommy Gray
Career: 1946-1951
Appearances: 127
Position: Fly-half/Full-back
Scores: T: 24 C: 130 P: 24 DG: 20 Total Points: 470

Representative Honours: International: Scotland 3 caps

After the war, Scotsman Gray moved to the Northampton area from Fife in Scotland as the insurance company he worked for decided to relocate him. He had been a promising young player but during the war he was wounded in the leg as well as having his little toe and part of the next two toes amputated. His left leg shrank and was never as muscular as the right again. It was a long time before he could walk properly, and he was told he would never play rugby again.

However, on moving to Northampton, the heart of the footwear industry, he was able to have a boot tailor made that protected his damaged left foot. He started playing rugby again, gaining a new lease of life at the Saints, primarily at fly-half. Such was his form that at the age of 33 he was called into the Scotland team, winning three caps as a full-back.

He retired at the end of the 1950/51 season and the club's annual report stated "At fly half or full back his cleverness as the complete footballer was always apparent, and his departure will be difficult to overcome. A most accomplished kicker either to touch or place kicking, his personal score for the "Saints" in one season of 175 points, will stand for many years to come".

Gray was interviewed by Brian Barron in the 1990's for his book 'Oh when the Saints...' and said then of the rugby at that time "I have been watching the Lions in New Zealand and I couldn't believe how both fly-halves would just kick and kick. My old schoolmaster used to tell us to kick at fly-half as a last resort. Now it is the first resort."



Tommy Gray

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1182
Name: R. Gurney
Career: 1953 - 1954
Appearances: 2

Gurney made two appearances for Northampton in the 1953/54 season.

R. Gurney

W. Gurney

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No :1140
Name: W. Gurney
Career: 1950 - 1953
Appearances: 42
Position: Wing
Scores: T: 15 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 45

Gurney, a winger, played 42 times for Northampton over a three-year period. He made his debut in a 6 – 0 loss at home to Cardiff on the 30th October 1950. He played a further 4 times that season for the team.

It was in the 1951/52 season that he made a real impact, playing 30 matches and scoring 13 tries. The annual report describes both he, and B Golbie #1157, as "most promising players, both being athletes on the running track of no mean ability and who would only improve with experience. It was hoped that both would be of service to the club for many years to come".

In the following season, Gurney played mainly for the Wanderers (2nd XV) and only made seven first team appearances. The Wanderers section of the annual report for that season states "he was one of a number of backs who were on occasions disappointing but all of whom were young and expected to have benefited from the season, and be knocking on the door of next years "Saints" team".

Gurney did not play again for Northampton after the 1952/53 season.



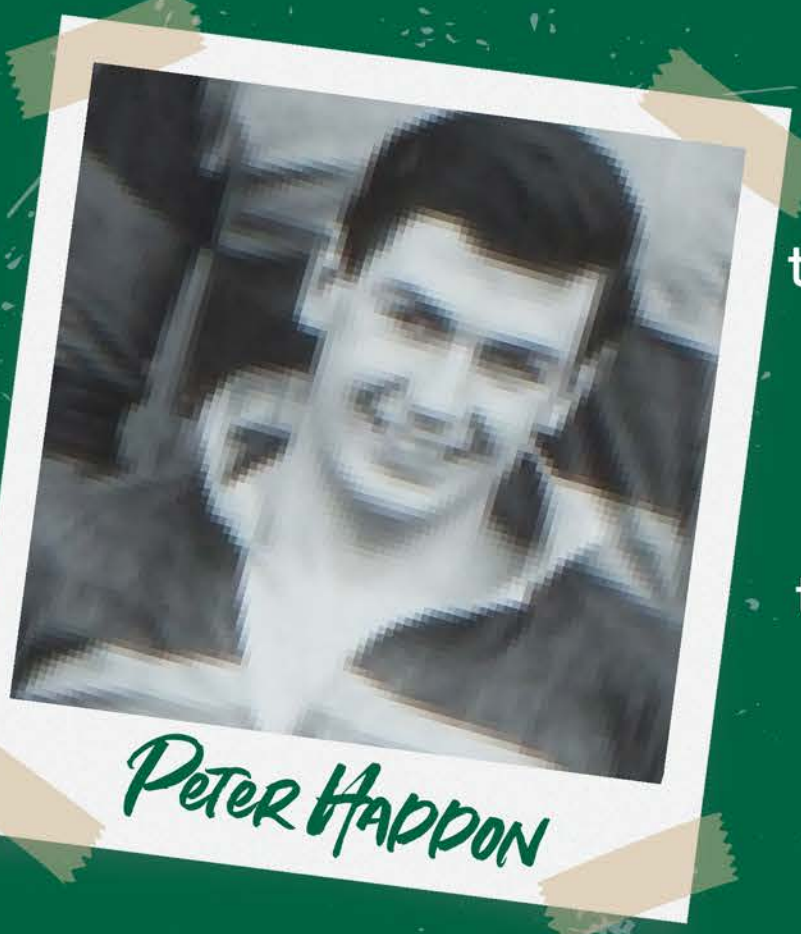
W. Gurney

Peter Haddon

SAINT No: 1158
Name: Peter Haddon
Career: 1951 - 1969
Appearances: 111
Position: Prop
Scores: T: 5 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 15

Haddon was a Northampton man through and through, making a total of 111 appearances for the first team over an 18-year period, as well as hundreds more appearances for the Wanderers (2nd XV) and Crusaders (3rd XV). Almost half of his 111 appearances came in the 1955/56 and 1956/57 seasons when he established himself as a regular starter. As annual reports regularly testified, whenever he was called up for the first team he could be relied on to provide solid, sound support. During the 1960's he also captained the Wanderers. Haddon also played for Leicester and Harlequins during his playing career.

It was off the pitch though where he had his biggest impact. In 1988, Haddon was part of the consortium that overthrew the old committee that had been running the club and introduced the first professional administrator and coach in English club rugby. Haddon then assisted with the coaching at the club helping many players adapt to the demands of the new professional era around the turn of the century. Additionally, he was the Club President during the 2002/03 season.


Peter Haddon

His lasting legacy though is the Franklin's Gardens stadium itself, one of the finest club rugby grounds in the country. An architect by trade, Haddon initially designed the Sturtridge Pavilion which opened in 1966.

Although a veteran by this stage, to recognise his off-field efforts he was selected to play in the opening match of the season against an R. E. G Jeeps XV which contained an all-international front row.

Subsequently, his firm Peter Haddon & Partners Architects designed and created the stadium as it is today. The Sturtridge Pavilion was demolished in 2016 to make way for the Barwell Stand.

A. M. Hall

SAINT No: 1119
Name: A. M. Hall
Career: 1949 - 1952
Appearances: 31
Position: Centre/Wing
Scores: T: 6 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 18

Hall started playing for Northampton during the 1949/50 season primarily as a winger, making 17 appearances. He was also selected for East Midlands that season, playing on the wing and scoring a try in a 13 – 5 victory over Devon on 4th February 1950.

The following season he switched to playing centre alongside Lewis Cannell #1043 and the annual report states "with L. B. Cannell and A. M. Hall in the centre the line was indeed a formidable one but unfortunately both of these players were unable to turn out very often." He made 13 appearances that season and one further appearance in the 1951/52 season.

A. R. Hall

SAINT No: 1229
Name: A. R. Hall
Career: 1956- 1957
Appearances: 1
Position: Second row

Hall made one appearance for Northampton, playing in the second row, against Moseley on the 28th September 1956. Northampton narrowly lost the match 8 – 11.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

H. G. Hall

SAINT No: 1105
Name: H. G. Hall
Career: 1948 - 1953
Appearances: 34
Position: Second row
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Hall was a second row forward who made 34 appearances for Northampton over a five-year period as well as turning out regularly for the Wanderers (2nd XV). He made his debut in the 1948/49 season and played six times with the annual report for that season stating, "Of the younger forwards H. G. Hall.....should have no difficulty in training on and reaching first class standard in the near future."

Like so many others in the post-war period, Hall had other commitments and the 1950/51 report states that when available he played soundly. For the next two seasons he played primarily for the Wanderers (2nd XV) with just the odd first team appearance.



H. G Hall

Bob Hamp

SAINT No: 910
Name: W. Robert Hamp
Career: 1939 - 1955
Appearances: 212
Position: Second row
Scores: T: 15 C: 0 P: 1 DG: 0 Total Points: 48

Representative Honours: Barbarians
Regional: East Midlands

Hamp, a hefty red-haired farmer, was one of those players who would have made many more than his 212 appearances for Northampton if it hadn't been for the war.

Bob, like so many Saints, learned his 'rugger' at Bedford School and made his first regular appearances for the Saints during the 1939/40 season. He played at wing on occasions, but his preference was in the second row where his weight and determination seemed to have an exhilarating effect on the rest of the pack

As vice-captain after the war, he did a great deal to get the club back into its stride and a good deal of the club's success at that time can be attributed to his unfailing energy. He was described as a first-class clubman. The 1950/51 annual report said of Hamp "that again he was a tower of strength, a most invaluable type of player in any pack and one whose true worth is not appreciated to the full until he is not playing."

It was fitting therefore that Bob should skipper the Saints during the 1947/48 season when the club was considered by many to be the team of the year. He played in a number of England trials but was never selected for his country.



Bob Hamp

Andrew Hancock

SAINT No: 1317
Name: Andrew W. Hancock
Career: 1964 – 1968
Appearances: 73
Position: Winger
Scores: T: 44 C: 2 P: 0 DG: 2 Total Points: 142

Representative Honours:
Regional: Staffordshire, Eastern Counties & London Universities.
International: 3 caps for England 1965/66 season

Hancock joined the club from Cambridge RFC thanks to David Powell #1307, who brought Hancock along with him when he signed for Saints.

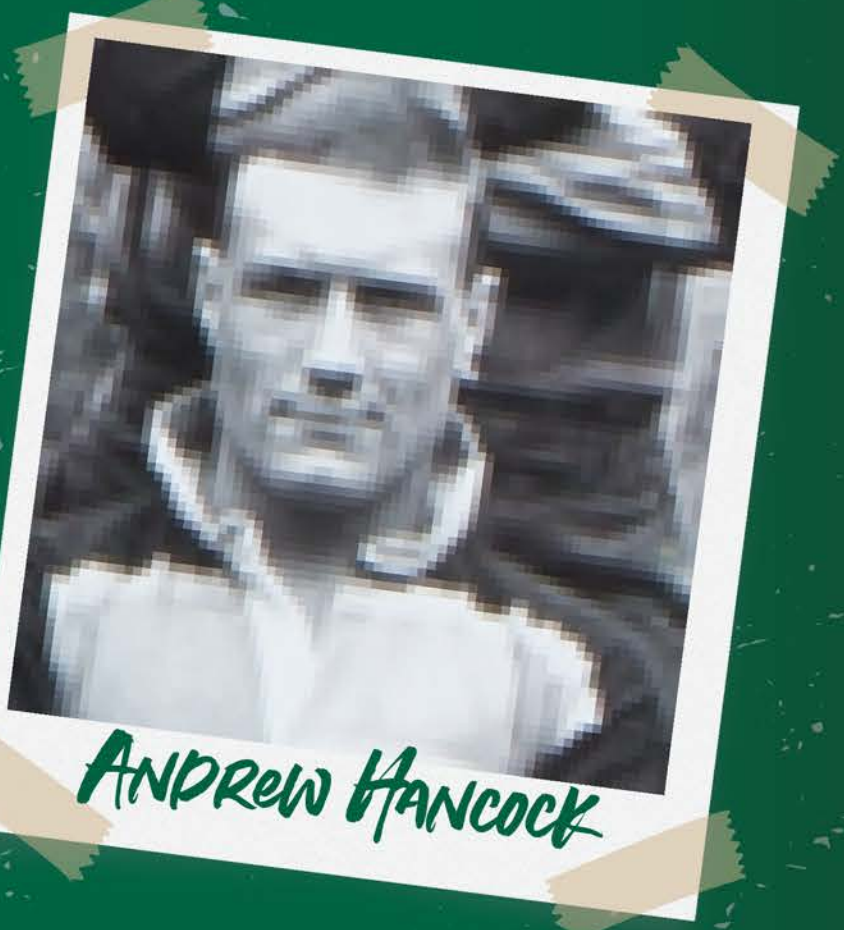
He was the top try scorer for Saints during the 1964/65 season with an incredible 28 tries. After scoring three tries in 27 minutes for Saints against Pontypool in 1965, the Green 'un sports newspaper featured the headline 'Hancock's Half Hour'.

His crowning glory came during the England vs Scotland game on the 20th March 1965 when he scored one of the all-time great tries, running the length of the pitch in the last minute to secure a 3-3 draw.

On his England try he said "It had been pouring with rain, and I got two passes - one of which I'd dropped - until the last minutes. Micky Weston said 'run' and off I set. Though a tackler came across, I managed to get past him and then it was up to the full-back. Had it been dry he would have put me straight into the stands, but he lost his footing. The covering defence was coming across and I looked inside, it was Budge Rodgers who was covered, so I didn't pass. Luckily enough, it just held them up for a fraction of a second and then it was over the try line."

Hancock also led Staffordshire to the county championship final in 1970, beating Gloucestershire.

During his career he also played f or Chelmsford, Sidcup, London Universities and Wasps.



J. Harper

SAINT No: 1362
Name: J. Harper
Career: 1968 - 1969
Appearances: 3
Position: Flanker

Harper was involved as flanker in three games for the Saints during the 1968/69 season, including in the starting XV for a home game against Bristol on 25th January 1969.

David Harrison



SAINT No: 1318
Name: David Harrison
Career: 1964 - 1965
Appearances: 1

Harrison made only one appearance for the Saints during the 1964/65 season

John Hawgood

SAINT No: 1242
Name: John A. Hawgood
Career: 1957 - 1967
Appearances: 16
Position: Full-back
Scores: T: 1 C: 5 P: 2 DG: 1 Total Points: 22
Representative Honours: Army, Civil Service

Hawgood began playing rugby at 12 years of age at Daventry Grammar School. At 13, he joined a local junior club and represented Northamptonshire and East Midlands at schoolboy level. He made his debut for Northampton at full-back in the 1957/58 season, his only appearance before making a further eight appearances the following season.

After only two appearances in the 1959/60 season, John left the Saints for Bath, where he played from 1961–1964. He was known as an innovative kicker, becoming one of the first kickers to dispense with the old-style toe-ended kicks at goal and introducing the then revolutionary "round the corner" style.

At the end of the 1965/66 season, John re-appeared for Northampton playing three matches in April against Moseley, Aberavon and Old Alleynians.

During his career he also played for Moseley but later moved to Orkney due to work commitments with Ordnance Survey. He ended his playing days there and only retired from the 1st team at the age of 45.

John had the honour of being President of Orkney Rugby Club for 3 years between 2009 and 2012



John Hawgood

Richard Hawkes

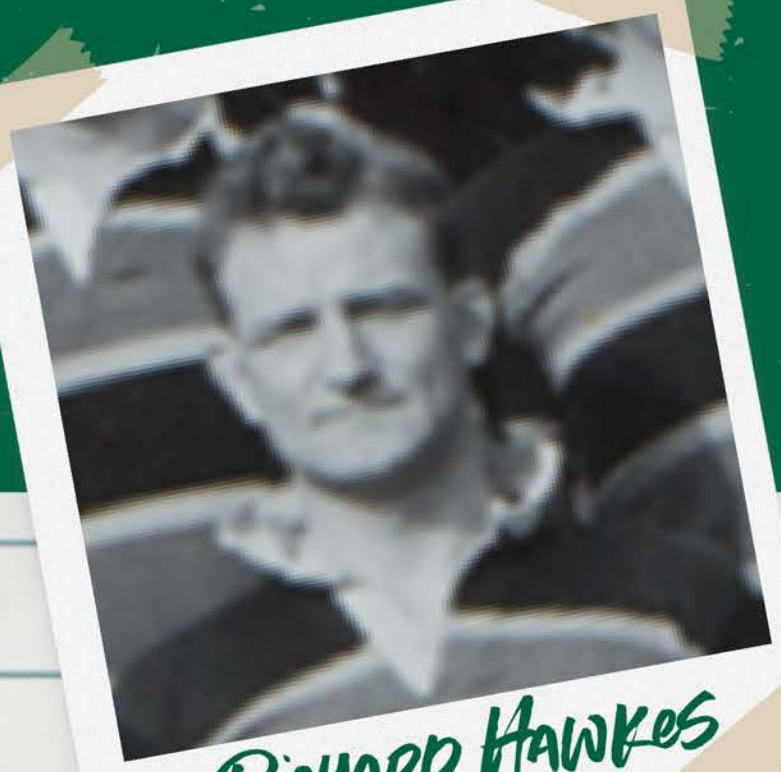
SAINT No: 1087
Name: R.ichard C. Hawkes
Career: 1947 - 1956
Appearances: 171
Position: Second row
Scores: T: 12 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 36

Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands
International: Barbarians: 2 appearances

Hawkes also known as "Dick" was born in Yeovil, Somerset before moving to Northampton after the war to work for Travis & Arnold. Between 1948 and 1954 he was a tower of strength in the Northampton second row, averaging around 30 games a season. He was especially well known for his line out prowess. The 1950/51 annual report states he was playing better than ever that season and in the line out "had no superior in the country"

He played in numerous England trials but was never capped. According to Brian Barron's 'Nothing Without Labour' there was no doubting he had the ability, but all his contemporaries pointed to one big weakness – laziness. "He would do one lap of the pitch and that was his training over with us for the evening" according to Ronnie Knapp #1075.

In 1954, he moved away from Northampton, continuing his rugby career at Bristol. He made one final appearance for Northampton as a guest in the 1955 Boxing Day match against Penarth.



Richard Hawkes

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

C.W Hawkins

SAINT No: 1288
Name: C. W. Hawkins
Career: 1962 - 1963
Appearances: 5
Position: Full-back
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 2 DG: 0 Total Points: 9

Hawkins made five appearances for Northampton during the 1962/63 season.

The annual report stated, "C. W. Hawkins had very few opportunities at full-back, but when called upon, played soundly."

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



Laurie Hawtin

SAINT No: 1319
Name: Laurie J. Hawtin
Career: 1964 - 1968
Appearances: 59
Position: Back row forward
Scores: T: 9 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 27

Hawtin made 59 appearances for Northampton between 1964-1968 as a back row forward.

The annual report for 1964/65 states: "Toward the end of the season L. Hawtin challenged strongly for a regular place in the back row, big and fast and an elusive runner with the ball in his hands he can be an acquisition to the team."

Laurie Hawtin

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1141
Name: Don Hayward
Career: 1950 - 1951
Appearances: 1
Position: Second row
Representative Honours: Wales (not whilst at Northampton)

Hayward was a Welsh international second row forward who was playing for Newport at the time of his one appearance for Northampton. This appearance was as part of the 1951 Easter tour against Pontypool. Northampton had picked up a number of injuries the previous day against Llanelli and were short of players and so Hayward who lived in Pontypool and had previously played for them helped the Northampton team out.

Saints lost the game 6 – 3 but scored a great try through John Hyde #1089 which was only the second try that Pontypool had conceded at home all season

Don Hayward

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1243
Name: G. J. A . Head
Career: 1957 - 1959
Appearances: 25
Position: Second row
Scores: T: 2 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 1 Total Points: 9

Head, a second row forward, made his debut for Northampton on the 12th October 1957 in a 3-8 loss to Cardiff at Franklins Gardens. His second appearance on 16th November 1957 was more successful when Northampton beat Bedford 14-3 with Head, surprisingly for a second row forward, scoring a drop goal.

In the 21 appearances he made during the 1957/58 season he also scored 2 tries the first against Llanelli in a 27-3 victory on 7th December 1957 and the second against Old Alleynians on 26th April 1958 as part of a 23-3 win.

He only played 4 times for Northampton in the following season with his final match being against Oxford University on 18th February 1959.

G.J.A Head

Jim Hetherington

SAINT No: 1195
Name: Jim G .G. Hetherington
Career: 1954 - 1960
Appearances: 117
Position: Full-back
Scores: T: 13 C: 42 P: 13 DG: 1 Total Points: 219
Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands & International: England 6 caps

Hetherington was introduced to the club by fellow player and Cambridge University student David Bland #1150. At that time he was more interested in getting his blue at soccer but Don White #1028 persuaded him to focus on rugby, advice that he took and he got his blue in rugby in the 1955/56 season.

He made his debut for Northampton on 11th September 1954 against Llanelli at Stradey Park and match reports from the game spoke of him as a future England international although it would take another 3 years before this happened. Jim was known as an adventurous and dynamic player throughout his career. He made his England debut on 1st February 1958 in a brutal match against Australia that England won at the death as Jim collapsed with concussion. Later that month he was again concussed playing for England against Ireland and didn't play again that season.

He was back the following season and gained a further 4 England caps but at the end of January 1960 he announced his retirement due to ongoing problems with concussion.

The annual report for the 1959/60 season states "It is difficult to make comparisons with past players but it is certain there has never been a better full-back throughout the history of the club.

Everyone took a keen interest in watching the progress of the young player from Cambridge University, a comparative novice at rugby football, but who showed an instinctive aptitude for the game from his first game with the Crusaders (3rd XV). Gaining his blue at Cambridge he afterwards went on to the East Midlands, England Trials, and eventually gained six England caps which but for serious injury would have been more".



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1301
Name: R. Hill
Career: 1963 - 1965
Appearances: 41
Position: Scrum-half
Scores: T: 2 C: P: DG: Total Points: 6

Representative Honours: Combined Services

Hill was a scrum half and made 41 appearances for Northampton between 1963 - 1965.

The annual report for 1964/65 states: "R. Hill played very well at scrum half until the R.A.F required his services".

He played for the Combined Services against Australia at Twickenham on the 26th December 1966 at half back.

R Hill

Fred Hobbs

SAINT No: 1142
Name: Fred J. Hobbs
Career: 1950 - 1960
Appearances: 62
Position: Fly-half/Centre
Scores: T: 4 C: 26 P: 16 DG: 1 Total Points: 115

Hobbs played for Saints 62 times between 1950-1960 but never established himself as a regular first teamer in an era when on occasions Northampton could field an entire international back line. The 1954/55 annual report describes Hobbs as being "often called upon to play in different positions in the team and always demonstrated good all round football ability".

In 1950 when first called up to play for Saints he was playing at Old Northamptonians but they were happy to release him when the Saints needed him often at short notice.
In the 1953/54 season Hobbs moved to the Northampton club permanently and whilst regularly filling in for the first XV when required he soon established himself as a key member of the Wanderers (2nd XV).

As such he was more readily available for selection at short notice but was never able to establish himself as a regular first team player. His 16 appearances for the Saints in 1955/56 was the most he had in any season but he became a true clubman – he was captain of the Wanderers in the 1956/57 and 1957/58 seasons and then from 1959 to 1965 he was the captain of the Crusaders (3rd XV).

The 1964/65 annual report describes Hobbs as always leading the Crusaders with enthusiasm and experience as well as instilling a good team spirit



Fred Hobbs

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

J. Hobbs

SAINT No: 1159
Name: J. Hobbs
Career: 1951 - 1956
Appearances: 8
Position: Scrum-half

Hobbs was actually a member of Old Northamptonians Rugby Club but during the 1951/52 season he was called upon a number of times to deputise for the Saints regular scrum half Dr E. J. O'Mullane #1093 who was unavailable due to professional duties.

The 1951/52 annual report notes "J. Hobbs of the Old Northamptonians also gave useful service, and we are indebted to the "Old Boys" for their sporting action in releasing him, often at the last minute.

John Hodgkins

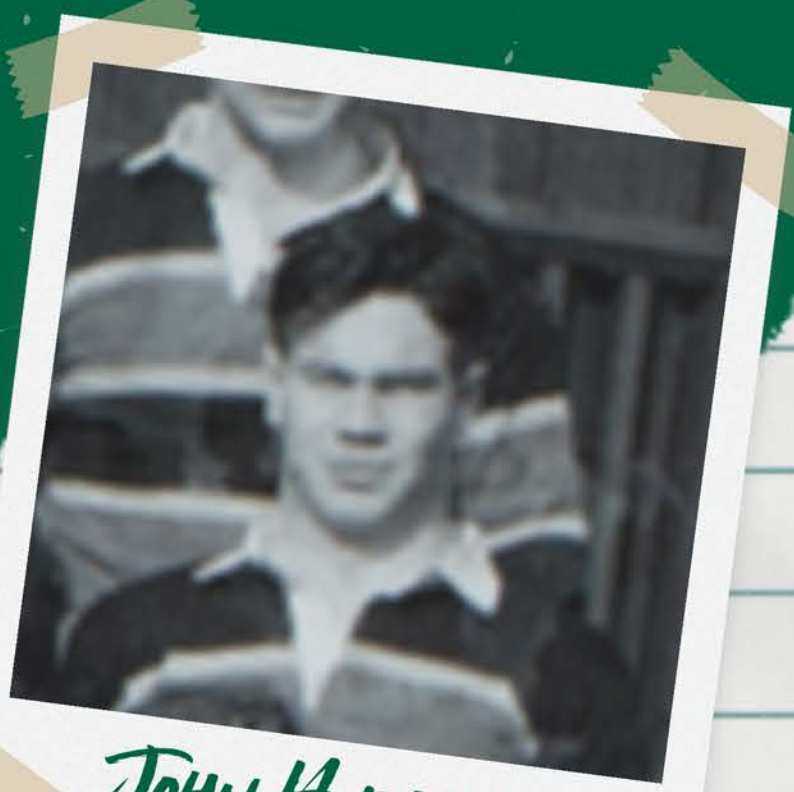
SAINT No: 1120
Name: John Hodgkins
Career: 1949 - 1955
Appearances: 79
Position: Full-back
Scores: T: 1 C: 1 P: 1 DG: 0 Total Points: 8

Hodgkins broke through into the Northampton team at full-back in the 1949/50 season making four appearances. It was hoped that with George Adkins #1029 coming towards the end of his career at Northampton that Hodgkins would be his successor in the full-back role. However, the annual report of 1950/51 states "an injury in our final trial game deprived the club of the services of J. Hodgkins one of the most promising of young players upon whom we had pinned our hopes. He was unable to recover his fitness throughout the season, but we hope he will be with us next season". He did return to Northampton and played over 20 games a season for the next three seasons with the 1951/52 annual report stating "J. Hodgkins fulfilled all expectations and proved a particularly sound player. It was most unfortunate that he found it difficult to travel during term time...."

As a teacher this was a problem throughout his career although apparently it eased slightly when he moved schools to teach in Nottingham in the 1953/54 season

However, the following season 1954/55 he made only 2 appearances before having to retire from rugby due to his work commitments.

Although he made 79 appearances, Hodgkins only scored one try for Northampton which was against Pontypool in a 3 – 6 loss at home on 24th January 1953.



John Hodgkins

R Hogan

SAINT No: 1196
Name: R. Hogan
Career: 1954 - 1956
Appearances: 13
Position: Back row
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Hogan made 13 appearances in the back row for Northampton across two seasons , 1954/55 and 1955/56. He played 5 times in the former scoring a try in an 8-6 victory against St Mary's Hospital on 2nd April 1955.

He made a further 8 appearances the following season.

M. Homan



SAINT No: 1279
Name: M. Homan
Career: 1961 - 1962
Appearances: 3
Position: Back-row forward
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Homen played three times during the 1961/62 season. He made his debut against Neath on January 13th 1962, and was only to play twice more

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1143
Name: Denis C. Hooker
Career: 1950 - 1955
Appearances: 104
Position: Centre/Fly-half/Wing
Scores: T: 19 C: P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 67

Hooker started playing as a centre for Northampton in the 1950/51 season making seven appearances that year. It was the 1951/52 season when he really made his mark though playing 26 times and the annual report stating "Another comparative newcomer to the Saints, D. Hooker played some excellent games in the centre and toward the end of the season at fly-half. A most versatile and complete footballer he is a distinct asset to the team, and we trust that he will continue to be available in the future."

He continued to be available for the next three seasons and was a mainstay in the centre with the 1952/53 report stating "D. C. Hooker again demonstrated his cleverness in the centre and on the wing, his cool craft and skill being invaluable."

He retired at the end of the 1954/55 season having reached a century of appearances for Northampton and scored 19 tries during his career.

Denis Hooker

R Horwood

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1259
Name: Roger Horwood
Career: 1958 - 1975
Appearances: 209
Position: Hooker
Scores: T: 9 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 27

Without the input of Horwood, Saints supporters today may well not be able to appreciate Franklin's Gardens and its superb facilities.

As well as making over 200 appearances in the front row as a player across 17 seasons, a period interrupted by two years' national service with the RAF. Roger made a significant impact in organising countless events in the old Sturtridge Pavilion which helped provide the funds for the Club to purchase Franklin's Gardens.

And as a member of the Gang of Seven, he helped transform the future of the club in the 1988 revolution.

He also smoothed the transition to professionalism as a member of the management committee, before becoming Club Secretary for a decade, President for two years, joining the board for five, and he has been an honorary life member since 2001.

Roger was also a big believer in an inclusive approach to the Saints' past, and in 1989 joined forces with Mick Roper #1342 and Mike Warrington to establish the Crooked Hooker.

In 2018 Roger was rightfully honoured with an induction into the Northampton Saints Hall of Fame, a fitting tribute to his outstanding legacy and mpact on the club.



Roger Horwood

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

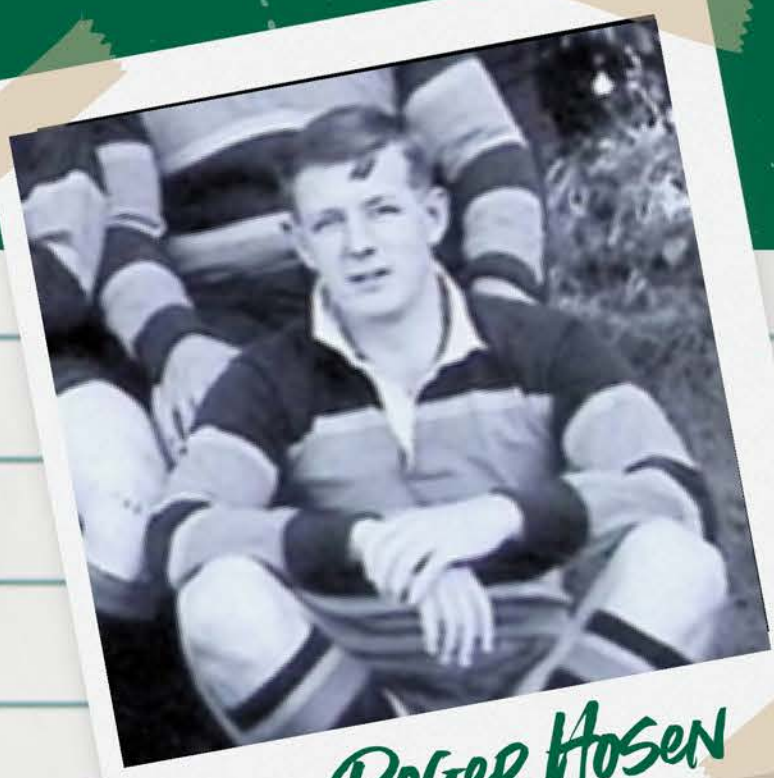
FOUNDATION

Roger Hosen

SAINT No: 1212
Name: Roger Hosen
Career: 1955 - 1967
Appearances: 250
Position: Full-back
Scores: T: 71 C: 295 P: 200 DG: 20 Total Points: 1463
Representative Honours: Regional: Cornwall
International: England (10 caps) & Barbarians: 2 appearances

Hosen moved to Northampton from Cornwall in 1955 when he got a teaching job at Northampton Grammar School. Although best known as a full-back for his first few seasons at Northampton he was something of a utility player, playing at either centre, wing or full-back as needed, and it was only on the retirement of Jim Hetherington #1195 in 1960 that he became the regular full-back.

Roger was known as an exciting attacking player who was an excellent kicker of the ball and the 1956/57 annual report states "R .W. Hosen one of the most colourful players in the club had a varied season, for he played in three different positions, centre, wing and full-back. His prodigious kicking was a great asset and responsible for more than one victory".



Roger Hosen

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

Roger Hosen

Over the next decade he played 250 games for Northampton being successful with over 500 kicks at goal as well as scoring 71 tries. His total career points score of 1463 is the record for any Northampton player in the amateur period.

During the late 1950s and early 1960s he featured in many England trial games but didn't attain a full cap until he toured New Zealand with England in the summer of 1963.

As Hosen progressed in his teaching career, he tried to ensure he was working at a school near enough to Northampton to ensure he could return to Northampton to train and play. However, when he took up a post at Cheltenham College the distance proved too far, and he joined Bristol. His last game was on 14th September 1966 a 14-3 victory away at Nottingham. His joining Bristol refreshed his career and he played every match for England in the 1967 Five nations tournament.



Roger Hosen

J. Howkins

SAINT No: 1230
Name: J. Howkins
Career: 1956 - 1957
Appearances: 1
Position: Winger

Howkins played on the wing once for Northampton against Wasps on 15th December 1956.

The match ended in a 8 – 8 draw.

Jim Hype

SAINT No: 1213
Name: Jim Hyde
Career: 1955 - 1956
Appearances: 7
Position: Back row
Scores: T: 2 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 6

Hyde made seven appearances for Northampton in the back row, all of which were in the first couple of months of the 1955/56 season. He scored a try in a 14-6 victory over Cheltenham on 10th September 1955.

J.P. Hyde



JOHN HYDE

SAINT No: 1089
Name: John P. Hyde
Career: 1947 - 1963
Appearances: 308
Position: Wing
Scores: T: 163 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 489

Representative Honours:
Regional: East Midlands & International: England 2 caps

Hyde one of Northampton's truly great post war players learnt his rugby like many others at Wellingborough Grammar School where he later returned as the school's sports master. He made his debut for Northampton aged 17, whilst still at school, in the 1947/48 season. In his first full season 1948/49 he scored 15 tries in 30 games and formed a deadly wing partnership with Irishman Niall Bailey #1085.

A year later in 1950 aged just 19 Hyde won his two England caps making his debut in a 6 – 3 defeat to France. His career though was dogged by injury and in 1951 he broke his leg in a trial match and had to have a metal plate inserted in his leg. He lost some pace as a result and developed more of a jinking style. He never regained his England place but was a stalwart for Northampton over the next decade when not injured.

Between 1951-1962 according to the club's annual reports there were only 3 seasons when he did not miss a substantial number of games through injury and yet when he was fit he was a devastating player as his try return of more than one try every two games shows.

In the 1959/60 season he was the team's vice captain and when called upon "skippered the team in his usual quietly efficient manner and again demonstrated what a great player he is." Upon his retirement in 1962 he was described as a great club man who "gave unstinting service both on and off the pitch."

Ron Jacobs

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1121
Name: Ron Jacobs
Career: 1949 - 1966
Appearances: 470
Position: Prop
Scores: T: 19 C: P: DG: Total Points: 57
Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands
International: England 29 caps
Barbarians: Yes

Ron Jacobs holds the record for the most appearances in Northampton Saints' history, having played an astonishing 470 games over 17 years. In today's era of increasingly physical professional rugby, that figure is unlikely to ever be surpassed—especially given Jacobs played in the demanding position of tight-head prop. Over the course of his remarkable career, he scored 19 tries and captained the club twice: first from 1959 to 1961, and again in his final season, 1965/66.

Decades before the introduction of health and nutrition plans, Jacobs maintained a spectacular level of fitness thanks to his work as a farmer. But his Saints career might never have been as Leicester and Bedford were also potential homes for the agriculture graduate fresh from Nottingham University.

During his studies Jacobs had played for Peterborough, former home of fellow Saints prop Mike Berridge. Whether this played any part in his decision is uncertain, but thankfully he opted for Franklin's Gardens and after 16 matches in his first season of 1949/50 Jacobs - who hailed from Whittlesey in Cambridgeshire - became a first-team regular.



Ron Jacobs

Ron Jacobs

Like so many Saints of the 1950s, Jacobs, nicknamed 'Badger', had a distinguished representative career. His second year at the club was augmented by selection for the East Midlands County Championship winning side of 1951. Jacobs also played for the Barbarians regularly and was on the invitation side's first overseas tour to Canada in 1957; a trip during which he fractured his hip , an injury that never really went away.

This recognition came at the end of Jacobs' first international season in which he debuted for England against Wales at Twickenham., 28 caps would follow, and with his country he would win the Grand Slam in 1957 (England's first since 1928), the Championship in 1958 and the Triple Crown and Calcutta Cup in 1960. His last international campaign in 1963/64 coincided with his only match as England captain a 6-3 win over France in Paris.

After retirement Jacobs continued to play a full part in rugby life. He became president of Northampton, the East Midlands twice ,including the union's centenary season , and the Rugby Football Union in 1983/84.

Jacobs' legacy lives on at Franklin's Gardens, where his name is proudly displayed on a brass plaque in the players' tunnel. Although illness prevented him from attending the official opening of the Church's Stand, his contribution to the club was later honoured when he was posthumously inducted into the Northampton Saints Hall of Fame. He passed away in November 2002 in his birthplace of Whittlesey.



Ron Jacobs

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1160
Name: R. Jacques
Career: 1951 - 1952
Appearances: 1
Position: Centre

Jacques played once, in the centre, for Northampton on Monday 29th October 1951 against Cardiff. The Northampton back line that day was much changed from the team who had played against Leicester two days earlier. Cardiff ran out comfortable winners 20 – 0, scoring 6 tries in the process.

R Jacques

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1197
Name: M. James
Career: 1954 - 1961
Appearances: 22
Position: Wing
Scores: T: 9 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 27

James made his debut on the wing for Northampton towards the end of the 1954/55 season and played three games that year scoring his first try in the 39 – 3 victory over Old Alleynians on 23rd April 1954.

Over six seasons he played a total of 22 games scoring nine tries and was well regarded at the club but never managed to hold down a regular first team place, making anything between two and five appearances each season. Perhaps it was not surprising he could not hold down a regular spot as Northampton had a star studded back line during that period including international wingers John Hyde #1089 and Frank Sykes #1203.

Nevertheless he regularly played for the Wanderers (2nd XV) and was a more than able replacement when required. The 1957/58 annual report refers to him continuing to improve.

In November 1960 he played three matches against London Irish, Coventry and his final game against Bedford, a 14 – 5 victory for Northampton.

M. James

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1260
Name: Peter James
Career: 1958 - 1959
Appearances: 1
Position: Back row

For most of the 1958/59 season James played in the back row for the Crusaders (3rd XV) but for the final games of the season on 25th April 1959 he was selected to play for Northampton against Old Alleynians at Franklins Gardens. Northampton won the match 29-5.

During his rugby career Peter also played for local junior clubs Heathens, B.B.O.B. and Old Scouts.

Later on in life Peter played for the Latter Day Saints a team made of former Northampton players and went on tour with them to Canada in 1979.

Peter James

Dickie Jeeps

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1174
Name: Richard E. G. Jeeps
Career: 1952 - 1965
Appearances: 2 73
Position: Scrum-half
Scores: T: 48 C: 5 P: 0 DG: 2 Total Points: 160

Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands
International: England 24 caps
British Lions: 12 caps 1956, 1959 and 1962 tours & Barbarians

In 1955, the uncapped Jeeps also known as "Dickie" travelled to South Africa as the Lions' third choice scrum-half; a kind of insurance policy to be activated when his elders and betters either fancied a break or suffered one. When he retired from international rugby seven years later, no-one had played more tests for the touring side.

That year he had only a single England trial and had been named as a reserve for his country before being chosen for the touring party.

Once in South Africa though, the speed and consistent smoothness of his service from the base of the scrum made him the preferred partner of Welsh stand-off genius Cliff Morgan.



Dickie Jeeps

Dickie Jeeps

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

He played in 12 of the tour's 20 matches and all four in the Test series, which the Lions drew 2-2. Morgan's faith in his junior half-back partner paid off most importantly in the epic first Test, when Jeeps' perfect pass enabled him to make the run that put the tourists ahead just seconds after an injury to Reg Higgins had reduced them to 14 men.

He remains the Saints' most capped British and Irish Lion and has long since passed into the pantheon of club legends.

He was a naturally gifted sportsman who averaged 100 as a schoolboy batsman and who nearly turned down a pre-season trial at the Saints as it would have meant missing a cricket match.

That was at the start of 1952/53 and he went on to have a 13-year career at Franklin's Gardens that took in 273 appearances and 48 tries. He captained the club in 1958.

As well as being the first choice Lions number nine for three tours he also held down the England starting spot for 24 tests and captained his nation 13 times.

Later in life Jeeps became an England selector, from 1965-1971, and unashamedly admitted that one of his yardsticks for forming an opinion on a player's suitability for England was; would he get into the Northampton side?



Fred Jeffcoate

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No 813
Name: Fred Jeffcoate
Career: 1934 - 1950
Appearances: 183
Position: Second row
Scores: T: 15 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 45
Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands

A local man Jeffcoate started off his rugby career playing for local team Northampton Men's Own but in 1935 was selected to play for Northampton in the second row where he became a club stalwart playing regularly both before and after the war.

During the war he served as a tank troop sergeant and was the only survivor when his tank was hit in the battle for Caen shortly after D Day. He did though suffer severe burns which required major skin grafts. He spent many months in hospital recovering from his burns and shrapnel wounds and was discharged from the army due to his injuries in 1945. He was determined to get back playing rugby for Northampton and on the 3rd November 1945 played for Northampton against New Zealand services and by the end of the season according to the annual report was playing as well as he ever had.

Over the next few years he was one of the key players Northampton rebuilt the club around. He played 34 times in the 1947/48 season and the annual report for that year states "F. Jeffcoate probably played better than at any time in his career, and the club owes much to him for his great loyalty and support to the team".

Over the next couple of seasons he was at the veteran stage of his career and not a regular starter but repeatedly came to the club's assistance when required always prepared to give of his best.



Fred Jeffcoate

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



D. JENKINS

SAINT No: 1320
Name: D. Jenkins
Career: 1964 - 1968
Appearances: 45
Position: Scrum-half
Scores: T: 10 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 1 Total Points: 33

Jenkins made 45 appearances for Northampton between 1964-1968 at scrum-half.

The annual report for 1964/65 states: "A young player who helped out and showed encouraging form was D. Jenkins at scrum-half".

D. JENKINS

Andy Johnson

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1214
Name: Andy G. Johnson
Career: 1956 - 1965
Appearances: 303
Position: Hooker
Scores: T: 7 C 0: P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 23

Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands

Johnson was another Saints product of Northampton Grammar School and was a schoolboy international. He made his debut for Northampton on 3rd November 1956, as a 16 year old whilst still at school, in a 6-0 victory over London Irish at Franklin's Gardens. However, over the next few years he only played intermittently for Northampton as his studies allowed.

It was the 1961/62 season when he finally established himself as the first choice full time hooker for Northampton. According to annual reports of the time his hooking of the ball was first rate and he more than held his own in open play but he was susceptible to the odd injury. On the 24th September 1966, in a match against Blackheath, he received a kick to the head which resulted in a blood clot on the brain and an 18 month absence from the game. Despite initial concerns he returned to playing and extended his career to the 1974/75 season, playing a total of 19 seasons.

After retiring from playing, he became a Team Selector and Club Secretary and during the 1980's was able to watch his son Ashley Johnson #1489 playing for the Saints.



Andy Johnson

B. Johnson

SAINT No: 1231
Name: B. Johnson
Career: 1956 - 1957
Appearances: 1
Position: Second row

Johnson played once for Northampton in the second row against Nottingham on the 22nd December 1956 a match the Saints won 25 – 8.

P.A. Johnson

SAINT No: 1267
Name: P. A. Johnson
Career: 1959 - 1960
Appearances: 1
Position: Centre

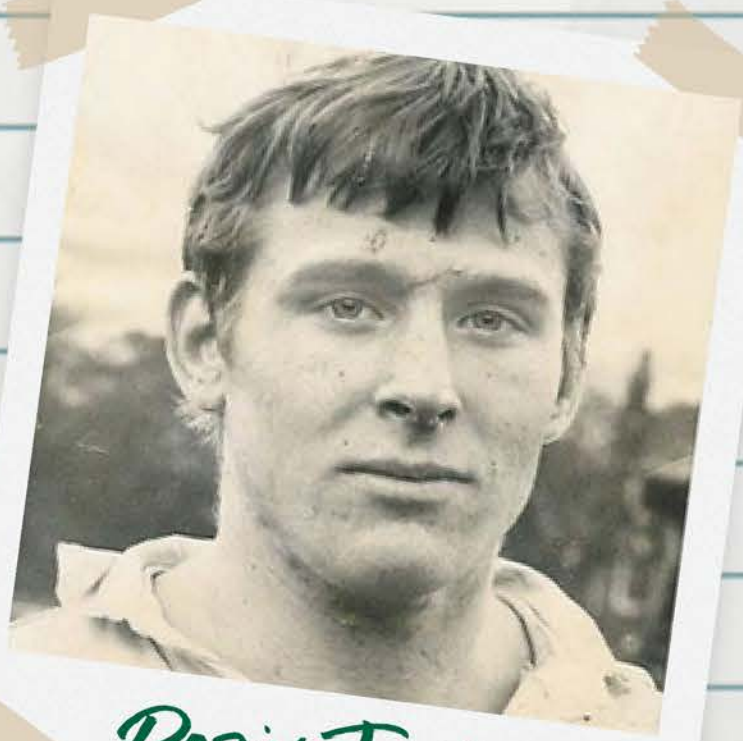
Johnson made his only appearance for Northampton in the final match of the 1959/60 season against Old Alleynians on 30th April 1960.

He played in the centre and Saints won comfortably 36 – 0.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1302
Name: Robin L. K. Jolliffe
Career: 1963 - 1966
Appearances: 21
Position: Winger
Scores: T: 9 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 27

Representative Honours: Barbarians

Jolliffe made 21 appearances for Northampton between 1963-1966 as a winger.

The annual report for the 1964/65 season states: "R. L. K. Jolliffe is a player well above the average".

He was a Cambridge Blue and went on to play for Richmond, and made a handful of appearances for Billericay RFC.

Robin Jolliffe

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



GLYNN JONES

SAINT No: 1090
Name: G.lynn Jones
Career: 1947 - 1951
Appearances: 26
Position: Fly-half
Scores: T: 3 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 9

Jones was a Welsh fly half who was exceptionally quick. He had played as a youngster for Neath and Northampton had great hopes for him when he turned up. However, his four seasons at Northampton were blighted with injury and as he was competing for selection against the likes of Ronnie Knapp #1075 and Tommy Gray #1074 he never got a decent run of games in the first team.

GLYNN JONES

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1175
Name: P. Jones
Career: 1 952 - 1956
Appearances: 18
Position: Scrum-half

Jones was a scrum-half who joined Northampton at the same time as Dickie Jeeps #1174 and essentially deputised for Jeeps when he was unavailable for his first two seasons.

He made his debut against Old Millhillians in a 11-9 loss on 11th October 1952 and played a further five times that season and seven times the following season.

The annual report of 1953/54 indicates Jones form improved in that season. However, due to National Service he was unavailable for the 1954/55 season but returned in 1955/56 when he made a further 5 appearances filling in for Jeeps' absence on occasions.

P. Jones

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

C. D. KING

SAINT No: 1215
Name: C. D. King
Career: 1955 - 1963
Appearances: 5
Position: Wing
Scores: T: 3 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 9

Over an eight year period King made five appearances for Northampton, on the wing, making his debut in the 1955/56 season.

The following season 1956/57 he made two appearances the first against London Irish on the 3rd November 1956 and the second against Coventry on the 10th November 1956 a match in which he scored 2 tries in a 9 – 3 victory.

He played once the following season, 1957/58 but it was to be another five years before he made his fifth and final appearance in the 1962/63 season.

L. Kirton

SAINT No: 1232
Name: L. Kirton
Career: 1956 - 1957
Appearances: 2
Position: Full-back

Kirton was called into the Northampton team to play full-back as a late replacement for their first home match of the 1956/57 season against Cheltenham, a match the Saints won 44 – 6.

He played one further match for Northampton later that season.

I. Knapp

SAINT No: 1363
Name: I. Knapp
Career: 1968 - 1969
Appearances: 1

Knapp made one appearance for the Saints during the 1968/69 season.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1075
Name: E. Ronald Knapp
Career: 1946 - 1952
Appearances: 147
Position: Wing/Centre/ Fly-half
Scores: T: 65 C: 9 P: 2 DG: 11 Total Points: 252
Representative Honours: Regional: Cambridge University

Knapp grew up in Cardiff and learnt his rugby there. Before the war he started at Cambridge University and as he had some distant relatives in Northampton Jerry Gordon #568 contacted him suggesting he come and play for Northampton. Ronnie was informed though that Northampton were just a team of hard slogging forwards and he should play for Leicester which he duly did.

After an eventful war, serving in the Royal Navy, on being discharged he got a job at British Timken in Northampton and this time he did join the Saints at the age of 27.

He could play at fly-half, centre or wing and gave great service to the Saints in all three positions. Although small in stature he was powerfully built with a rare turn of speed and flare for opportunism and finding openings in an opposition defence. He was also something of a drop goal specialist and during the 1947/48 season he scored 100 points for Saints including 21 tries and 8 drop goals.

RONNIE KNAPP

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1327
Name: Robert 'Bob' E. Kottler
Career: 1965 - 1971
Appearances: 94
Position: Scrum Half
Scores: T: 7 C: P: DG: Total Points: 21

Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands, British University

Robert 'Bob' Kottler made 94 appearances for the Saints playing at scrum half between 1965 and 1971.

Bob said about making his rugby debut "I made my first class debut, a friendly game, playing against Warwickshire at Coventry, when Warwickshire were top of the pile, and that was a very daunting, but such a wonderful experience. We won and I remember, again, vividly, being taken off, had to have stitches in my face. As you know, in those days, no substitutes, so it was a totally different scene to these days. But it was a joy. Absolute joy."

Robert Kottler

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



ROGER LANDON

SAINT No: 1339
Name: C Roger Landon
Career: 1966 - 1975
Appearances: 94
Position: Back row forward
Scores: T: 7 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 23

Landon made 94 appearances for Northampton between 1966-1975 as a back row forward.

In the 1963/64 season, he joined Leamington RFC from Kenilworth school and in the 1964/65 season he was their top scorer with 88 points. He left Leamington for Rugby RFC at end of that season before being picked up by Northampton.

During the 1969/70 season he also played for Bedford Blues RFC.

ROGER LANDON

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

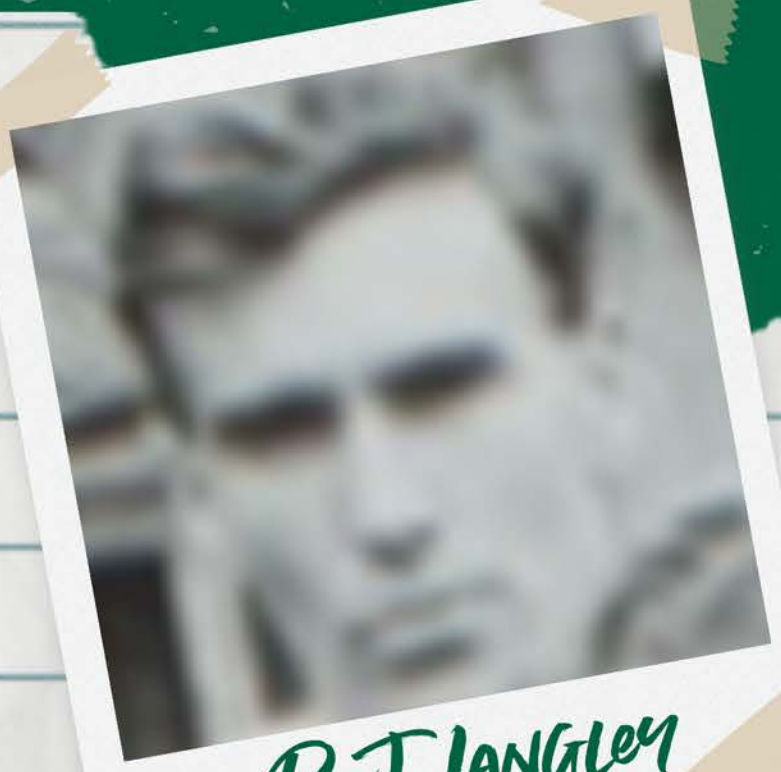
FOUNDATION

P. J. Langley

SAINT No: 1122
Name: P. J. Langley
Career: 1949 - 1951
Appearances: 8
Position: Wing/Centre
Scores: T: 2 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 6

Langley played eight times for Northampton over two seasons, five matches in the 1949/50 season and three in the 1950/51 season. His debut was on the wing against Headingley on the 10th September 1949, but, he could also play in the centre if required. He scored two tries during these matches, one in each season.

His first try was on his debut against Headingley on the 10th September 1949 and his other try was against Richmond on 16th September 1950.



P. J. Langley

Peter Larter

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1321
Name: Peter J. Larter
Career: 1964 - 1980
Appearances: 132
Position: Lock
Scores: T: 4 C: 55 P: 67 DG: 0 Total Points: 324

Representative Honours: Regional: R.A.F. & Combined Services
International: England 24 caps & British Lions: 1 cap 1968

Devon born lock Larter racked up 132 appearances for the men in Black, Green and Gold after making his debut in 1964. He was an all round sportsman with plenty of ability at basketball and boxing.

Ironically for an area boxing champion he had a reputation as being something of a gentle giant. He was comfortable with this tag saying "Basically rugby is a skilful ball game which I enjoyed and I liked the physical side, but if I wanted to raise my fist in anger all the time I would have taken up boxing."

Whilst Peter only scored four tries in his 16 years at Saints unusually for a lock forward he was an excellent left footed kicker and contributed 55 conversions and 67 penalties over his Saints career.

He also excelled on the international stage as he won 24 caps in the second row for England and was selected to tour South Africa with the British & Irish Lions in 1968, playing in the Port Elizabeth Test which ended in a 6-6 draw.

He played for the Saints while based at RAF North Luffenham, and also represented the Royal Air Force and Combined Services, before going on to become Club President after he had hung up his boots



Peter Larter

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1183
Name: D. Law
Career: 1953- 1955
Appearances: 9
Position: Full-back
Scores: T: 0 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 1 Total Points: 3

Law played at full back nine times for Saints at the end of the 1953/54 season and the start of the 1954/55 season. He made his debut on the 27th March 1954 against Birmingham and his final match was on the 9th October 1954 against Old Millhillians. During that match he scored his only points for the Saints, a drop goal, the solitary points in a 3 – 17 loss.

The 1953/54 annual report states "when called upon D. Law showed promising form in the position."

D. Law

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1216
Name: K. Laws
Career: 1955 - 1957
Appearances: 8
Position: Hooker

Laws a hooker made his debut for Northampton in the 1955/56 season making one appearance. However, in the following season the first choice hooker B. Baxter #1187 suddenly left the club according to the annual report it was thought that the club had adequate reserves and initially K. Laws was drafted in to replace Baxter and Laws had a run of seven games for the team between the 10th November 1956 and the end of the year.

At the start of 1957 again according to the annual report it was felt the team's inability to get possession from set scrums was its main weakness and K. Laws was replaced by a combination of A. Johnson #1214 and T. J. Marriott #1108.

He did not play for Northampton again.

K Laws

Victor Leadbetter

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1144
Name: Victor H. Leadbetter
Career: 1950 - 1956
Appearances: 54
Position: Second row/Number 8
Scores: T: 7 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 21

Representative Honours:
International: England: 2 caps
Barbarians: 4 caps

Leadbetter was born in Stanion near Kettering and was educated at Kettering Grammar School and Cambridge University. Whilst at Cambridge he played second row for both the University and Northampton making his debut in the 1950/51 season.
He never played more than 14 games in a season for Northampton and the following two seasons he again shared his time between Northampton and Cambridge University where he obtained his Blue.

In the three seasons between 1953-1956 he played 19 times in total for Northampton but was primarily playing for Edinburgh Wanderers and it was from playing for them that he was selected to play for England twice in the spring of 1954.

He was selected as a number 8 for England and played against Scotland (helping England win the triple crown) and France.

He remained playing for Edinburgh Wanderers until 1960, and then he joined Clifton RFC whom he continued playing for until he retired in 1966



Victor Leadbetter

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1303
Name: A. Lenton
Career: 1963 - 1964
Appearances: 1
Position: Winger

Lenton made one appearance for Northampton Saints playing against Gloucester on the 7th March 1964.

A. Lenton

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

Bob Leslie

SAINT No: 1123
Name: Robert Leslie
Career: 1949 - 1967
Appearances: 265
Position: Fly-half/Centre
Scores: T: 72 C: 2 P: 3 DG: 7 Total Points: 250

Representative Honours: Regional: Oxford University Blue

Leslie made his Northampton debut back in 1949 against London Welsh and went on to play 265 times over an 18 year period. For the first ten years of his career he did not play for Northampton often, as much of his early years were spent playing for Oxford University, and then after finishing at Oxford, whilst playing for Northampton in the last match of the 1952/53 season he broke his leg which resulted in him missing the whole of the 1953/54 season.

He started to establish himself as a regular player over the following season but then moved to Manchester. While living and working in Manchester, for three seasons between 1955 -1958, Leslie turned out for Sale Sharks.



Bob Leslie

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

Bob Leslie

During the 1958/59 season he moved back to the Northampton area and resumed his links with the club becoming a core member of the team until his retirement at Blackheath in 1967. Bob Taylor described him as "a centre who was capable of playing at fly-half and on the wing, he often lit up Franklin's Gardens with his eye-catching pacey breaks."

Throughout his career Bob maintained his speed and the 1961/62 report states: "R. Leslie.... showed great pace which belied his long association in the game". Bob Taylor #1295 additionally said "he handled the ball very well, that was a big asset, and he made his tackles, which of course is so important in the game, anywhere, anytime, you can't have someone who is a very good sprinter if he is going to let everyone run past him!"



Bob Leslie

Upon the end of his playing days, Leslie's ties with Northampton Saints did not diminish as he succeeded Jerry Gordon #568 and served as Club Secretary for a remarkable 17 years and a further three as Chairman.

D. Lewis

SAINT No: 1198
Name: D. Lewis
Career: 1954 - 1955
Appearances: 1
Position: Wing

Lewis played once for Northampton on the wing against Old Millhillians on the 9th October 1954 a match the Saints lost 3 – 17.

P. Linnell

SAINT No: 1184
Name: P. Linnell
Career: 1953 - 1956
Appearances: 7
Position: Hooker
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Linnell was a Northampton club stalwart playing regularly for both the Wanderers (2nd XV) and Crusaders (3rd XV) as a hooker during the 1950s.

On seven occasions between 1953-1956 he was required to step up to play for Saints (1st XV) and always gave his best.

His final first team appearance was against Blackheath on the 14th April 1956, and it was in this game he scored his one and only try for Northampton.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

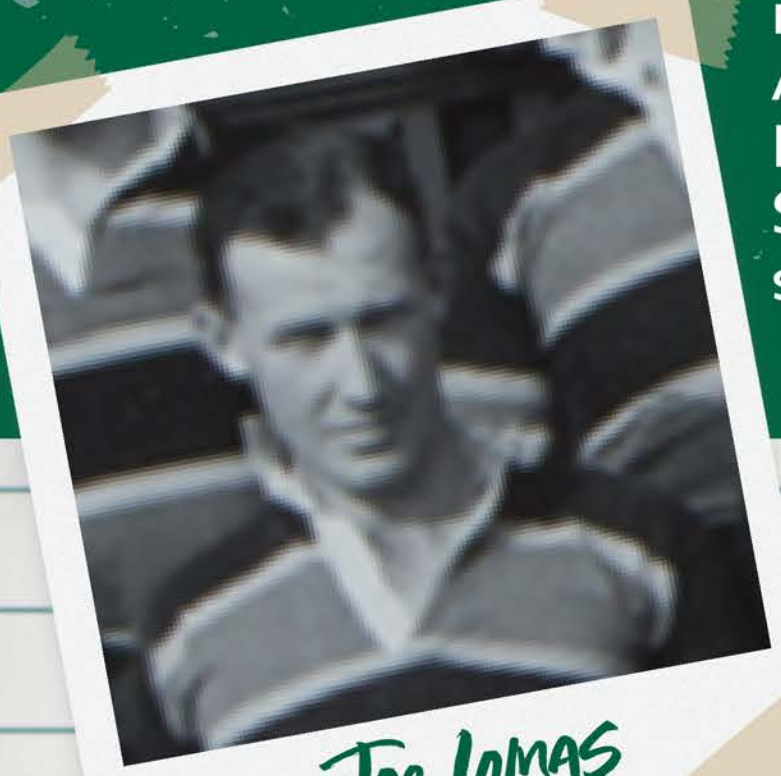
Joe Lomas

SAINT No: 1054
Name: Joe E. Lomas
Career: 1945 - 1953
Appearances: 222
Position: Flanker
Scores: T: 46 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 138
Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands

Lomas was one of the first players to join the club at the end of the war originally as a wing three-quarter. He learned his rugger at Kettering Grammar School before joining the Saints where he was one of the club's large farming fraternity.

It was in the 1947/48 season that he really started to make his mark for Saints when he changed position to flanker. It was immediately clear Joe had found his real position to the dismay of any scrum-half who tried to sneak round the blindside of the scrum. He was described as a tireless worker in the loose with few forwards covering as much ground in matches as this club stalwart did. His following up and tackling also left their mark on opponents.

Upon his retirement the 1952/53 annual report read: "he developed into a first class wing forward. A regular East Midlands player and chosen for one England Trial, he deserved higher honours: the Saints will indeed miss the services of this fine sportsman."



Joe Lomas

Bob MacEwen

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1199
Name: Robert MacEwen
Career: 1954 - 1956
Appearances: 12
Position: Hooker

Representative Honours:
International: Scotland 13 appearances (not whilst playing for Northampton)

MacEwen whilst he only played 12 times for Northampton was one of the best Scottish internationals of his time. Brought up in Bristol he started playing for Clifton Rugby Club but subsequently played for Loughborough University and then Cambridge University where he gained a Blue. It was during this time that he was first capped by Scotland in 1954.
It was also during this period that he became great friends with Jeff Butterfield #1152 the legendary Saints centre, and after the 1954 varsity match he started playing for Northampton in January 1955. Ironically his first game for Northampton was against Cambridge University on the 29th January 1955, a game the university won 8 – 3.

At the start of the 1955/56 season he captained the Northampton team but after 4 appearances he departed suddenly after Murrayfield suggested that if he wanted further Scotland caps, he should think of joining London Scottish

After retiring he maintained his interest in rugby and was elected to the RFU's coaching advisory group and in 1966 along withJeff Butterfield and Ray Williams co-authored the RFU's Guide to Coaches and Players, the first official coaching guide to be published in the UK.



Bob MacEwen

Don MacNally

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1125
Name: Don MacNally
Career: 1949 - 1958
Appearances: 166
Position: Wing/Centre
Scores: T: 63 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 189

MacNally made his debut for Northampton on the 3rd September 1949 against the Metropolitan Police and scored a try on his debut as part of a 14 – 6 victory. He played a total of 14 games in 1949/50 season. He was primarily a winger but could also play in the centre and during the early 1950's Northampton had 3 top class wingers with MacNally, John Hyde #1089 and Niall Bailey #1085. If all were fit and available MacNally would move to centre.

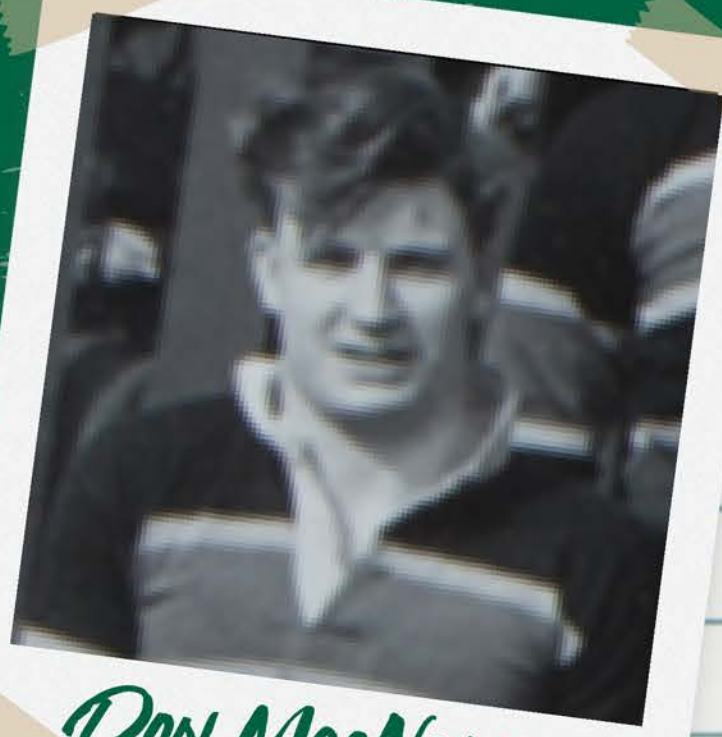
During the first half of the 1950's Don was a regular fixture in the team playing around 25 games each season. The annual reports of the time described him as a player with pace and determination that made him an extremely dangerous wing. He was also known for his fearless tackling, although the 1951/52 report highlights that his tackling at times was the cause of some injuries.

From 1955-1958 he gradually played less games for the first team but regularly turned out for the Wanderers (2nd XV) and Crusaders (3rd XV) up until his retirement in 1958.

After retirement Don stayed involved with the club and for the next decade he helped run the Crusaders.

His involvement with the club was maintained through his son, Duncan MacNally #1438, who played for the club (primarily Wanderers and Crusaders) during the 1970s and 1980s.

Don remained local to Northampton for the rest of his life working in the shoe trade up until his retirement.



Don MacNally

J. Maguire



SAINT No: 1352
Name: J. Maguire
Career: 1967 - 1968
Appearances: 9
Position: Hooker

Maguire played nine games at hooker for Northampton Saints during the 1967/68 season.

K. Manning

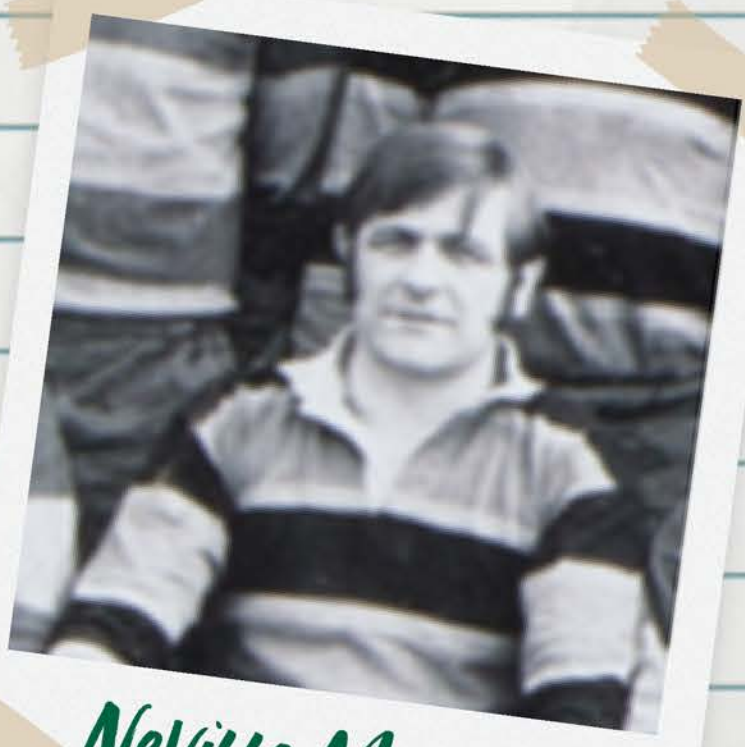
SAINT No: 1244
Name: K. Manning
Career: 1957 - 1958
Appearances: 2
Position: Centre

Manning, a centre, played twice for Northampton in the 1957/58 season with one of those appearances being against Coventry on the 9th November 1957 a game Northampton lost 6 – 0.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



Neville Manning

SAINT No: 1364
Name: Neville Manning
Career: 1968 - 1975
Appearances: 76
Position: Prop
Scores: T: 2 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 6

Manning, known to most as 'Baggy', made his debut for Northampton in 1968 aged 30 and went on to make 76 appearances as a prop. He was born in Milton Malsor, educated at Towcester Grammar School. He also served in the Royal Marines before becoming a Building Society Manager.

Although all who met Neville will confirm he was the absolute gentleman, those who saw him play attest to him being a ferocious forward!

He was a prominent figure within the Freemason community, serving as Provincial Director of Ceremonies and other leadership roles., and founded the Webb Ellis lodge. Neville passed away in 2023, and within his obituary it read "His leadership and service have left an enduring legacy that will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him."

Neville Manning

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1108
Name: T. J. Marriott
Career: 1948 - 1958
Appearances: 36
Position: Hooker

Marriott, a hooker, first started playing regularly for Northampton in the 1948/49 season with his debut against Rugby on 28th December 1948. The annual report suggested it was felt he could go on to be a regular player for the club and indeed by the end of the 1951 season he had made 20 first team appearances.

Over the following 5 seasons though he only made 3 more appearances despite playing regularly for the Wanderers (2nd XV) and Crusaders (3rd XV) throughout this period. Then in the 1956/57 season he had something of a renaissance making nine appearances with the annual report stating : "it was the inability to obtain possession from set scrums that was the teams greatest weakness and it was not until T. J. Marriott came back into the side after a lapse of six or 7seven seasons that a reasonable amount of service was gained."

The following season 1957/58 was the last time he featured for the first team making four further appearances, however, at the end of the season he was awarded his club cap for services to the first team over a period of 10 years.

T. J. MARRIOTT

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION



GRAHAM MARSHALL

SAINT No: 1289
Name: Graham Marshall
Career: 1962 - 1975
Appearances: 64
Position: Second row/Flanker
Scores: T: 3 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 9

Marshall also known as "Buff" made his debut for Northampton in a 6-3 victory away at Gloucester on the 2nd March 1963, playing in the second row. The annual report of that year stated "he was a young forward who when called upon to play in either the second or back row showed great promise for the future". During the 1964/65 season he made 18 appearances and the annual report for that season states "G Marshall continued to improve and by his vigorous all action endeavour gained a regular place".

In his later years at Northampton he played mainly for the Wanderers (2nd XV) and Crusaders (3rd XV) only playing for the first team when they were short.

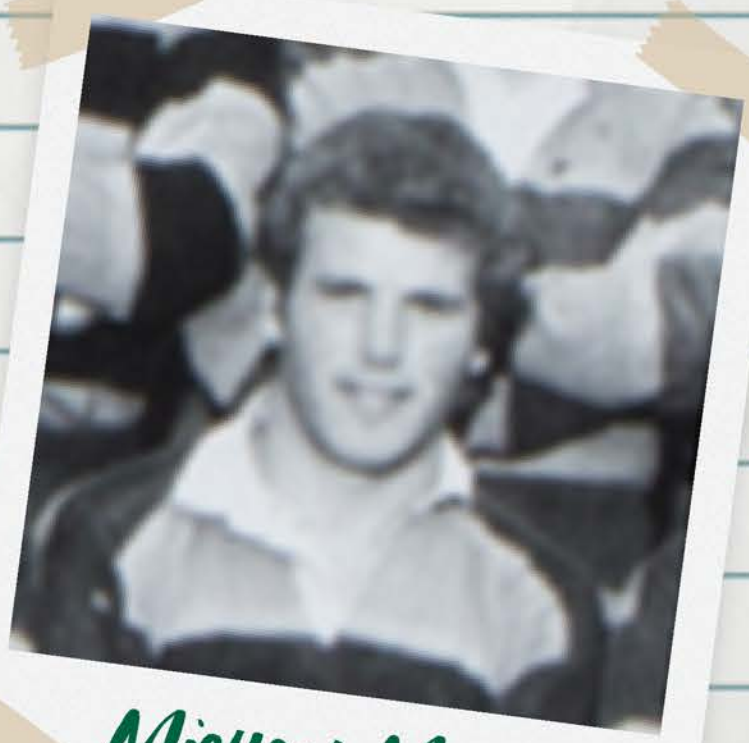
Outside of rugby, Graham was the Managing Director for Barton Plant.

GRAHAM 'BUFF' MARSHALL

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



Michael Mason

SAINT No: 1365
Name: Michael Mason
Career: 1968 - 1969
Appearances: 30
Position: Flanker
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Representative Honours: International: Scotland Trialist

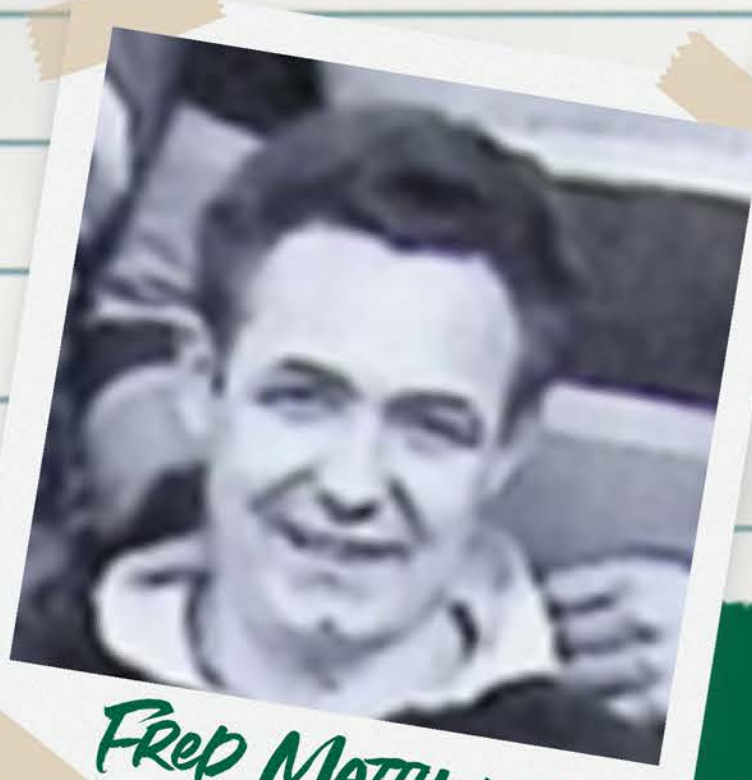
Mason joined Northampton from Scarborough College as an 18 year old at the start of the 1968/69 season. He made 30 appearances as a back row forward.

Michael Mason

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1145
Name: Fred.C .Matthews
Career: 1950 - 1961
Appearances: 85
Position: Prop

Matthews, a prop forward, was a real Northampton club man playing for the club for 11 years mainly for the Wanderers (2nd XV) but most seasons he would be called up to the first team to provide cover for injuries or other unavailability's and each season the annual report would report along the lines of him showing good support and splendid determination.

He made his debut on the 27th December 1950 in a 17 – 3 victory over Birmingham and his final match was almost exactly 10 years later on the 26th December 1960 in a 5 – 0 victory over Penarth. The majority of his appearances (62) occurred in the 4 seasons between 1955-1959.

Fred Matthews

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

P. McConkey

SAINT No: 1304
Name: P. McConkey
Career: 1963 - 1964
Appearances: 1
Position: Hooker

McConkey made only one appearance for Northampton Saints against Nottingham on the 11th September 1963.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



IAN MOFFATT

SAINT No: 1353
Name: Ian B. Moffatt
Career: 1967 - 1974
Appearances: 216
Position: Centre/Full-back
Scores: T: 34 C: 183 P: 209 DG: 2 Total Points: 1113

Representative Honours: Barbarians (1 appearance)
Regional: Oxfordshire & Southern Counties
International: England trialist 1969 & 1970

Moffat made 216 appearances for Northampton between 1967-1974 at centre/full-back. He joined Saints from Richmond RFC in 1967 and is 5th on the all-time points scoring list for Saints (as at January 2025). He was the first Saint to top 300 points in a season (1973/74) amassing 315 in total.

During his rugby career he also played for Oxfordshire and Southern Counties with whom he played against Fiji in 1970. He was also part of the Saints' 7-a-side team that played at a tournament in Gala, Scotland in 1970. He also made one appearance for the Barbarians in December 1971 playing against Leicester.

He had trials for England during 1969 and 1970 but never made it into the side. He once commented "it is better never to have played than to have played badly".

IAN MOFFATT

G. Morgan

SAINT No: 1328
Name: G. Morgan
Career: 1965 - 1966
Appearances: 2
Position: Lock

Morgan made two appearances for Northampton Saints, playing at lock, during the 1965/66 season.

H. M. Morley

SAINT No: 1146
Name: H. M. Morley
Career: 1950 - 1951
Appearances: 2
Position: Centre
Scores: T: 0 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 1 Total Points: 3

In January 1951 the Yorkshire centre Morley turned up to play for Northampton and he made his debut away at Harlequins a game Northampton lost 14 – 3. However, the press report for the game said he played well and looked like a strong acquisition.

He made his home debut against Cambridge University on the 10th February 1951 a game won 15 – 8 by Northampton. The press headline after that match read "Morley in first home game creates good impression" and the report goes on to describe him scoring a " brilliant" drop goal.

Morley was then injured before moving away from the area and he never played for Northampton again.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



ROGER MORRIS

SAINT No: 1374
Name: Roger E. Morris
Career: 1969 - 1975
Appearances: 84
Position: WInger
Scores: T: 51 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 196

Morris made 84 appearances for Northampton between 1969-1975 as a winger. He joined the Saints from Nuneaton.

He was nicknamed 'Nail' as he had a big head and no shoulders!

He was one of the 28 man strong touring party for the Saints 1973 American Midwest Rugby Tour.

In 1975 he left the Saints to further pursue his career at Gloucester RFC.

ROGER MORRIS

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1176
Name: Robert R. Morrison
Career: 1952 - 1959
Appearances: 15
Position: Centre
Scores: T: 2 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 6

A proud Scotsman Morrison made his debut for Northampton playing in the centre against London Irish on the 13th September 1952 a match the Saints won 12 – 6. He made a total of five appearances in the 1952/53 season scoring one try but the annual report states:"R. R. Morrison showed great promise in his early matches, but unfortunately his call up for National Service prevented him from turning out regularly.

In the 1953/54 season he made just four appearances again an interrupted season and this year's annual report states: "R. R. Morrison played on very few occasions due to National Service, but we hope that next season, when he is free, he will develop into the player we expect him to be."

In the 1954/55 season he again only made five appearances, scoring one try, but no specific mention of him is made in the annual report and it appeared that was the end of his Saints career. He did though make one further appearance a few years later in the 1958/59 season.

Later in life he represented the 'Latter Day Saints' going on tour with them to Canada in 1979.

Robert Morrison

W. Moulton

SAINT No: 1340
Name: W. Moulton
Career: 1966 - 1967
Appearances: 1

Moulton made only one appearance for Northampton Saints during the 1966/67 season.

C. Muntz

SAINT No: 1217
Name: C. Muntz
Career: 1955 - 1956
Appearances: 8
Position: Second row

Muntz was a second row forward who played a number of games during the middle part of the 1955/56 season for Northampton.

This was a season where a lot of different players were used in the second row as due to injuries and unavailability's the club were often short in the position.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1261
Name: Richard A. Murby
Career: 1958 - 1961
Appearances: 20
Position: Second row

Murby was a second row forward who made his debut for Northampton in the annual Boxing Day match of 1958 against Penarth, before going onto make a further three appearances that season. The following season 1959/60 he played 13 times for the first team and the annual report states: "he played exceptionally well when required and his work in the line out was particularly sound."

He made three appearances at the start of the 1960/61 season but then didn't play for the club again.

Richard Murby

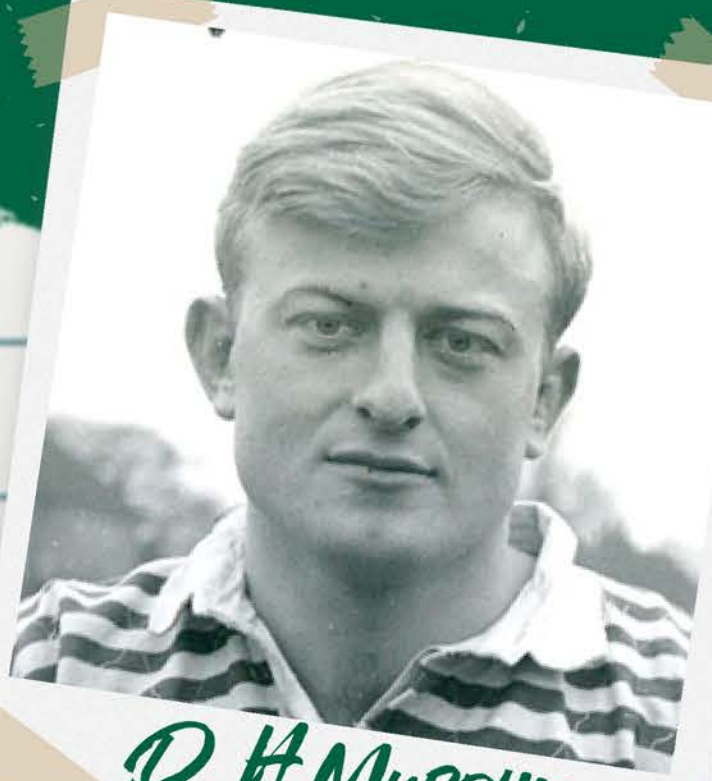
D. H Murphy

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No : 1147
Name: D. H. Murphy
Career: 1950 - 1951
Appearances: 1
Position: Hooker
Representative Honours: Combined Services

Murphy made one appearance for Northampton against Llanelli on the 13th January 1951 a match Northampton lost 9 – 14. He was an undergraduate at Cambridge University at this time and had made his debut for the Wanderers (2nd XV) the previous Saturday before being called up to replace the regular hooker Trevor Smith #1130 who was being rested against Llanelli. Murphy never played any other matches for Northampton but continued to play for Cambridge University.

In the late 1950's Murphy played regularly for Richmond and in 1959 had an England trial but was never capped. A medical officer in the RAF, Murphy also played for the Combined Services against South Africa in 1960.



D. H Murphy

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1218
Name: W. Murray
Career: 1955 - 1957
Appearances: 12
Position: Scrum-half
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Murray was one of a number of scrum-halves at Northampton during the 1950's who were used to deputise for Dickie Jeeps #1174 when he was not available. Murray made his debut on the 1st December 1956 against Aberavon and played three further matches in the December and January in that season.

The following season he played eight times for the Saints scoring his only try in a 14 – 6 victory over Rosslyn Park on the 9th March 1957. The annual report for that season states: " R. E. G. Jeeps at scrum half had an outstanding season, when absent his position was filled by either T. O'Connor #1233 or W. Murray, both competent players who any club would be happy to have in their first team."

W. Murray

Ted Needham



SAINT No: 1219
Name: Edward Needham
Career: 1955 - 1959
Appearances: 3
Position: Number 8/Back row

Needham was a loyal clubman in the late 1950's and early 1960's who primarily played for the Wanderers (2nd XV) and Crusaders (3rd XV).

Between 1955 and 1959 he did though make three appearances for Northampton the first of which was on the 28th April 1956 against Old Alleynians at Franklins Gardens, a match Northampton won 25-6.

After retiring from playing Ted served on a number of committees that assisted in the general running of the club.

B.W. Neesham

SAINT No: 1274
Name: B. W. Neesham
Career: 1960 - 1961
Appearances: 17
Position: Second row
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Neesham made 17 appearances for Northampton during the 1960/61 season.

The accounts for this year states: "New to first class football, B. Neesham impressed with his size and line out play and could develop into a really formidable second row player".

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1245
Name: J.ohn L. Neil
Career: 1957 - 1961
Appearances: 5
Position: Scrum-half

Neil was a scrum-half who played regularly for the Wanderers (2nd XV) and Crusaders (3rd XV) but was always behind Dickie Jeeps #1174 and either T. O'Connor #1233 or Brian Tunney #1252. He made his debut for Northampton in the 1957/58 season and played twice that season.

He didn't play for Northampton again until the 1960/61 season when he made three appearances the most notable of which was in the 8-3 victory over Leicester at Franklins Gardens on the 25th February 1961. The annual report for the 1960/61 season states: "B. Tunney's selection for the East Midlands presented J. Neil with the opportunity to play some very competent games for the 'Saints' and showed how fortunate we are to have two such capable players in reserve for the scrum half position."

John Neil

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1126
Name: G. C. Neville
Career: 1949 - 1951
Appearances: 5
Position: Wing/Centre
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Neville played in the centre on one occasion for Northampton during the 1949/50 season scoring a try. He played a further four matches in the 1950/51 season including against Sale on the 30th September 1950 and against Cardiff on the 30th November 1950.

During the 1951/52 season he played regularly for the Wanderers and the annual report for that year describes him as having good service to the team.

G.C. Neville

M. Nichols

SAINT No: 1246
Name: M. Nichols
Career: 1957 - 1958
Appearances: 1

Nichols played once for Northampton during the 1957/58 season.

D.R. Norman

SAINT No: 1111
Name: D. R. Norman
Career: 1948 - 1951
Appearances: 5
Position: Wing

Norman played on the wing five times for Northampton over three seasons. He made one appearance in 1948/49 season and three appearances in the 1949/50 season.

His final match was on 28th October 1950 against Leicester when he was a late replacement for P. J. Langley #1122. Northampton lost the game 26 – 8.

R. Norris

SAINT No: 1375
Name: Richard Norris
Career: 1969 - 1970
Appearances: 1

Norris played a single game for Saints during the 1969/70 season.

T. O'Connor

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1233
Name: T. O'Connor
Career: 1956 - 1958
Appearances: 29
Position: Scrum-half
Scores: T: 7 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 21
Representative Honours: Regional East Midlands

O'Connor was a very capable scrum-half who played for Northampton in the late 1950's and he would have made many more appearances if he hadn't been playing in the same era as Dickie Jeeps #1174. He made his debut on the 6th October against London Scottish in a 14-3 victory and the annual report for that season states: "When (Jeeps was) absent his position was filled by T. O'Connor a competent player who any club would be happy to have in their first team."

The following season's annual report reads similarly: "T. O'Connor who played many times, again showed how fortunate the club is in having such a capable deputy scrum half."


T. O' Connor

The following season's annual report reads: "T. O'Connor who played many times, again showed how fortunate the club is in having such a capable deputy scrum half."

Eddie O'Mullane

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1093
Name: Dr E.ddie J. O'Mullane
Career: 1947 - 1952
Appearances: 76
Position: Scrum-half
Scores: T: 7 C: 3 P: 3 DG: 0 Total Points: 36
Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands

O'Mullane joined Northampton after taking up a position as an anaesthetist at Northampton General Hospital. He had previously played representative rugby in Ireland but had just recovered from a broken leg when he joined Northampton. He quickly made an impression with his long, fast passing and mortar like kicking and established himself as first choice when available although work commitments and injuries often conspired to make him unavailable.

Brian Barron's book, 'Nothing without Labour', describes him as a shy Irishman and quotes his fly-half partner as saying the following about him "He just didn't take the game seriously. He didn't train and after games would simply return to the hospital and get on with his work. He cut a strange figure in the dressing room. During a team talk, he would sit in the corner with his collar and tie on and a long overcoat smoking his pipe. He'd be like that until virtually kick off time. But he was a tremendous player with an enormous pass."

At the end of the 1951/52 season he left Northampton to take a new job elsewhere but the annual report for that season describes him as: "A scrum-half whom we consider to have no superior in the game today, possessing all the qualities that go to make a first class player. No player deserves an International cap more and we all hope that it is not too late for the Irish selectors to realise his real worth."



Eddie O' Mullane

Barry Oldham

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1322
Name: Barry J. V. Oldham
Career: 1964 - 1978
Appearances: 337
Position: Wing
Scores: T: 185 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 635

With 337 appearances and 185 tries to his name in a 14-year Saints career, Oldham deserves to take his place amongst the pantheon of Northampton greats.
With only Billy Kingston #22 and Teddy Cook #350 ahead of him on the Club's all-time top try-scorer's list, it looks increasingly unlikely his tally will ever be surpassed by a player from the modern era.

Very much the darling of Franklin's Gardens in the early 1970's, he still holds the record (jointly, with Frank Packman #1519) for the most tries in a single season – he crossed the whitewash an incredible 33 times in as many matches during the 1969/70 campaign.

Barry was the cousin of Dick # 1224 and Roger Turnell #1237 and from a young age his rugby prowess was evident as he played for Towcester Grammar School's 1st XV at the age of 13 years as a scum-half. In his youth with his long hair (by rugby standards) and trendy clothes he turned a few heads at the club but he always maintained that if he was good enough it shouldn't matter what he looked like.

He very much was good enough and soon became a fans' favourite with his try scoring exploits. He was often known as "Doris" the result of a Ron Jacobs #1121 debrief after a mediocre performance when he referred to the two wingers as Glenda (Glen Robertson #1293) and Doris and from then on the name stuck.

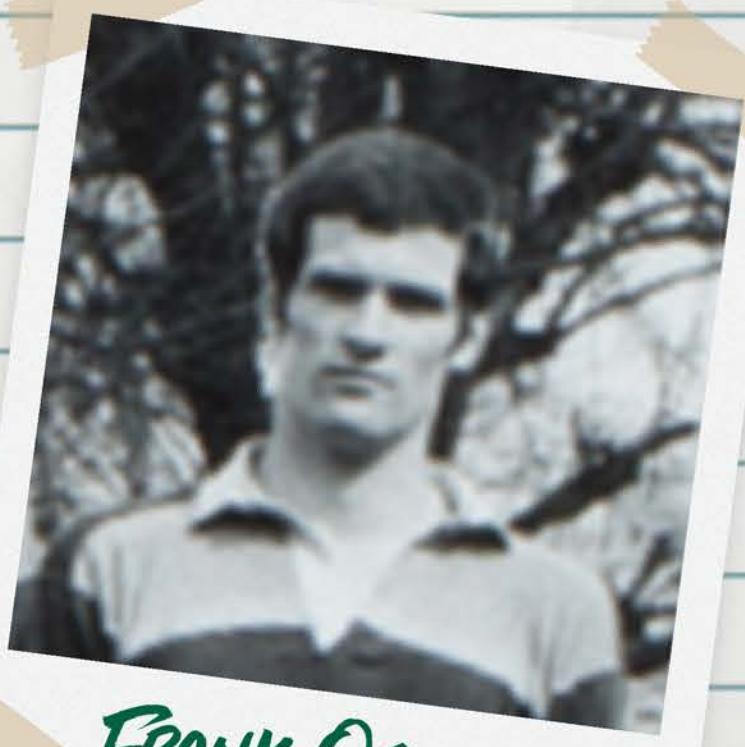


Barry Oldham

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



FRANK OSBORNE

SAINT No: 1366
Name: Frank A. Osborne
Career: 1968 - 1977
Appearances: 123
Position: Lock
Scores: T: 6 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 22

Osborne made 123 appearances for Northampton at lock between 1968-1977. He went to Towcester Grammar School alongside fellow future Northampton Saints contemporaries Barry Oldham #1322 , Alan Folwell #1338, Pete Sweet #1344, and others.

Frank was one of the Saints touring party on their 1973 American Midwest Tour, a trip that took place between May 25th and June 10th, taking them to places such as Toronto, Indianapolis, Madison, and Chicago.

He spent all his life as a farmer based in the Towcester area and had strong connections with Towcester RFC, eventually going on to become their Chairman.

FRANK OSBORNE

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



BRIAN PAGE

SAINT No: 1305
Name: Brian Page
Career: 1963 - 1969
Appearances: 125
Position: Full-back
Scores: T: 8 C: 114 P: 61 DG: 7 Total Points: 456
Representative Honours: International: Rest of England

Page played for Northampton between 1963-1969 racking up 125 appearances at full-back.

The annual report for 1964/65 states: "This year he (B. Page) was included in the early games and made certain that it was impossible to leave him out, for throughout the season he played faultlessly. At times his play was outstanding. Selected reserve for the England Trials he too played for the Rest of England at the end of the season".

In May 1970 he toured America with "The Penguins" an invitational rugby union team founded and based in the UK.

In 1975 he was part of the Bedford Blues team that won the RFU Club Competition final at Twickenham.

BRIAN PAGE

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

R. F. PARKINSON

SAINT No: 1290
Name: R. F. Parkinson
Career: 1962 - 1963
Appearances: 5
Position: Centre
Scores: T: 3 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 9

Parkinson made five appearances for the club at centre, his first game was against Pontypool on September 22nd September 1962.

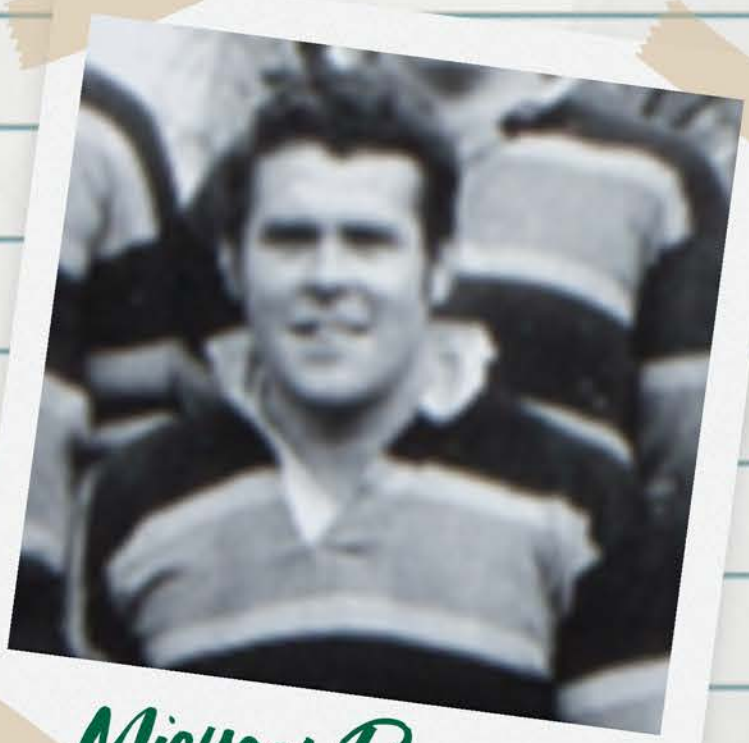


R.F. PARKINSON

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



Michael Parsons

SAINT No: 1291
Name: Michael James Parsons
Career: 1962 - 1968
Appearances: 94
Position: Lock
Scores: T: 6 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 18
Representative Honours: International: England (4 appearances)

Parsons made 94 appearances between 1962-1968 at lock.

He was educated at Kings school, Canterbury. He was an Oxfordshire famer. During his rugby career he played for Northampton and Oxford RFC.

The annual report for 1962/63 states: "M. J. Parsons ...is a young player of considerable ability and with good fortune has a bright future ahead".

He made four appearances for England in the 1968 Five Nations tournament.

His career unfortunately ended early due to a knee injury.

Michael Parsons

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

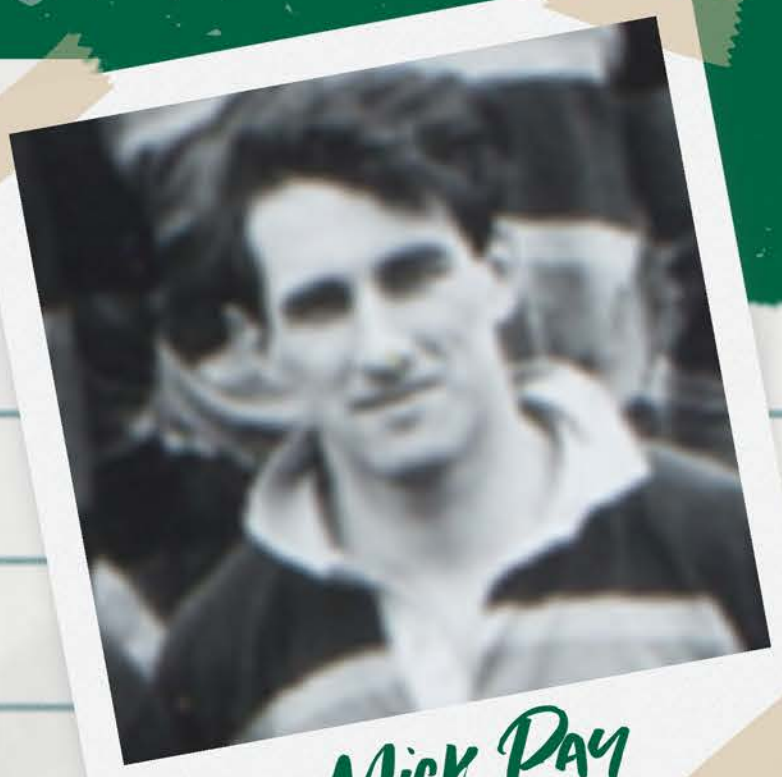
Mick Pay

SAINT No: 1280
Name: B. Michael Pay
Career: 1961 - 1963
Appearances: 39
Position: Fly-half
Scores: T: 5 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 2 Total Points: 21

Pay played for Northampton 39 times during the 1961-63 seasons.

The annual report for 1961/62 says: "the fly-half position caused most concern it was not until the second half of the season when B. M. Pay showed his true form that the position was satisfactorily filled".

The annual report for 1962/63 says: "B. M. Pay played some good games either at centre or fly-half" and a dislocated shoulder kept B. M. Pay out for the last twelve matches".



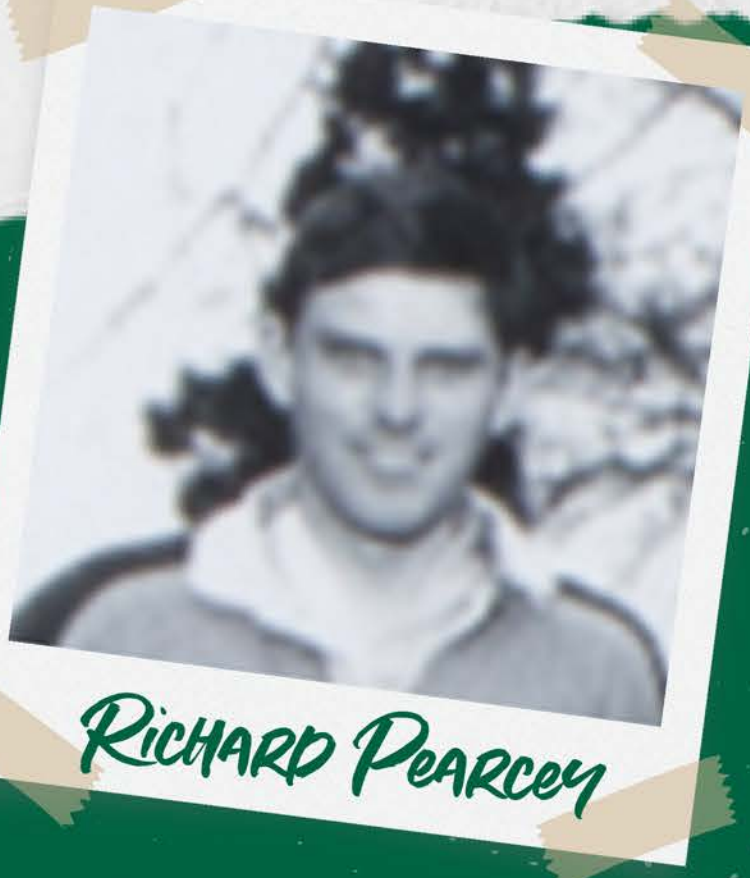
Mick Pay

G. Payne

SAINT No: 1148
Name: G. Payne
Career: 1950 - 1952
Appearances: 13
Position: Wing
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Payne, a winger, played a total of 13 matches over two seasons for Northampton. In the 1950-1951 season he featured nine times playing regularly around the Christmas period. The annual report for the 1950/51 season states: " he was a young wing three-quarter who only needed the opportunity to establish himself as a regular member of the team."

He made a further four appearances in the 1951-1952 season scoring his only try, but, never fully established himself as a first team player as there was a lot of top class competition for the wingers' positions at that time.



Richard Pearcey

SAINT No: 1341
Name: Richard Pearcey
Career: 1966 - 1972
Appearances: 63
Position: Back row forward
Scores: T: 6 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 18

Pearcey also known as "Dick" was educated at Exmouth Grammar where he represented the school at rugby.

He made 63 appearances for Northampton between 1966-1972 as a back row forward.

A.S. Pearson

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No . 1247
Name: A. S. Pearson
Career: 1957 - 1961
Appearances: 121
Position: Hooker
Scores: T: 9 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 27

Pearson, a hooker, arrived at Northampton in the 1957-1958 season making his debut on the 5th October 1957 away to London Scottish. He quickly established himself in the team making 25 appearances that season, although as the annual report notes there were some concerns around his hooking ability and states: "F. C .Matthews #1145 showed splendid determination and spirit in his play as did A. S. Pearson, although the latter as hooker was not always successful."

He remained first choice hooker for the next three seasons hardly missing any games and clearly improving his weaknesses with the annual report of 1958/59 stating: "A .S. Pearson in addition to his all-round efficient front row play, improved his hooking considerably, a point which contributed to the success of the side."

The 1959/60 season was remarkable in that the whole of the first choice front row hardly missed a fixture, R. Wilkins #1262 40 appearances, A. S. Pearson 37 appearances and R. Jacobs #1121 36 appearances. The annual report describes them as: "a heavy powerful front row whose surprising speed in the loose matched their soundness in the tight."

Pearson was having another good season in 1960/61 until he had to retire from playing due to eye trouble. His final match for Northampton was on the 4th February 1961 against Harlequins at Franklins Gardens a match Northampton won 11-6.



Bob Pell

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1012
Name: Robert O. Pell
Career: 1942 - 1952
Appearances: 183
Position: Wing/Centre
Scores: T: 58 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 1 Total Points: 177

Pell was one of three brothers the others being John #1011 and Eric #1078 who played for Northampton after the war during the late 1940's. He learnt his rugby at Towcester grammar school and first played for Northampton in 1942 in one of the few fixtures they played during the war. On one occasion there was a match in which all three brothers played, Bob and Eric on the wings and John in the centre, which was against Rugby on the 27th December 1947 a match Northampton won 35 – 0.

Bob initially started playing on the wing but by the end of the 1946/47 season he was apparently not happy playing there, and the following season he swopped positions to start playing in the centre. At the end of that season he was awarded a club cap along with a few others but had to wait two years before he could physically receive it as no suppliers could be found.

He was one of the clubs most prolific try scorers of those early years after the war but after switching to play centre he also became known for his solid defence.

Undoubtedly one of the clubs outstanding players during the early post war years he was forced to retire at the end of the 1951/52 season due to an ankle injury. As a good club man he wanted to stay involved with the club and so took on the position of Honorary Team Secretary for the Wanderers (2nd XV).



Bob Pell

John Pell

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1011
Name: John M. Pell
Career: 1942 - 1957
Appearances: 139
Position: Full-back/Centre/Fly-half/Scrum-half
Scores: T: 20 C: 2 P: 3 DG: 6 Total Points: 91

Pell was one of three brothers the others being Bob #1012 and Eric #1078 from the Towcester area who played for Northampton during the late 1940's after the war. John learnt his rugby at Towcester Grammar school and made his debut in 1942 in one of the few matches played during the war.
On one occasion there was a match in which all three brothers played, Bob and Eric on the wings and John in the centre, which was against Rugby on the 27th December 1947 a match Northampton won 35 – 0.

He was a very versatile player who played across the whole back line for Northampton in his career. He started off after the war primarily playing as a fly-half but later was better known as a full-back. Despite moving away from Northampton he was a committed club man as shown by the length of his career and it is perhaps surprising he did not make more appearances.

One notable achievement was that on the 1952 Easter tour of Wales he played in all four matches over a period of just five days which bore testimony to his fitness and commitment.

By the 1953/54 season he was being described as a veteran in the annual report although his form was as good as ever. He continued playing for another three seasons making around 12 appearances a season and his final appearance after a long career was at full-back on the 10th November 1956 against Coventry, a game Northampton won 9 – 3.



John Pell

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1248
Name: John Devereux Pember
Career: 1957 - 1965
Appearances: 19
Position: Wing
Scores: T: 5 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 15

Pember was born in Creaton, Northamptonshire in 1940 and attended Wellingborough School where he was a noted sportsman. On leaving school he joined Northampton Rugby Club in 1957 and played mainly for the Wanderers (2nd XV) until 1965.

He played on the wing and was good enough to provide cover for the first team when required making a total of 19 appearances over this time and scoring five tries. He made two or three appearances each season although the 1960/61 annual report states: "he may have made more appearances that season if he had not sustained a broken leg in a car accident."

An all-round sportsman, soon after giving up playing rugby for Northampton, Pember was offered a professional contract as a cricketer for Leicestershire and played for them in 24 first class matches and 10 one day matches between 1968 and 1971. He was a left-handed batsman who bowled right-arm fast-medium.

John Pember

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



Mike Percival

SAINT No: 1292
Name: Michael J. Percival
Career: 1962 - 1967
Appearances: 18
Position: Second row/Back row

Percival made his debut for Northampton against Harlequins on the 27th March 1963, a match Northampton won 3-0. The annual report for the 1962/63 states "A young forward who, when called upon to play in either the second or back row, showed great promise for the future is M. J. Percival".

Unfortunately he never really lived up to that early promise and, although turning out regularly for the Wanderers (2nd XV) over the next few years, he only occasionally played for the 1st XV.

Mike Percival

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

C. Pickford

SAINT No: 1127
Name: C. Pickford
Career: 1949 - 1960
Appearances: 196
Position: Second row
Scores: T: 4 C: 70 P: 37 DG: 0 Total Points: 263

Pickford was a second row forward who made his debut for Northampton in the 1949/50 season making a total of 11 appearances. The following season he made 20 appearances and was clearly making an impression as the annual report for that year notes: "C. Pickford continued to develop into the player we all expect him to be; big and fast, he often came into the team as a deputy and demonstrated that a regular place must be found for him soon."
Over the next five seasons he was very much a regular averaging over 30 games a season and in the 1954/55 season made an incredible 39 appearances. The 1951/52 annual report described him as: "probably the most improved player in the team' his line out work being especially good".



C. Pickford

His versatility was also a strength as surprisingly for a second row forward he was a very good place kicker of the ball and scored numerous penalties and conversions over the years for the club. Additionally, during the 1955/56 season whilst still normally playing in the second row he would occasionally play as a prop forward when the team were short in that position.

He missed a large part of the 1956/57 season due to illness and after that season only played on two more occasions over a three year period.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

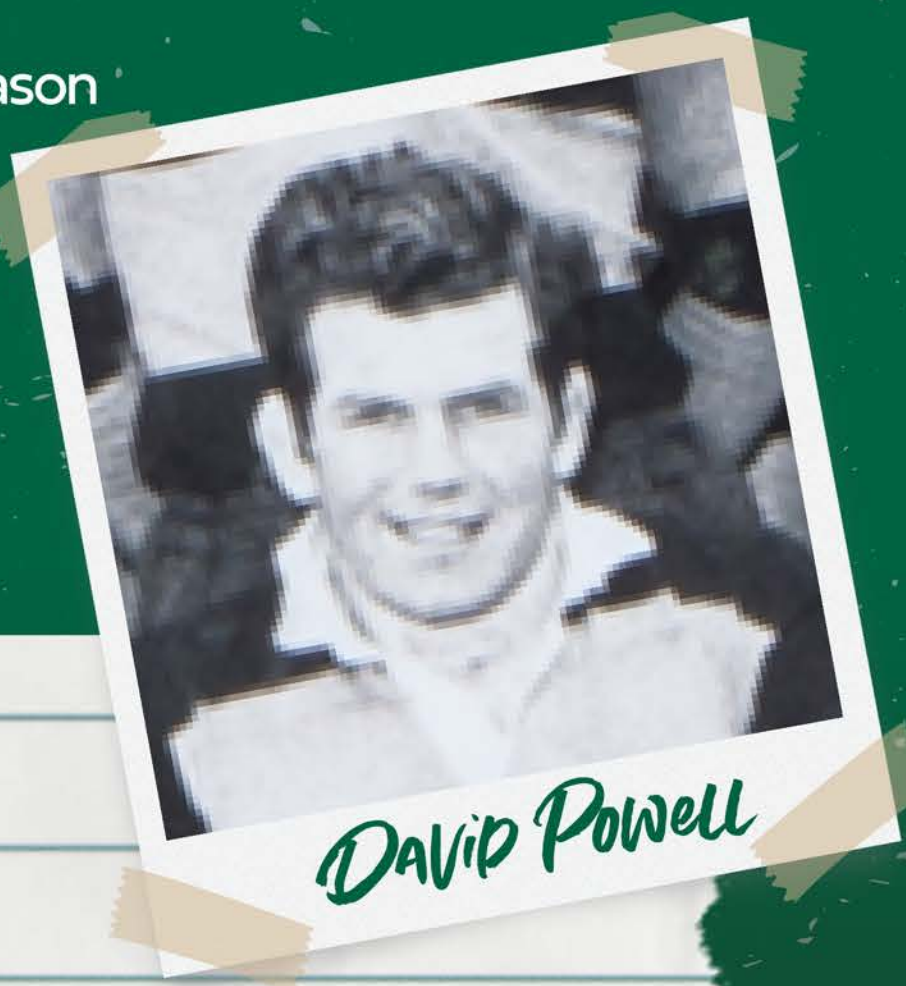
David Powell

SAINT No: 1307
Name: David L. Powell
Career: 1963 - 1978
Appearances: 370
Position: Prop
Scores: T: 24 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 81
Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands .
International: England 11 caps . Barbarian & British Lions: 1968

Powell is a Northampton Saints institution. Four years as captain, 15 as a player and 24 tries should be enough to earmark him as a club legend, but in addition he consolidated this by continuing to provide the players and coaching staff with the best pitch in English club rugby for over 20 years.

Fate took more than a little hand in his career. At the start of the 1965/66 season he was on the fringes of first-team selection having come to the Saints via Long Buckby and Rugby. A shoulder dislocation to Roger Turnell #1237 gave David an opportunity he grabbed with both hands, quite literally when he scored three tries in that October alone.

Dominant performances throughout the season caught the eye of the England selectors, and he was picked for his international debut against Wales.



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

David Powell

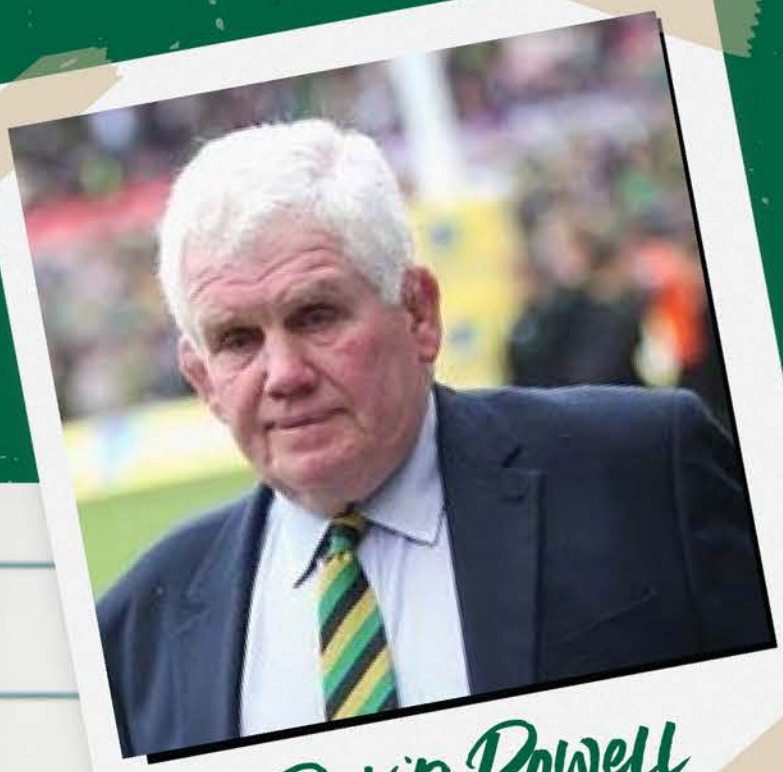
It was not a successful England campaign but David was again noticed and became the only English forward to be selected for the 1966 British Lions tour to New Zealand. A remarkable start to a remarkable career.

It was on this trip that he earned his nickname. He was rooming with Denzil Williams, known as 'Porky', and with their room known as 'The Sty' the Northampton prop quickly became 'Piggy'. It's a name that has stuck throughout the intervening 60 years.

David's training regime had included running up and down hills in heavy boots on his father's farm. And when he became captain in 1967/68 the same attitude was brought into team sessions. They hit the ground running that season and reeled off nine straight victories. With a prop as captain and tactician it was no surprise that the pattern of play revolved around the forwards. But, Powell led by example and only missed three matches all season

His international career lasted a mere 11 matches but his club career continued on and on. He remained on Saints' books until 1978, notching up 370 appearances in the process, and also had a stint coaching the side in the mid-1980s.

David then became as famous for the immaculate nature of the Franklin's Gardens surface as for his playing, and there is many a supporter who as a small child remembers him more as the scary shouting bloke telling them to get off the pitch t han as the legend on it.



David Powell

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1308
Name: R. B. Powell
Career: 1963 - 1964
Appearances: 4

Powell made four appearances for Northampton during the 1963/64 season.

R. B. Powell

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

Derek Prout

SAINT No: 1354
Name: Derek Henry Prout
Career: 1967 - 1971
Appearances: 61
Position: Winger
Scores: T: 32 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 96
Representative Honours: Regional: Loughborough Colleges, Cornwall and Hampshire
International: England 2 caps & Barbarians: 6 caps

Prout made 61 appearances for the club between 1967-1975 as a winger and scored a total of 96 points.

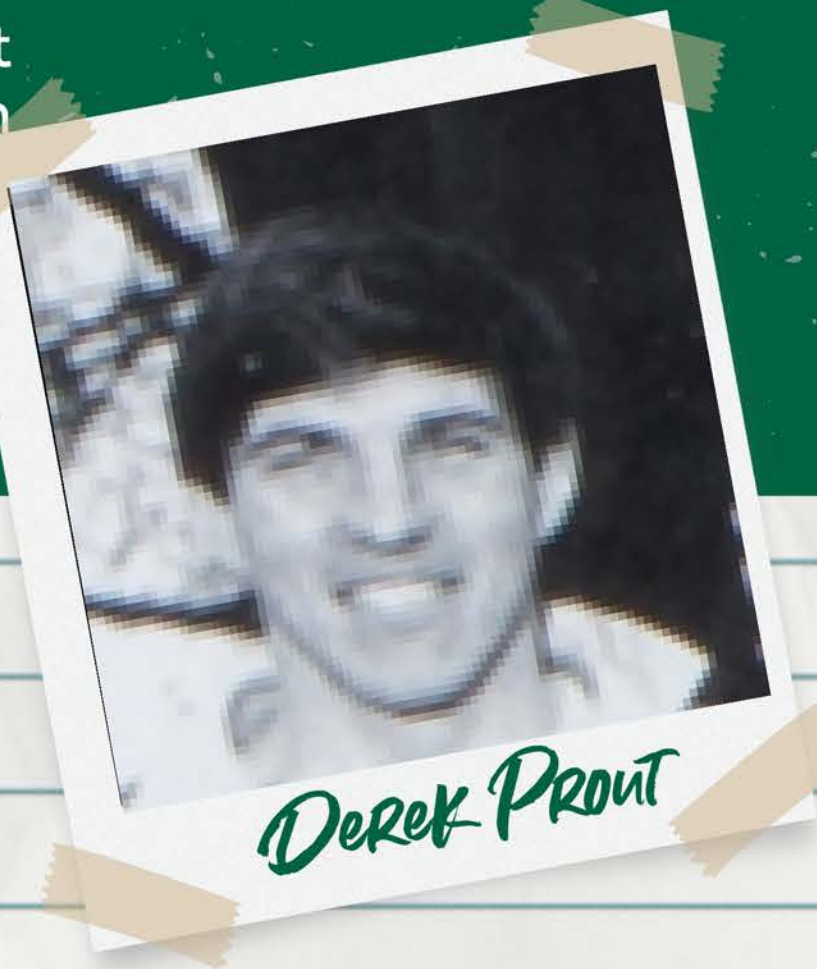
As a youth he was Cornwall County champion in both 100 and 220 yard sprints. Known for being a fast, powerful winger, he played for Launceston, Redruth and Loughborough Colleges before joining the Saints in 1967.

He made two appearances for England in the 1968 Five Nations tournament playing against Wales and Ireland.

He played 41 matches for Cornwall between 1960 -1969.

After leaving the Saints he made eight appearances for Harlequins in the 1971/72 season before joining Trojans RFC, making over 100 appearances and going on to coach them.

He was inducted into the Redruth RFC Hall of Fame in 2011.



Roy Pulford

SAINT No: 1161
Name: R. Pulford
Career: 1951 - 1952
Appearances: 1

Pulford made one appearance for Northampton in the 1951/52 season.

R Pyne

SAINT No: 1367
Name: R. Pyne
Career: 1968 - 1969
Appearances: 2

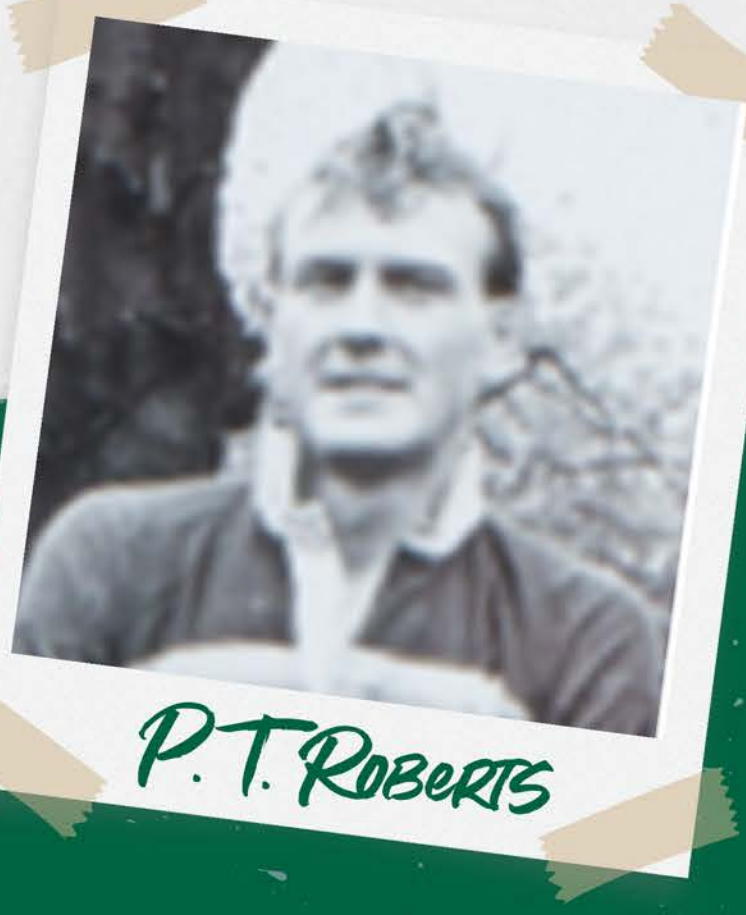
Pyne made two appearances for Northampton, both during the 1968/69 season.

M. J. Rees



SAINT No: 1329
Name: M. J. Rees
Career: 1965 - 1966
Appearances: 6
Position: Scrum-half/Fly-half
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Rees made six appearances for Northampton Saints during the 1965/66 season as he was able to cover at scrum-half and fly-half.



P. T. Roberts

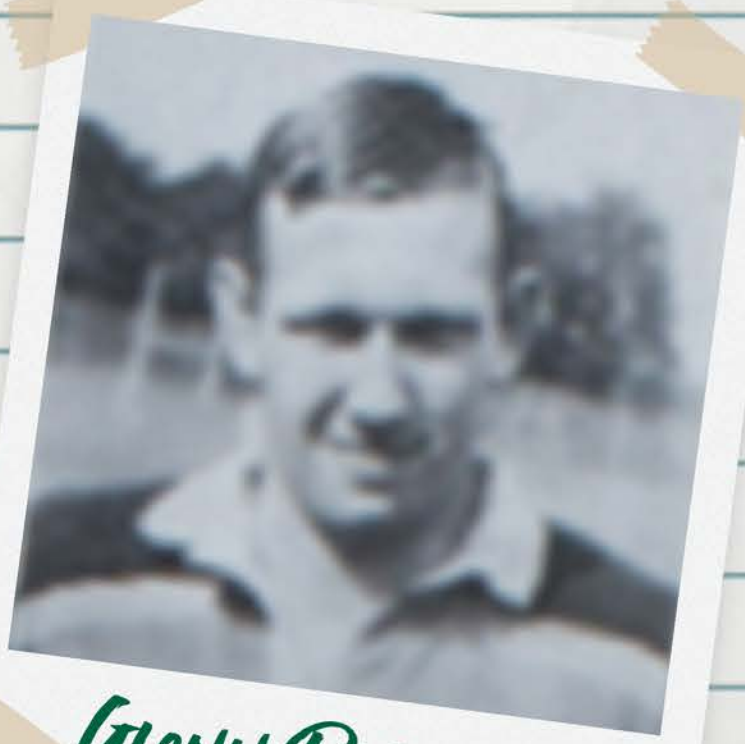
SAINT No: 1323
Name: P. T. Roberts
Career: 1964 - 1965
Appearances: 12
Position: Second row

Roberts was a second rower who made 12 appearances for Northampton during the 1964/65 season.

The annual report for that year states: “P. T. Roberts whenever called upon, and it was invariably against the stiffest opposition, impressed with his line out play. Unfortunately a serious ankle injury early in the season compelled his absence for several weeks”.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION



GLENN ROBERTSON

SAINT No: 1293
Name: Glenn Robertson
Career: 1962 - 1971
Appearances: 109
Position: Wing/Three-quarter
Scores: T: 90 C: 1 P: 0 DG: 2 Total Points: 278

Representative Honours: Regional: Midlands Counties
International: England Trialist

Robertson also know as 'Glenda' made his debut for Northampton in a 17-6 victory away to Moseley on the 20th April 1963, and then played a further three games for them over the next seven days. At this time he was still a pupil at Northampton Grammar School and was only available in the school holidays. University limited his appearances over the next few seasons but the 1964/65 annual report states, "G. Robertson is a player well above the average". As evidence of this, he had a try scoring record of 90 tries in only 109 appearances.

In 1971 he left Northampton and took up a coaching position at Rosslyn Park, where in 1974/75 they won the Sunday Telegraph Anglo-Welsh merit table.

He also went on to coach England colts.

GLENN ROBERTSON

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

M. A Robertson

SAINT No: 1113
Name: M. A. Robertson
Career: 1948 - 1950
Appearances: 15
Position: Back row forward
Scores: T: 0 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 1 Total Points: 3

Robertson made his debut for Northampton in an 11 – 5 loss to Wasps on the 9th October 1948, the first of 14 appearances that season. He was a back row forward whom the annual report states: "gave excellent service to the side during the season."

Surprisingly for a back row forward the only points he scored for Northampton was a solitary drop goal.

After the 1948/49 appearance he only made one further appearance for Northampton.

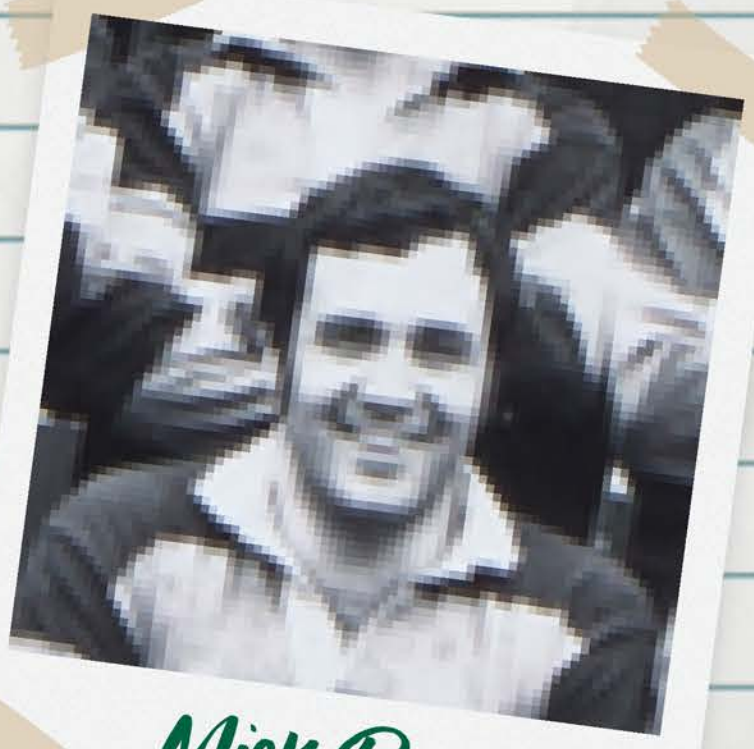


M.A Robertson

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



Mick Roper

SAINT No: 1342
Name: Michael J. Roper
Career: 1966 - 1977
Appearances: 154
Position: Number 8/Back row forward
Scores: T: 32 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 118

A product of Northampton Grammar School, Roper made his debut for Northampton against Oxford University on the 27th December 1966. He was the club captain in the 1973/74 season.

After retiring from playing, he stayed involved with the club serving on various committees and was instrumental in setting up the Crooked Hooker as a venue for past players to meet up on match days. He was also one of the Gang of Seven who in 1988 took over control of the club and appointed Barrie Corless as the country's first full-time director of rugby.

Away from rugby Mick was a very successful business man locally before he emigrated to South Africa.

Mick Roper

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

Len Rowe

SAINT No: 1220
Name: L.eonard C. Rowe
Career: 1955 - 1961
Appearances: 36
Position: Centre/Wing
Scores: T: 14 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 2 Total Points: 48

Rowe was born in Northampton in 1938 and started playing rugby for Old Towcestrian's but from there was invited to come and play for Northampton making his debut on the 28th April 1956 against Old Alleynians at Franklins Gardens. Northampton won the match 25-6 with Len kicking a drop goal.

During the next three seasons his playing time was split between Northampton and Oxford University. Whilst at Oxford University he also played first class cricket for them as an opening batsman.

He carried on periodically playing for Northampton until 1961 and soon after he moved to Durham where he took up a teaching position.



Len Rowe

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1221
Name: R. Rowe
Career: 1955 - 1960
Appearances: 11
Position: Wing
Scores: T: 7 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 21

Rowe made his debut for Northampton in the 1955/56 season the same year as his brother L. C. Rowe #1220.

He was a regular member of the Wanderers team (2nd XV) during the late 1950's playing on the wing, but whenever called up to the first team he would put in strong performances as evidenced by his record of seven tries in just 11 appearances.

He made four appearances in the 1955/56 season scoring three tries with his debut being in a 12 – 0 victory over St Guys Hospital on the 27th December 1955. The following season he made a further four appearances scoring four more tries.

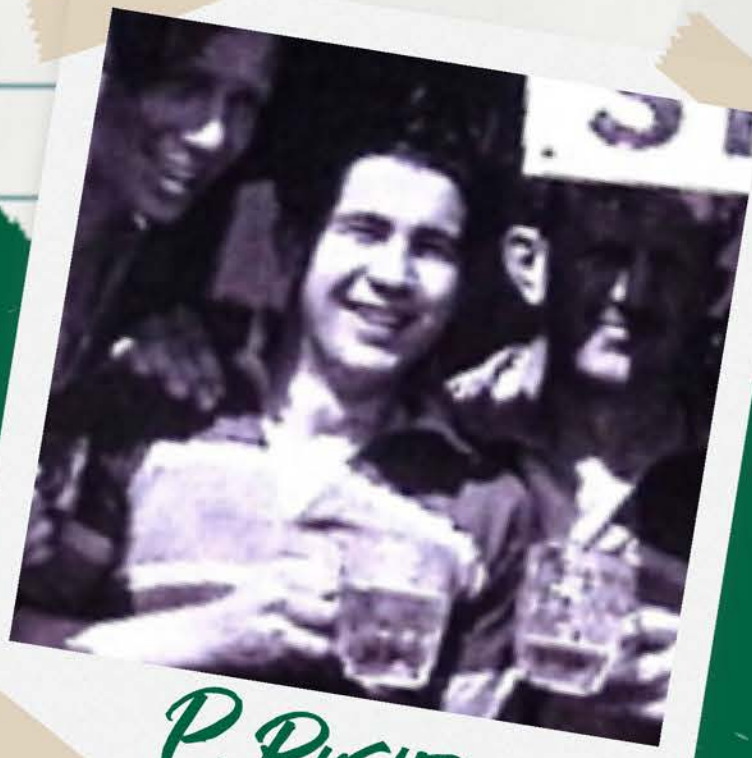
Over the next three seasons he only made three more appearances with his final run out for the Saints being at the start of the 1959/60 season against Rugby on the 21st September 1959.

R. Rowe

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1200
Name: P. Rushton
Career: 1954 - 1957
Appearances: 5
Position: Second row

Rushton was a stalwart of the club during the 1950s regularly playing for the Wanderers (2nd XV) and Crusaders (3rd XV) in the second row.

From 1951-1957 he was team secretary for the Crusaders selecting the team each week and liaising with the first team and Wanderers (2nd XV) selectors as to who was available and should be called up to provide cover when players dropped out, often at short notice, of either the first XV or the Wanderers.

On five occasions between 1954-1957 it was himself that provided the cover

P. Rushton

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

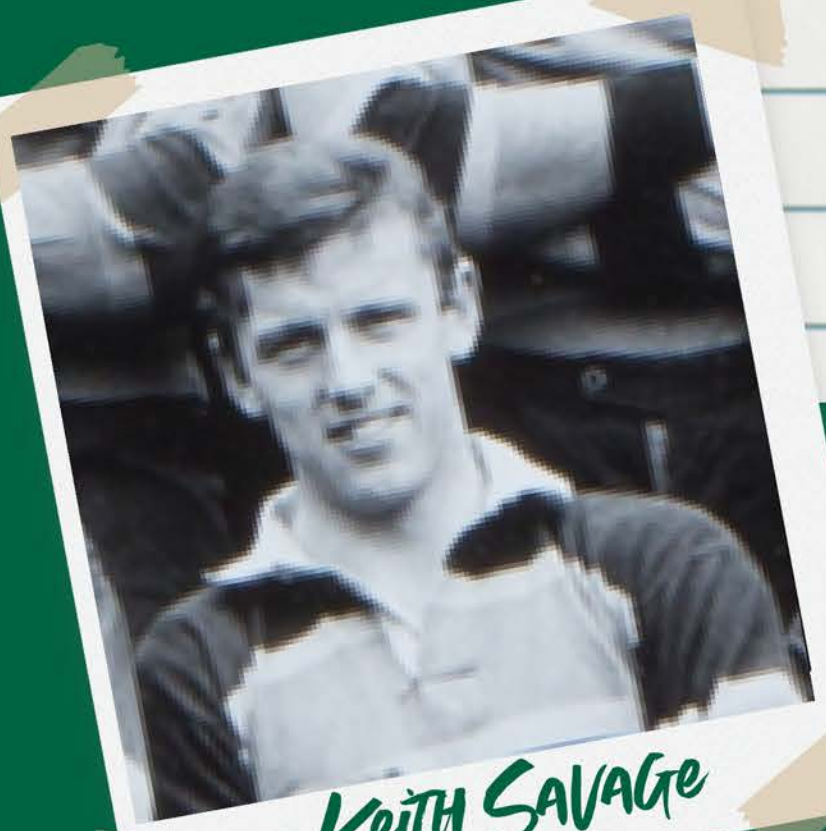
SAINT No: 1294
Name: M. T. Ryan
Career: 1962 – 1965
Appearances: 10
Position: Centre
Scores: T: 0 C: 3 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 6

Ryan played for the club ten times between 1962-1965. He made his debut on the 27th October 1962 against Leicester Tigers.

The annual report for the 1962/63 season stated: "M. Ryan showed considerable promise in his games".

The 1964/65 annual report said: "A young player who helped out and showed encouraging form was M. Ryan at full back or centre".

M.T. Ryan



Keith Savage

SAINT No: 1309
Name: Keith F. Savage
Career: 1963 - 1972
Appearances: 113
Position: Winger
Scores: T: 41 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points:123

Representative Honours:
International: England 13 caps British Lions: 1966 & 1968 4 caps

Savage joined the Saints from Leamington Spa RFC in 1963 with some encouragement from John Shurvinton #1275, often having to hitchhike to Northampton as he didn't have a car at the time! He was described as having a "startling turn of speed which [the Saints] would come to exploit to much greater effect in the years ahead". He was nicknamed the 'Leamington Flier'.

In the annual report of 1964/65 it was noted "...K. F. Savage improved upon his promise of the previous season. His splendid pace and opportunism make him a most dangerous player either in the centre or wing and could well reach higher company". Also he is best known for playing on the wing, he also played at centre, something he "preferred on a cold winter's afternoon because of the greater involvement".

Savage made his England debut v Wales on January 15th 1966. On the British Lions 1966 tour of Australia & New Zealand, the team made a detour to play Canada. Savage played in that match and scored a try. He was also selected to join the 1968 tour of South Africa, playing alongside fellow Saintsmen Peter Larter #1321, Bob Taylor #1295 and Bryan West #1370.

Alongside his rugby career, Savage was one of many Saints players that undertook teaching training at Loughborough College, where he trained to become a Physical Eduction teacher. He moved to South Africa in 1969 for 15 months to teach and on returning to England he re-joined Saints. Over the years, Keith has often split his time between England and South Africa.

In 2025, Keith was inducted into the Northampton Saints Hall of Fame, a very well deserved honour for his commitment to rugby but at club level and on the international stage.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1222
Name: James Saxby
Career: 1955 - 1956
Appearances: 2
Position: Second row

Saxby played in the second row for both the Wanderers (2nd XV) and the Crusaders (3rd XV) for a number of years.

During the 1955/56 season when the club was regularly trying to fill the position due to injuries and unavailability he was twice called up to the Saints (1st XV).

Both his appearances were in winning teams against Bedford 8-0 on the 19th November 1955 and then a week later against Sale 21-0 on the 26th November 1955.

Jim Saxby

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



Bob Scotney

SAINT No: 1114
Name: Robert T. Scotney
Career: 1948 - 1951
Appearances: 3
Position: Fly-half/Centre
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Scotney was a young fly-half who made his debut in the 1948/49 season playing twice and scoring one try. The annual report for that season states: "R. Scotney showed promise in the centre but the call up of the services is a big handicap which prevents players from settling down".

He didn't play for Northampton at all the following season but made one further appearance at the start of the 1950/51 season against Headingley on the 9th September 1950, a match Northampton lost 6 – 5.

Bob Scotney

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1162
Name: C. Shrimpton
Career: 1951 - 1952
Appearances: 4
Position: Second row

During the 1951/52 season Shrimpton was a key member of the very successful Wanderers (2nd XV) team playing in the second row.

On four occasions he was called up to the first team including against Cardiff away on the 15th April 1952 as part of the Easter tour, and also against Old Alleynians four days later on the 19th April 1952.

C. Shrimpton

JOHN SHURVINTON

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1275
Name: Ernest J. Shurvington
Career: 1960 - 1967
Appearances: 46
Position: Fly-half / Scrum-half / Centre / Full-back
Scores: T: 3 C: 16 P: 9 DG: 0 Total Points: 68
Representative Honours: Regional: Warwickshire
International: England U-19s

Shurvinton joined Northampton Saints from Leamington RFC where he had been a successful captain. The annual report for 1961/62 says: "J. Shurvinton, although playing out of position was adequate" and "as a utility player J. Shurvinton deputised at full back on occasions quite adequately".

The match programme against Leicester on the 28th October 1961 states: "E. J. Shurvinton is again called to play out of position, such is the penalty of being a good all-round player."

The 1962/63 annual report from the following season states: "J. Shurvington played in the concluding matches of the season and showed significant form which suggested he might have been included earlier".



JOHN SHURVINTON



JOHN SHURVINTON

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

He played one match for England U19's against Wales at Leicester in the 1953/54 season.

John is on record as saying: "Sometimes I was asked to play fly-half. There was Jeeps #1174 one side and Butterfield #1152 the other. It was an awesome experience for a young player, particularly as both enjoyed telling you what to do.".

John was part of a group of former players and supporters, known as 'The Gang of Seven', who put forward a proposal for the future running of the club. After a high-profile campaign in which both sides outlined their visions in the Chronicle and Echo, the proposals were put to a vote at the AGM on July 6th, 1988. The result was overwhelming: 228 in favour of change, just 76 against.
It was an emotional night that saw the old guard swept out and the new team given a mandate to make Northampton Saints great again.

John was the Commercial Manager for Northampton Saints, the first to undertake this role at the club. He held this position until 2000.

JOHN SHURVINTON

K Smart

SAINT No: 1310
Name: K. Smart
Career: 1963 - 1965
Appearances: 7
Position: Back row forward
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Smart made seven appearances for the club between 1963-1965 as a back row forward. His one and only try was scored against Harlequins on the 1st February 1964.

D. Smith

SAINT No: 1163
Name: D. Smith
Career: 1951 - 1955
Appearances: 2

Smith made two appearances for Northampton, once in the 1951/52 season and the other five years later in the 1955/56 season.

Jimmy Smith

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1115
Name: James W. Smith
Career: 1948 - 1951
Appearances: 49
Position: Scrum-half
Scores: T: 9 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 2 Total Points: 33

Smith joined Northampton midway through the 1948/49 season from Oxford University, and made a big impact filling the scrum-half position for the club. He scored five tries and a drop goal in that time. The annual report of that year states: "scrum half J. W. Smith proved to be the find of the season, and he improved with every game. A great-hearted little player, possessing all the attributes for the position, more will certainly be seen of him in higher football, and we hope he will find it convenient and possible to continue with the club."

He started the following season as first choice scrum half but by Christmas time Dr Eddie O'Mullane #1093 had taken over as first choice scrum half. Jimmy continued to deputise for O'Mullane when required and made a total of 22 appearances that season scoring a further four tries and one drop goal.

The 1950/51 season was Smith's last at Northampton and he made eight appearances with his final appearance being in the annual Boxing Day match against Penarth. By this time he had left his job with Travis and Arnold Ltd and relocated to Nottingham



Jimmy Smith

K.T. Smith

SAINT No: 1311
Name: K. T. Smith
Career: 1963 - 1964
Appearances: 8
Position: Left wing

Smith played eight games on the left wing for Northampton during the 1963/64 season.



Roger Smith

SAINT No: 1177
Name: R.oger G. Smith
Career: 1956 - 1962
Appearances: 80
Position: Fly-half/Centre
Scores: T: 8 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 24

Smith was a talented fly-half who made his debut for Northampton in a 6-0 victory over London Irish on the 3rd November 1956. Whilst the annual reports of the time refer to him being an accomplished player it would also appear that every season, he would miss many games due to injury. The 1957/58 report states: "R. G.Smith played very well at stand-off half, and continues to improve, but unfortunately his studies and at times injury, compelled him to miss more than half the matches."

The 1960/61 report indeed states: "After playing a few minutes of the first game in the season R. G. Smith at fly-half was injured and out of the game for months." These injuries took their toll and at the end of the 1961/62 season he stopped playing.

R.H. Smith

SAINT No: 1201
Name: R. H. Smith
Career: 1954 - 1957
Appearances: 6

Smith played six times for Northampton in the 1956/57 season.

S.R. Smith

SAINT No: 1249
Name: S .R. Smith
Career: 1957 - 1958
Appearances: 1
Position: Scrum-half

Smith played once at scrum-half for Northampton in the 1957/58 season.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

Trellevyn Smith

SAINT No: 1130
Name: Trellevyn Harvey Smith
Career: 1949 - 1956
Appearances: 150
Position: Hooker
Scores: T: 5 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 15
Representative Honours: International: England 1 cap

Saints have always looked to unearth local talent and develop them into better players. The majority of these tend to be younger players but it is not always the case. One such player was hooker Smith, who was 29 years old when he was spotted in a local trial match for Kettering RFC. Like many of his generation his formative rugby years had been blighted by the war and he had settled for local rugby until the call came from the Saints.

He joined the Saints in 1949 and two years later in 1951 he won an England cap playing against Wales in Swansea. The 1953/54 annual report described Smith as equal to any other player in the country in his position and someone the club had relied on for several seasons to secure possession from both the scrum and lineout.



R.E. Snell

SAINT No: 1095
Name: R. E. Snell
Career: 1947 - 1952
Appearances: 5
Position: Wing

Snell played on the wing for Northampton on four occasions between the 1st November 1947 against Nuneaton and the 7th February 1948 against Harlequins.

His only other appearance was over three years later when he played in a much changed Northampton side against Cardiff on the 29th October 1951. A game the Saints lost heavily 20 – 0 conceding six tries in the process

P. J. Snodin

SAINT No: 1202
Name: P. J. Snodin
Career: 1954 - 1957
Appearances: 2
Position: Prop

Snodin was a solid member of Northampton Rugby club during the 1950s playing regularly for both the Wanderers (2nd XV) and Crusaders (3rd XV) and indeed captained the Crusaders during the 1957/58 season.

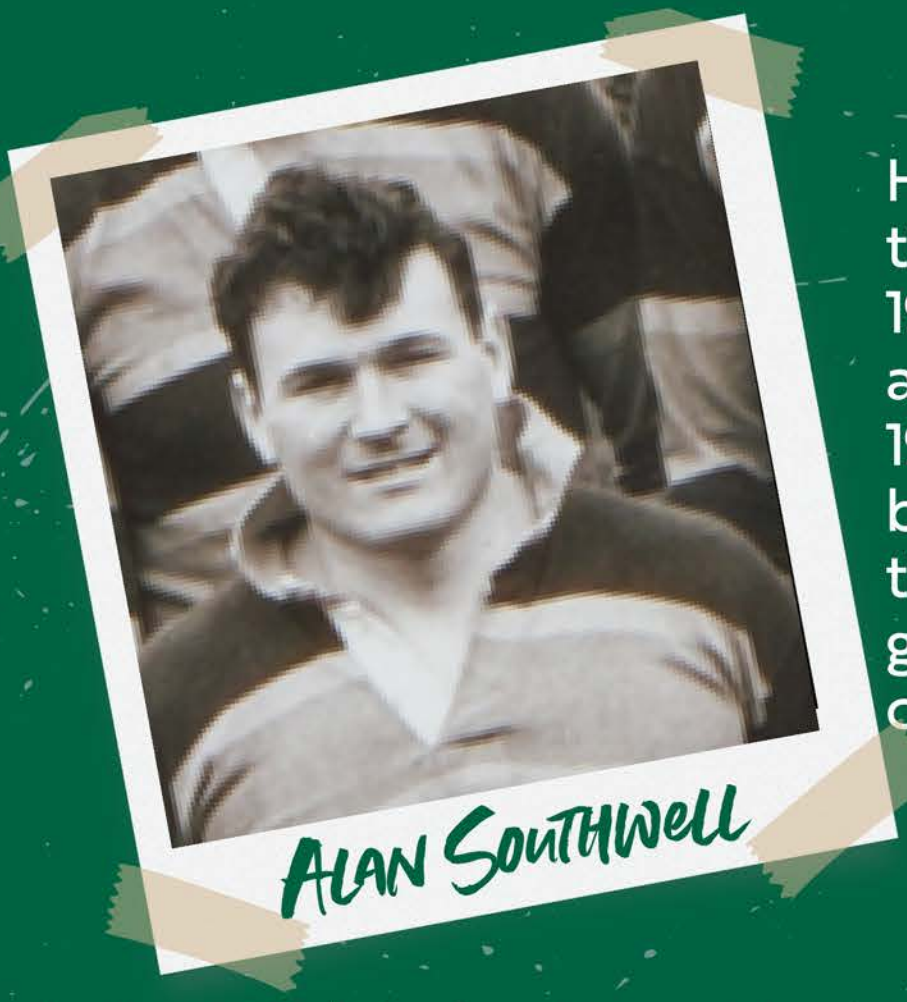
He twice played for the first team making his debut against Old Millhillians on the 9th October 1954 and then turning out on one further occasion in the 1956/57 season.

Alan Southwell

SAINT No: 1185
Name: C. A lan Southwell
Career: 1953 - 1970
Appearances: 245
Position: Second row
Scores: T: 14 C: 3 P: 5 DG: 0 Total Points: 61
Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands

Southwell made 245 appearances in the engine room for the men in Black, Green and Gold between 1953-1970, scoring 14 tries across his 17 year Saints career. He made numerous more appearances for the Wanderers (2nd XV) during this time.

Born in Corby in 1934, his love of rugby began at a young age , with the lock's passion for the sport staying with him through school, his National Service with the Royal Corps of Engineers, his time at Corby Rugby Club and, perhaps most notably, his prolific career at Northampton and with the East Midlands.



His debut was in a 6-0 loss to Neath on the 7th November 1953, but between 1953-1958 he only made a total of 29 appearances for the first team. It was the 1958/59 season that he really made his breakthrough playing 37 matches and for the next six seasons he played at least 30 games every season showing remarkable consistency.

In the 1958/59 annual report he was described as: "one of two young forwards bringing something vital to the pack, partly responsible for restoring the balance between forwards and backs. Being both big and fast and able to give and take a pass he fitted well into the new pattern of the game". His versatility was further shown in the 1961/62 season when he swapped position to play in the front row to help provide some solidity for the scrum, albeit he reverted to the second row the following season.

His impact at Saints would reach further than his on-pitch performances, chairing the grounds committee, Alan stayed a part of life at the Club long after hanging up his boots.

G. Sparkes

SAINT No: 1250
Name: G. Sparkes
Career: 1957 - 1959
Appearances: 9
Position: Prop

Sparkes a prop forward made a total of nine appearances for Northampton of which three were in the 1957/58 season, with his debut against London Welsh on the 4th January 1958.

The following season he had a run of six games in October and November 1958 deputising for injured players.

T.E.V. Stephenson

SAINT No: 1234
Name: T. E. V. Stephenson
Career: 1956 - 1958
Appearances: 12
Position: Back row forward
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Stephenson made his debut, in the back row, towards the end of the 1956/57 season against Bedford on the 16th March 1957, and then made a further six appearances before the end of the season scoring his only try for Northampton against Old Millhillians on the 30th March, part of a 19 – 3 winning score line. The end of season report described him as giving splendid support to the team.

His five appearances the following season were more spread out with the annual report for this season stating: "Frequent changes in the back row contributed towards a frustrating ineffectiveness ".

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

D.T. Stevens

SAINT No: 1268
Name: D. T. Stevens
Career: 1959 - 1960
Appearances: 4
Position: Scrum-half
Representative Honours: Oxford University

Stevens was a member of the Oxford University side gaining his blue in the 1959/60 season who stood in at scrum half for Dickie Jeeps #1174 when he was not available during the latter half of the season.

He made his debut against Moseley on the 9th January 1960 and his final match was against London Irish under the floodlights at the British Timken Sports ground in Duston where Saints used to play evening games prior to having floodlights installed at Franklins Gardens.

Peter Stewart

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No : 1223
Name: Peter J. Stewart
Career: 1955 - 1961
Appearances: 79
Position: Back row forward
Scores: T: 0 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 75

Stewart was born on the 18th September 1933 in Blisworth, Northampton, the youngest of six siblings. He was educated at Blisworth Primary school and won a Scholarship to Towcester Grammar School. His biggest influence was his games master at the grammar school R.T. Jones #1091 who played centre for the Saints.

He played for the Old Towcestrians and during a game between them and a Saints side, Ted Needham #1219 recommended PJ to Gordon Sturtridge, Honoury Secretary.
He made his Saints debut on the 7th January 1956 at home against London Welsh and scored a try in that game, which Saints won 16 - 3.

Although heavily tipped to go on and be an international player Peter chose to put his career first and this led to fewer appearances than may have been expected.



Peter Stewart

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

P.D. STRANG

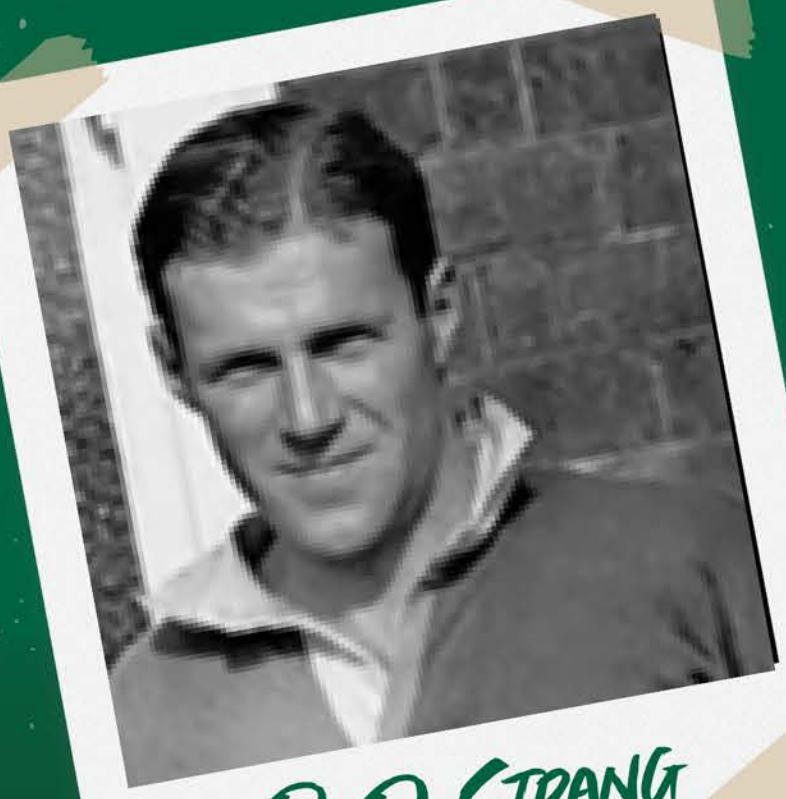
SAINT No: 1131
Name: P. D. Strang
Career: 1949 - 1950
Appearances: 8
Position: Prop
Representative Honours: Regional: Berkshire

Strang was educated at Leighton Park School and Northampton Agricultural College. Whilst at the Agricultural College he played eight times for Northampton during the 1949/50 season including games against Rosslyn Park, Nuneaton and Llanelli. He then moved back to the family farm near Reading and had a spell playing for Harlequins.

It was while playing for Harlequins that he played many of his 37 county championship matches for Berkshire. In 1953/54 season he was one of four Berkshire players included in the Southern Group team which played the All Blacks at Brighton.

In the late 1950's he decided to return to Reading and his impact as captain for two years was to spark a rejuvenation of the club both on and off the field. This led to the award of the club's Honours Cap.

After his days as captain were over Peter took on other responsibilities. First he joined the General Business Committee. Then he became Fixture Secretary in 1962, a position he held for ten years. During that spell, between 1967 and 1969, he combined that post with the position of Club Chairman. With Peter's rugby background he was the ideal person to be elected as Club President in 1977, a position he held for two years. It was during this time that he became a trustee of the club, a position he held until the club changed its status in 1997.



P. D. STRANG

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



G. Sturgess

SAINT No: 1343
Name: G. Sturgess
Career: 1966 - 1967
Appearances: 4
Position: Fly-half
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

Sturgess made four appearances for Northampton Saints during the 1966/67 season, playing at fly-half.

G. Sturgess

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1344
Name: Peter R. Sweet
Career: 1966 - 1982
Appearances: 333
Position: Centre/Back row forward
Scores: T: 58 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 1 Total Points: 215

Peter grew up in Milton Malsor and was educated at Towcester Grammar School and St Lukes University, Exeter, both of whom he represented at rugby. As a PE teacher, he made his debut for Northampton in 1966 as a centre, and was regarded as a good all round athlete.

During the 1970's Peter switched from playing centre to playing in the back row and such were his abilities he continued to be a key player for Northampton.

He was Vice Captain for the 1973/74 season and Club Captain in the 1979/80 season.

After finishing his playing career he went on to coach a local junior team at Northampton Men's Own RFC.

Peter Sweet

Frank Sykes

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1203
Name: Frank Douglas Sykes
Career: 1954 - 1965
Appearances: 235
Position: Wing
Scores: T: 152 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 456
Representative Honours: Regional: Yorkshire
International: England 4 caps
Barbarians: 3 appearances & British Lions: Toured with 1955 Lions

Sykes was born in Batley, Yorkshire in 1927. A winger with an outstanding strike rate of 152 tries in his 235 appearances for Northampton, an England international and British and Irish Lions tourist. Sykes was a player whose quality shone through and who made a lasting impact on those who met him throughout his life.

He was part of a Saints team that included the likes of Dickie Jeeps #1174 and Jeff Butterfield #1152. Butterfield had encouraged Frank to join the Saints but was not about to do the winger any favours. Indeed, Sykes was reported as saying: "Jeff, for God's sake let me do a bit towards scoring some of the tries occasionally!"



Frank Sykes

Frank Sykes

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

This comment would surely have been mere tongue-in-cheek, as not only did Frank become an important part of one of the best backlines to ever wear black, green and gold, but he also had his first England caps and a place on the 1955 British and Irish Lions tour alongside his illustrious clubmates within 12 months of moving to Franklin's Gardens.

Frank arrived in Northampton aged 26 from Huddersfield, where he had played between 1949-1954. He was part of a flood of exciting talent that flowed into the Gardens in the mid-1950s, including Jim Hetherington #1195, Phil Taylor #1204 and Roger Hosen #1212.

Frank was a teacher at Northampton Grammar School and he was instrumental in bringing through the next generation of Saints stars, including Bob Taylor #1295, Bryan West #1370, Glenn Robertson #1293, Mick Roper #1342 and Geoff Allen #1283. Bob Taylor said of him "Frank took over the school XV following on from Roger Hosen and Phil Taylor. He was very keen to make sure that we made the ball do the work encouraging us to play expansive rugby. I joined the Saints within a year of leaving school and was playing with Frank. He was quick and strong as well, and quite often his power would create tries. By that time he was an elder statesman in the changing room and was very encouraging and helpful to try and make sure all of the young players achieved their best."

In 1966 he secured a teaching post in Boston, USA and was among the first of a large influx of foreign-born players to usher in a golden era of Boston rugby. He could be considered one of the founding fathers of the sport in the USA as from Boston he moved to Arizona and then California and continued coaching teams until 1995. He remained in the United States until his death in 2017.



Frank Sykes

Bob Taylor

SAINT No: 1295
Name: Robert B. Taylor
Career: 1962 - 1979
Appearances: 313
Position: Back row
Scores: T: 75 C: 3 P: 12 DG: 0 Total Points: 280
Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands & Midlands
International: England 16 caps , British Lions: 4 caps (1968) & Barbarians

Considering that, by his own admission, he was pretty ambivalent towards rugby, Taylor did not have that bad a career in the sport. Indeed, there are few men to have had as much an impact off the field as on it, holding a wide variety of administrative roles, including one of the highest in the land.

"I rarely watched the Saints as a boy and didn't have any boyhood heroes," Taylor told Brian Barron in 'Nothing Without Labour'.

Had he turned his childhood promise at football into a professional contract when offered one by Northampton Town then the soon to be international flanker would have been lost to rugby union forever.

His father might have been happy, though. "My dad used to take me to the Cobblers and would have been chuffed if I had given soccer a go. But all my friends played rugby and I didn't fancy it."

So rugby it was, and Taylor made an immediate impact on the Saints first team, bursting onto the scene as a raw 20 year old to make 22 appearances in his debut season and displacing vice-captain Steve Wilcock from the side in the process.



Bob Taylor

Bob Taylor

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

The 1962-1963 Saints that Taylor was a part of was a side that was on something of a slide, with players growing old together before ultimately breaking up through retirement, injury and simple unavailability.

However Taylor was the shining light, even if his playing style could be somewhat infuriating for his coaches and admirers, including the great Don White #1028, who would later select Taylor for England.

Described by Brian Barron as someone who 'always gave the impression he was keeping something in reserve', Taylor was, 'like all great players always seemed to have that little extra time'.

The 1950s had seen the Saints dominate British club rugby with a vintage including the likes of Dickie Jeeps (#1174), Jeff Butterfield (#1152), Ron Jacobs (#1121) and White. And while Taylor's maiden season was somewhat forgettable it was not long before he was part of a new generation, playing alongside players such as David Powell (#1307), Keith Savage (#1309) and Andy Hancock (#1317), individuals who would earn international honours within the next few seasons.

As well as starring in the back row, Taylor was ideally placed to help organise training sessions, too, having trained as a PE teacher, and he would stay in this profession at Wellingborough School and Lings Upper School for over 30 years.

1964-1965 was a memorable season as the Saints went on an 18 match unbeaten run, with Taylor and Hancock to the fore, and Savage and Powell heading on the British and Irish Lions' tour to New Zealand a year later.



Bob Taylor

By then Taylor was also in the England side, and his time in the red shirt would come in the 1968's trip to South Africa, a tour on which he would play 14 times, including all four test matches. It was a positive end to a year which had also seen Taylor captain the club despite having injury problems and other things on his mind.

"The leadership probably came a bit too soon," he reflected in 'Nothing Without Labour'. "There were a number of problems. For a start I got a horrendous ankle injury, which meant I missed a lot of the early games. Also my priority at the time was getting England recognition. I would have liked another chance but it never came."

Despite that Taylor would nevertheless be handed the armband for England in the 1970's Five Nations trip to France and captained the England and Wales team in the RFU's centenary test later that same year against Scotland and Ireland at Twickenham, a side which was a who's who of rugby at the time, the likes of full back JPR Williams, half-backs Barry John and Gareth Edwards, and front rowers John Pullin and Keith Fairbrother.

Taylor's own final cap came later that season, but he would continue to turn out for the Saints for the remainder of the 1970's, retiring with over 300 appearances and nearly 300 points to his name, as well as representative honours with the East Midlands, Midlands and Barbarians.

That might have been enough for some people, but not Taylor, who went on to establish himself as a pre-eminent administrator at a number of levels. A committee member at Franklin's Gardens from 1970, he was club president between 1993-1995, then becoming honorary secretary of Northampton RFC from 1995 until the members' club was dissolved in 2013.

Taylor has also been the chairman of the East Midlands Rugby Union since 1998, and has been on numerous RFU committees, too. Perhaps the ultimate honour was bestowed on him in 2007, when he was appointed as president of the RFU, only the third person from Franklin's Gardens to hold the position.

He remains actively involved in the East Midlands RFU and with the Mobbs Memorial Match, and is a familiar face at Franklin's Gardens.



BOB TAYLOR

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1330
Name: J. Taylor
Career: 1965 - 1966
Appearances: 7
Position: Centre

Taylor made seven appearances at centre for the Saints during the 1965/66 season.

J. TAYLOR

Ken Taylor

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

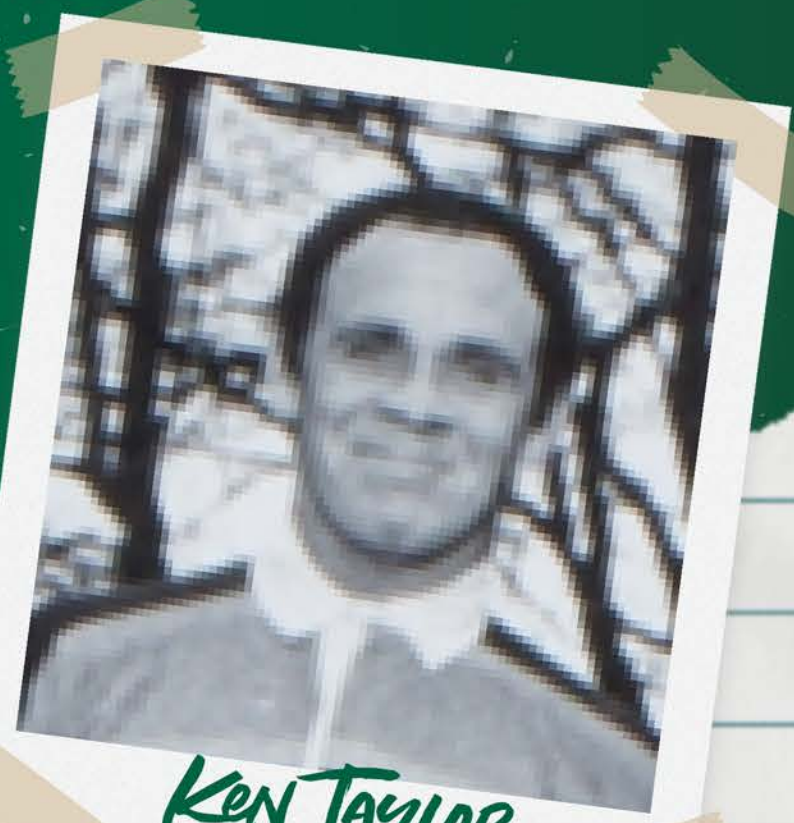
SAINT No: 1276
Name: Kenneth J. Taylor
Career: 1960 - 1971
Appearances: 71
Position: Full-back
Scores: T: 4 C: 4 P: 20 DG: 0 Total Points: 166

Taylor also known as 'Quack' joined Northampton in 1960. The annual report for that season says: "K .Taylor who joined the club at the beginning of the season filled the full-back position with skill and ability. A particularly safe fielder of the ball and capable kicker with either foot, a better sense of position and quicker reaction are suggestions which could make an all round significant improvement in his play".

Ken also played for Coventry RFC, Rugby Lions and local club Long Buckby RFC.

In the Nothing Without Labour book it states: "that it was a time of social change, full-back Ken Taylor, who lived in Northampton, returning to the club from Rugby Lions to beat the breathalyser. Ken said at the time, before the breathalyser was introduced I was twice stopped by the police on my way home to Northampton after playing for Rugby. On both occasions they accepted my explanation that I was travelling home but now they might give me a little bag to blow in, which would be very dodgy."

Ken was the son of ex-Saint player Bill Taylor.



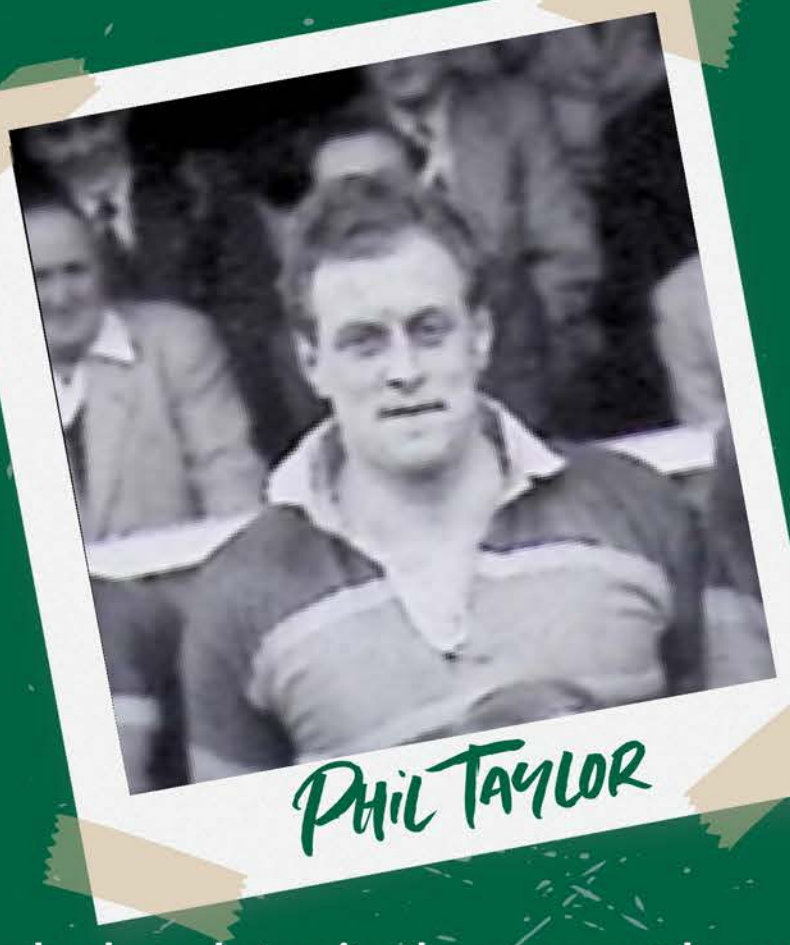
Phil Taylor

SAINT No: 1204
Name: Philip J. Taylor
Career: 1954 - 1963
Appearances: 224
Position: Number 8
Scores: T: 38 C: 4 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 122
Representative Honours: Regional: Yorkshire
International: England 6 caps & Barbarians: 3 caps

Taylor also known as 'Noddy' was born in Wakefield and originally played water polo but after visiting College Grove , the home of Wakefield RFC , he never looked back in rugby and made his first appearance for the side during the 1948/49 season.

Leaving his hometown in 1949, he joined the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and soon donned Army colours , turning out for the side against France in 1951.
He also made 54 appearances for Yorkshire, where the number 8 helped his side claim two County Championships, as well as making three appearances for the Barbarians between 1953-1955. In 1954 he linked up with Northampton and went on to make 224 appearances for Saints, while teaching history and PE at Northampton School for Boys.

While in Northampton, the number 8 also earned international recognition and made his England debut against Wales in 1955 playing twice that season. He would make another four England appearances in 1962, with his last cap coming in an infamous draw with Scotland.



Phil captained Northampton from 1961-1963 and the 1961/62 annual report reads: "Much credit is due to P. J. Taylor who experienced a notable season both as captain and player. His leadership and example played an outstanding part in the team's successes, and when later in the season he was recalled to the England side as leader of the pack it was an honour fully deserved".

After his career came to an end he moved to Spain for 11 years before returning to Barnard Castle, Durham where his passion for rugby still thrived and he became a regular visitor at Barnard Castle Rugby Club, donating one of his England caps to the club.

Arthur Thomas

SAINT No: 1312
Name: Arthur C. Thomas
Career: 1963 - 1967
Appearances: 44
Position: Back row forward
Scores: T: 4 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 12

Thomas made 44 appearances for Northampton between 1963-1967 as a back row forward.

The annual report for 1964/65 states: "A. C. Thomas played extremely well during the first half of the season and was a reserve for the England trials".

H. Thomas

SAINT No: 1251
Name: H. Thomas
Career: 1957 - 1958
Appearances: 1
Position: Centre

Thomas played one match as a centre for Northampton. The match was the last game of the 1957-1958 season against Old Alleynians on the 26th April 1958. Saints won the fixture 23 – 0.

Ian Thompson



SAINT No: 1355
Name: Ian C. Thompson
Career: 1967 - 1974
Appearances: 43
Position: Second row
Scores: T: 2 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 6

Thompson made 43 appearances for the Saints during his seven year spell at the club.

T. Thomas

SAINT No: 1324
Name: T. Thomas
Career: 1964 - 1965
Appearances: 1
Position: Scrum-half
Scores: T: 2 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 6

Thomas played once for the club during the 1964/65 season as a scrum-half.

The annual report for that year stated: "A young player who helped out and showed encouraging form was T. Thomas, scrum-half".

I. Thrupp

SAINT No: 1356
Name: I. Thrupp
Career: 1967 - 1969
Appearances: 5

Thrupp made five appearances for Northampton Saints between 1967-1969.

R. Toseland

SAINT No: 1235
Name: R. Toseland
Career: 1956 - 1958
Appearances: 5
Position: Prop

Toseland, a prop forward, made his debut for Northampton on the 1st December 1956 against Aberavon and made a further three appearances that season.

The annual report from the 1956/57 season reads “Of the other young forwards denied a regular place but showing every promise R. Toseland gave splendid support”.

The following season 1957/58 he played his fourth and final match for Northampton.

R.G. Townsend

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1236
Name: R .G. Townsend
Career: 1956 - 1966
Appearances: 82
Position: Fly-half/Centre/Wing/Full-back
Scores: T: 29 C: 7 P: 1 DG: 0 Total Points: 104
Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands

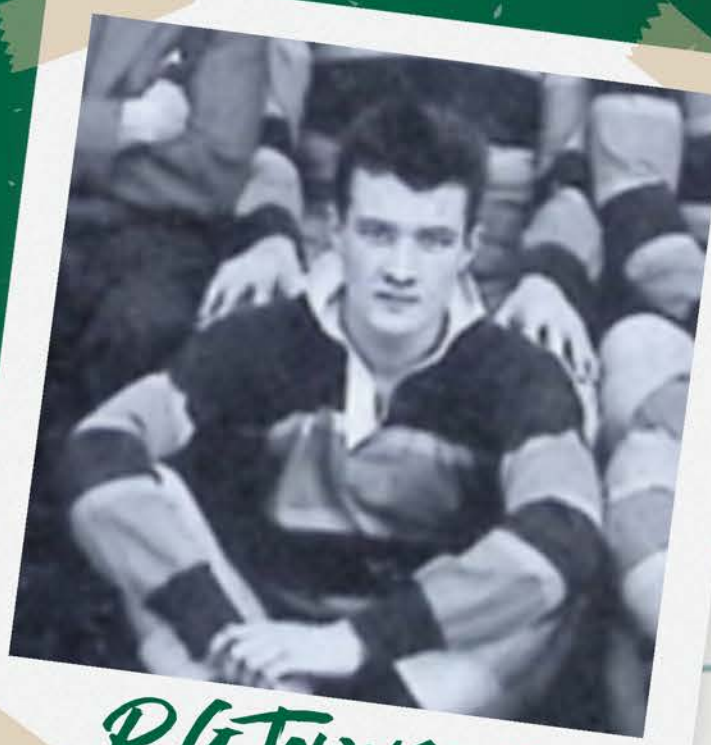
Townsend was a very versatile player who played right across the backline for Northampton. He made his debut in the last match of the 1956/57 season on the 27th April 1957 against Old Alleynians. Northampton won the match 27-3 with Townsend playing on the wing and scoring a try.

Over the next four seasons he played fairly often for Northampton but nearly always covering for someone who was unavailable rather than cementing his own position. Indeed the 1959/60 annual report, referring to player absences, states : "It was on these occasions that R. G. Townsend came into the team and showed splendid form. An all round footballer capable of filling the fly-half, centre, wing or full- back positions, he now challenges for a permanent position on either wing."

His versatility was further emphasised in the annual report of the following season, 1960/61 which states: "R. G. Townsend again showed pace and cleverness on the wing and when required at fly-half also".

Over the following five seasons he made far fewer appearances due to a combination of injuries and other players emerging. He missed virtually the whole of the 1962/63 season due to a serious knee injury.

His final appearance for Northampton was on the 5th February 1966 at fly-half against Harlequins, a game Northampton lost 33-3.

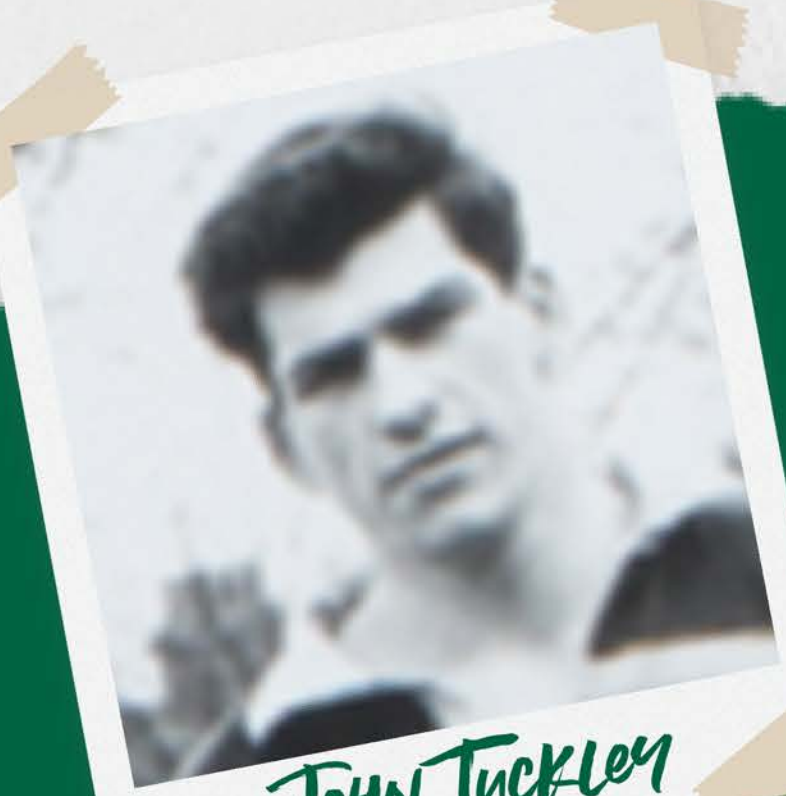


R.G. Townsend

G.J.TRAYLEN

SAINT No: 1132
Name: G. J. Traylen
Career: 1949 - 1951
Appearances: 3
Position: Wing

Traylen played on the wing for Northampton on three occasions between 1949-1951 including against Gloucester on the 11th March 1950 a game the Saints won 6 – 0.



JOHN TUCKLEY

SAINT No: 1281
Name: John W. Tuckley
Career: 1961 - 1966
Appearances: 80
Position: Winger
Scores: T: 36 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 108

Tuckley made 80 appearances for Northampton between 1961-1966 scoring a total of 108 points.

The annual report for 1961/62 says: "Graduating from the "Colts" via the Crusaders (3rd XV and Wanderers (2nd XV)in the space of a year J. W. Tuckley showed most encouraging form on the wing and more should be seen of this young player".

He was again mentioned in the annual report for 1962/62: "despite limited opportunities, continued to improve and justified his inclusion".

Brian Tunney

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1252
Name: Brian Tunney
Career: 1957 - 1964
Appearances: 83
Position: Scrum-half
Scores: T: 13 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 39
Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands

Whilst clubs are often judged and remembered by their star players , equally as important are those players who provide cover when the star names ae away playing for country or region. Tunney was such a player, a very good scrum-half in his own right who represented the East Midlands as well as Northampton, but ,was playing at the same time as Dickie Jeeps #1174, indeed during his playing time at Northampton he was known by supporters as 'Jeeps No:2'.

The mechanical engineer from Wellingborough learnt his rugby at Wellingborough Grammar School before joining Northampton where he played 83 times for the first team over seven years although he also played many more games for the Wanderers (2nd XV) and Crusaders (3rd XV) over that period.

The 1959/60 annual report describes his role and performance in covering for Jeeps as follows: "To deputise for such an outstanding player was no easy task, but Brian displayed all the essential qualifications and showed skill and sound progress throughout. Although he has made no attempt to model his play to that of Jeeps, his style is similar to a marked degree."



Brian Tunney

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

Dick Turnell

SAINT No: 1224
Name: A . Richard Turnell
Career: 1955 - 1969
Appearances: 345
Position: Blind-side-flanker
Scores: T: 38 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 114
Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands

Turnell made his debut for Northampton on the 19th November 1955 against Bedford at Franklins Gardens. The blind side flanker was the older brother of Roger Turnell #1237 a tighthead prop who played 208 times for Saints and was also the cousin of winger Barry Oldham #1322 who made 337 appearances. He was a hugely proud Saints man and would have been especially proud of his son Ross #1507 also turning out for Northampton.

In the late 1950's Dick left the Northampton area to go to university and work and was only able to make occasional appearances, but by the 1962/63 season he was back living in the area and played in every game that season. The following season he almost achieved the same feat but injured an ankle in the penultimate game.



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

Dick Turnell

Barry Oldham said of him: "Dick covered the blindside and he made sure nothing came around that side and he didn't really mind how he did it!" The annual reports of the time reiterated that point and the 1962/63 report states: "Strong in defence, his play left little to be desired although if a shade more constructive he could impress a higher authority." He obviously took this on board as the 1963/64 report states: "his play in attack shows an advance on last year, while defensively he was beyond reproach."

He then captained Northampton for the 1963/64 season which proved very challenging with the death of long time club president Gordon Sturtridge #798 at the start of it. He always maintained his enthusiasm for the club and Oldham also said of him: "Dick loved the rivalries between the English clubs and the Welsh clubs, more than the normal fixture, apart from Leicester of course! If he went to Wales or a Welsh side came to us, there was always that bit of an extra edge."

After retiring from playing Dick remained involved with the club as a selector and committee member.



Roger Turnell

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1237
Name: Roger C. Turnell
Career: 1956 - 1970
Appearances: 208
Position: Hooker/Prop
Scores: T: 20 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 60
Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands

Turnell played regularly for Northampton during the 1960's alongside his brother Dick Turnell #1224 and his cousin Barry Oldham #1322. However, he took a while to establish himself in the first team as in his first six seasons with Northampton he only made a total of 27 first team appearances and most weeks would play for the Wanderers (2nd XV).

He made his debut as a hooker on the 9th March 1957 against Rosslyn Park a match Northampton won 14-6. He made three appearances that season but only one the following season, 1957/58, again at hooker against Birkenhead Park on the 22nd March 1958, a match that resulted in the highly unusual score line of 0-0!

He continued to play at hooker until the 1961/62 season when he switched to tight head prop and was the understudy to Ron Jacobs #1121 but still only made five appearances that season. His breakthrough year was 1962/63 when halfway through the season he moved across to loose-head prop.

This change of position was the making of him as the 1963/64 annual report states: "At loose-head prop R. C. Turnell had his best season so far and surely cannot be far away from an international cap. His speed and play in the loose for a tight forward was at times phenomenal. He was the only player to play in every match throughout the season, a tribute to his training and fitness."

His final appearance was on the 4th October 1969 away to London Scottish a match Northampton lost 20-6.



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

Adrian Underwood

SAINT No: 1282
Name: Adrian Martin Underwood
Career: 1961 - 1963
Appearances: 21
Position: Winger
Scores: T: 14 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 1 Total Points: 45
Representative Honours: International: England 5 caps

Underwood was a graduate of St. Luke's college, Exeter, and moved to Northampton to work at the grammar school.

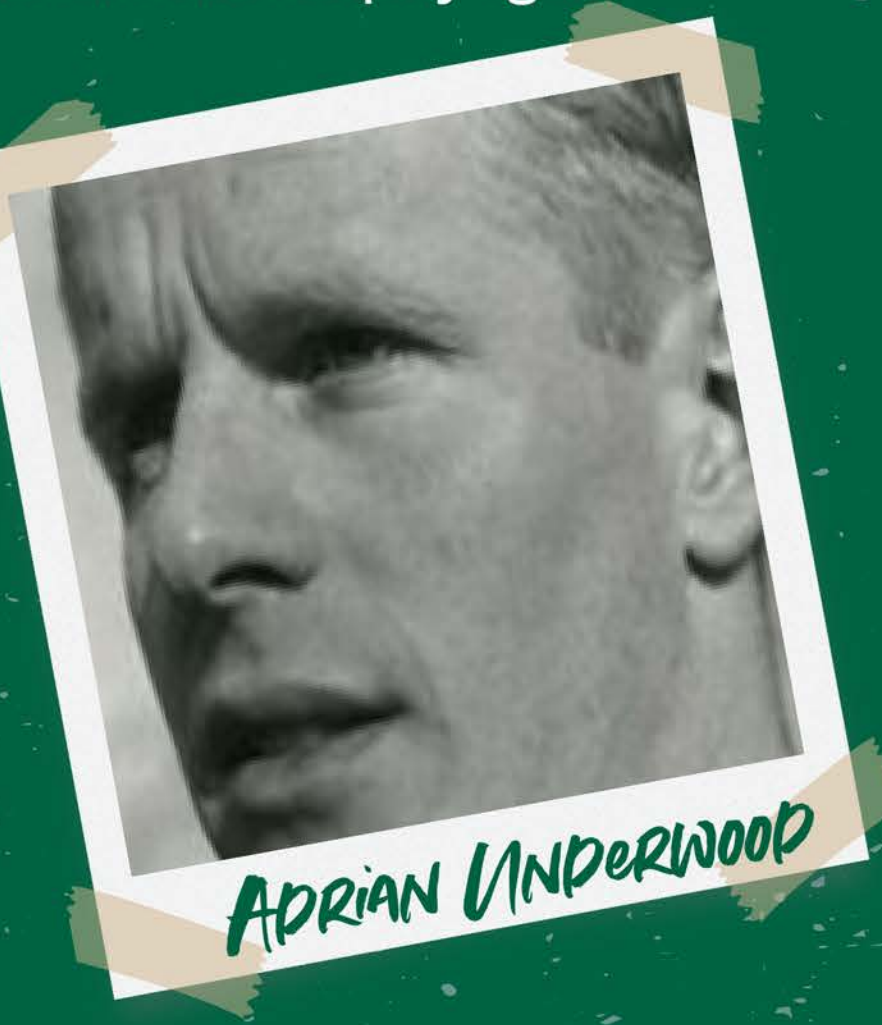
The 1961/62 annual report states: "Young newcomer at the beginning of the season, M. Underwood suffered a serious injury which put him out of football for many matches, after he had made a dramatic entry into first class football, for in his first season he gained four England caps. At present he is more of an individualist, relying on a quick strong burst, with a sound tackle, but with more experience should develop into a first class constructive centre three-quarter".

The 1962/63 annual report states: "A. M. Underwood, of whom great things were expected, broke down in each of his first three games and did not play again."

He gained five caps for England, four in the 1962 Five Nations matches. After moving to Exeter RFC, he earned a further England cap in 1963.

He retired at the age of 23 due to injury and became a lecturer in physical education at St Luke's College, Exeter.

In 1968 he was recruited by the RFU to join their Coaching Advisory Panel and wrote the influential book, "Better Rugby", published in 1973. It became the standard textbook for would be coaches and teachers and was reprinted six times.



Adrian Underwood

Trevor Underwood

SAINT No: 1269
Name: Trevor Underwood
Career: 1959 - 1960
Appearances: 1
Position: Centre

On the 10th October 1959 Northampton put out two first teams in order to fulfil fixture commitments. The stronger team travelled to Cardiff whilst a team with a number of debutants played at home against Old Millhillians.

Underwood, along with his centre partner that day K .Earl #1266, was one of three players in the team for whom this would be their only ever first team appearance.

Saints lost the match 16 – 22, and they continued playing Old Millhillians annually until 1976 but never lost against them again.

R. Underwood

SAINT No: 1164
Name: R. Underwood
Career: 1951 - 1955
Appearances: 3
Position: Wing forward

Underwood was a loyal clubman and played across the back row for the Wanderers (2nd XV) during the 1950's. He was called up to the first team on three occasions, making his debut against Birmingham on the 27th February 1951.

His final appearance for the Saints was in the 1954/55 season against Old Millhillians on the 9th October 1954, a game the Saints lost 3 - 17.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



BARRY WAITE

SAINT No: 1346
Name: Barry Waite
Career: 1966 - 1972
Appearances: 63
Position: Number 8/Flanker
Scores: T: 16 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 48
Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands International: USA

Waite made 63 appearances for Northampton between 1966-1972 at number 8 and flanker.

In 1973 he moved to Houston, Texas and eventually became a US citizen. He played for Houston Old Boys RC from 1973–1978, winning the Texas Rugby Union (TRU) Championship. He was named TRU "Man of the Year" for the 1975/76 season., and went on to coach the team from 1975–1977.

In 1976 he played for the US Eagles, the national team, against Australia and France.

He retired from rugby in 1979 and was inducted to the USA Rugby Hall of Fame in 2020 as part of the US Eagles 1976 team.

BARRY WAITE

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1368
Name: W. J. Walker
Career: 1968 - 1969
Appearances: 1

Walker made a single appearance for Northampton Saints during the 1968/69 season.

W. J. Walker

Chris Wardlow

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1376
Name: Christopher Wardlow
Career: 1969 - 1972
Appearances: 37
Position: Left wing/Inside centre
Scores: T: 12 C: 0 P: 1 DG: 1 Total Points: 44
Representative Honours: Regional: Northern Counties International: England 5 caps

Wardlow started his career with home-town club Carlisle, moving to Saints in 1969.

Chris maintained his northern rugby connections throughout his time in the Midlands, travelling back to play in representative games. Famously, one of these occasions saw him named man of the match when North West Counties became the first English county side to beat a touring All Blacks side.

His proud Cumbrian roots indirectly cost the midfielder a place on the British & Irish Lions tour of New Zealand in 1971. After being selected to make the trip, he was forced to withdraw after breaking his jaw playing for Northern Counties.

After winning five England caps during his time with Northampton, he went on to play for Coventry in 1972.

He is remembered as being great company off the field. As a party piece Chris used to eat the whole of a pork chop, bones and all, and also light bulbs. He would also take on anybody in an arm wrestle and rarely, if ever, lost.

Chris died in 2024 at the age of 81 in his native Carlisle following a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's Disease.



Chris Wardlow

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



Steve Watkins

SAINT No: 1369
Name: Steven Watkins
Career: 1968 - 1971
Appearances: 32
Position: Centre

Watkins played 32 times at centre for Northampton between 1968-1971.

Steve recalls his call up to play for the Saints as a 18 year old schoolboy, as part of the Easter Tour, "It was April the 5th 1969, the Saints played against Llanelli. It was Easter Saturday, the ground was hard, it turned out to be a sunny day, and Llanelli had a fantastic reputation, they had Phil Bennett at fly half. Ray Gravell, the well-known centre, was playing, along side Delme Thomas and J. J. Williams. It was a hell of a baptism, but I thoroughly enjoyed it."

Away from rugby, Steve became a teacher after a studying at Loughborough Colleges, and went on to live abroad before settling in Earls Barton as Headteacher of the Earls Barton Primary School.

Steve Watkins

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

J. WATSON

SAINT No: 1205
Name: J. Watson
Career: 1954 - 1955
Appearances: 3
Position: Wing
Scores: T: 2 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 6

Watson a winger played three times for Northampton in the 1954/55 season.

All three of those appearances were in December of that season against Moseley on the 4th December, Old Merchant Taylors on the 11th December and Wasps on the 18th December 1954.

He scored a try in his final appearance against Wasps a 16 – 0 victory for Saints.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



BRYAN WEST

SAINT No: 1370
Name: Bryan R. West
Career: 1968 - 1973
Appearances: 56
Position: Flanker
Scores: T: 8 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 26
Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands
International: England 8 Caps & British Lions: 1968 Tour

A Northampton Grammar school pupil who, aged 16, played for England U19's. West studied Physical Education at Loughborough College and played for East Midlands against North Midlands before he made his Saints debut.

He won eight caps for England, his debut coming against Wales on the 20th January 1968. He was also in the team that beat South Africa for the very first time in December 1969.

Bryan went on the 1968 Lions tour to South Africa but did not feature in any of the international matches.

He left Saints aged 22 after a lucrative offer from Wakefield Trinity, a rugby league club. He retired from rugby aged 25.

Bryan went onto teach at Trinity School in Northampton.

BRYAN WEST

John Whiffing

SAINT No: 1225
Name: John Whiffing
Career: 1955 - 1956
Appearances: 1

The 1952/53 annual report states in 'The Wanderers (2nd XV)' section: "Wellingborough Grammar schoolboy John Whiffing is a youngster of whom great things are expected in the future".

However, he only ever played once for Northampton in the 1955/56 season.

Barry White

SAINT No: 1296
Name: Barry White
Career: 1962 - 1967
Appearances: 4
Position: Winger

White also known as 'Basher' was a winger who made four appearances for Northampton between 1962-1967.

He was a schoolteacher and though he had a limited playing career he was the Saint's first official coach.

In the 1971/72 season he was appointed to the club's ten man coaching panel, a position he held until the end of the 1973/74 season when he became disgruntled, complaining he was not given sufficient backing for his ideas.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION

Don White

SAINT No: 1028
Name: Donald Frederick White
Career: 1943 - 1961
Appearances: 448
Position: Back row
Scores: T: 116 C: 183 P: 71 DG: 1 Total Points: 930

Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands & Midlands
International: England 14 caps & Barbarians

If you are seeking a prolific scorer, proven leader and consistent performer at club and international level, look no further than White.
For 18 years he dominated Northampton Saints on the playing field. His statistics alone are impressive , 448 appearances (second on Saints' all-time list); 930 points; and 116 tries. He spent six seasons captaining the Saints, also led the East Midlands and Barbarians and coached England for two seasons, the first man to do so.



Don White

It was on February 27th 1943 that the association began when the 16 year old from Earls Barton made his debut as a prop against Coventry. Understandably, the Second World War restricted appearances in the early part of his career, but the end of hostilities saw his playing go from strength to strength.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

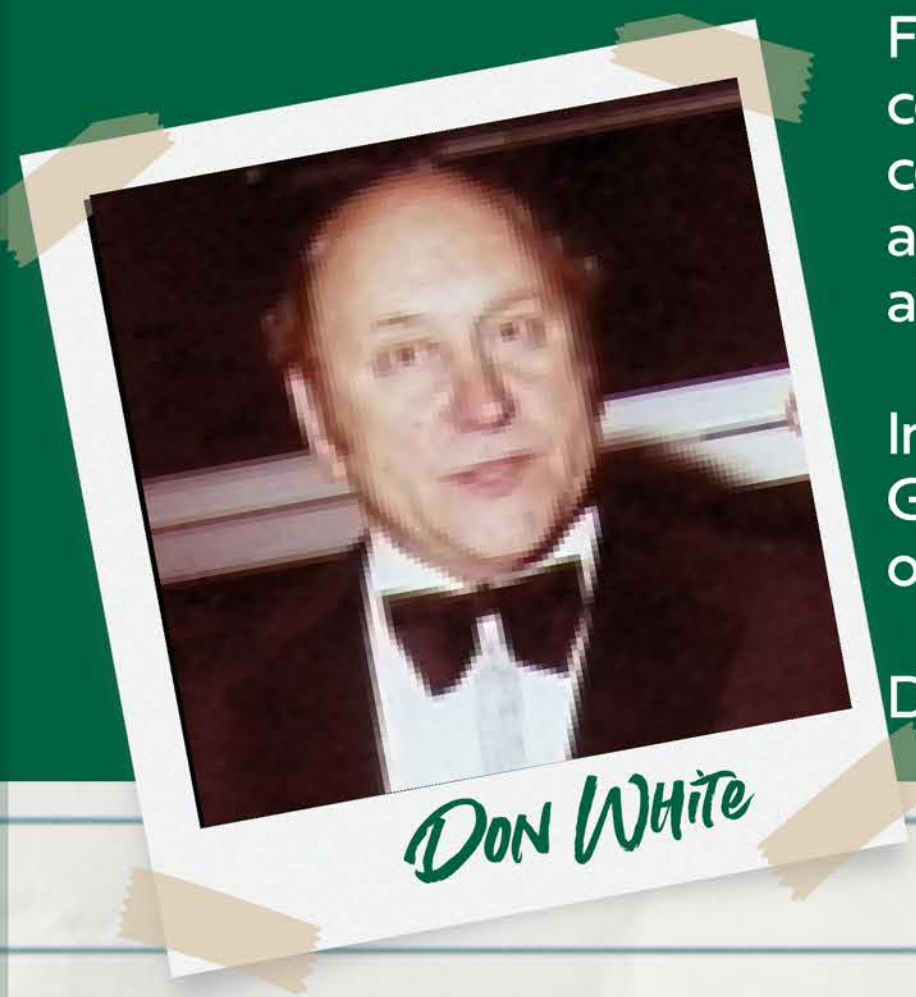
FOUNDATION

Don White

By now a flanker, and in the army, he was part of the England side that faced Wales as international rugby resumed in 1947. He took to it immediately by scoring a try in a 9-6 England victory. It was not the only time he helped secure surprise wins in the Principality, as in his first season as Saints captain 1949/50 he led the team to their first ever victory at Stradey Park against Llanelli.

Under his leadership Saints went from strength to strength. Household names such as Jeff Butterfield #1152 and Dickie Jeeps #1174 joined the club, and Saints men including Don, formed the backbone of the East Midlands side that won the County Championship in 1951.

His international career lasted six years until 1953 and consisted of 14 caps and two tries. His association with the national side did not end there though as in 1969 he became England's first coach. The appointment had immediate effect as England secured their first ever win over South Africa.



Off the field White was still heavily involved at Franklin's Gardens, and would continue to be on the committee, including the presidency in the club's centenary season, until 1988. The overthrowing was acrimonious but necessary as the new regime set about reversing the losing trend of the 1980s.

In his later years he became a familiar face at the Gardens once more and was one of five legends to open the Church's Stand in 2002.

Don died in Earls Barton in May 2007.

P.J. White

SAINT No: 1206
Name: P. J. White
Career: 1954 - 1955
Appearances: 20
Position: Hooker
Scores: T: 1 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 3

White played 20 consecutive games at hooker for Northampton during the first half of the 1954-1955 season. His first game was a 34 – 9 victory over Headingley on the 4th September 1954, and his final appearance was on the 28th December 1954 in a 16 – 0 victory over the Metropolitan Police. He scored one try in a 16 – 3 victory over Old Merchant Taylors on the 11th December 1954.

M. Whitehead

SAINT No: 1347
Name: M. Whitehead
Career: 1966 - 1967
Appearances: 1

Whitehead made one appearance for Northampton Saints during the 1966/67 season.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1149
Name: George Whiting
Career: 1950 - 1954
Appearances: 43
Position: Back row
Scores: T: 9 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 27

Whiting was brother to Jack #1064 and cousin of Francis #1083 who played for Northampton in the early 1950's. He was a wing forward who made his debut in the 1951/52 season but didn't break through to play consistently until the 1952/53 season. The annual report for that year states: "whilst towards the close of the season G. Whiting earned a regular place by his dashing play when deputising for either wing forward."

On the 11th October 1952 all three Whiting boys played together in the same pack of forwards for Northampton against Old Millhillians, a game Northampton lost 11 – 9. Again in the 1953/54 season George played regularly for Northampton making 17 appearances but he did not play for them again after the end of that season.

George Whiting

Francis Whiting

SAINT No: 1083
Name: Francis C. Whiting
Career: 1946 - 1956
Appearances: 58
Position: Back row
Scores: T: 2 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 6

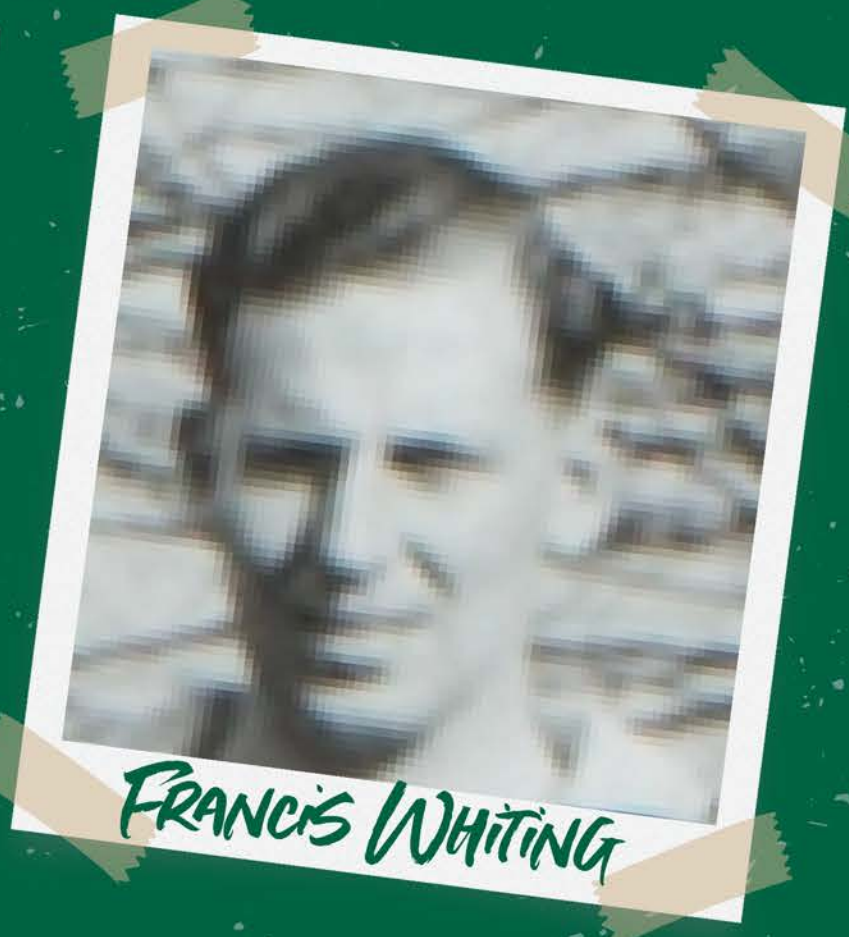
Whiting was a loyal clubman who played 58 times in the back row for Northampton over a period of ten years. Perhaps more importantly though for four of those years from 1950–1954 he was captain of the Wanderers (2ndXV) providing guidance, support and encouragement to younger players hoping to break into the first team.

His cousins George #1149 and Jack #1064 also played for the Saints and on the 11th October 1952 all three Whiting boys played together in the same pack of forwards for Northampton against Old Millhillians, a game Northampton lost 11 – 9.

He made his first team debut for Northampton on the 5th October 1946 against Old Millhillians as part of a 29-0 victory. He never secured a regular first team place but always filled capably when needed. The 1950/51 annual report states: "F. C. Whiting who deputised on many occasions at wing forward was probably the most improved player in the side and rendered excellent service".

Similarly, the annual report of 1951/52 reads: "F. C. Whiting, captain of the "Wanderers" was again called upon many times and more than maintained the improvement shown the previous season. He can consider himself unfortunate that players of such outstanding ability in the first team prevent him from being a regular".

One of his final games for Northampton in the 1955-1956 season was against Leicester at Franklins Gardens on the 22nd October 1955 that resulted in a very satisfying 19-10 victory for Northampton.



Jack Whiting

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1064
Name: Jack H. Whiting
Career: 1945 - 1954
Appearances: 254
Position: Prop
Scores: T: 13 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 39
Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands

Farmer, Whiting was a stalwart of the Northampton front row for a decade after the war. He rarely missed a game, playing around 30 games a season, and was described as always very dependable. The one season he only played 16 games was 1948/49 and this was due to a serious knee injury.

His brother George #1149 and cousin Francis #1083 also played for the Saints and on the 11th October 1952 all three Whiting boys played together in the same pack of forwards for Northampton against Old Millhillians, a game Northampton lost 11 – 9.

He regularly played for the East Midlands and on two occasions was an England reserve, but he never got a cap.

He was vice captain of Northampton in the 1951/52 season and the annual report states:
"Through the absence of the captain on so many occasions, J. H. Whiting was called upon to deputise, and the manner in which he discharged his duties both on and off the field deserves every credit.

A player to whom fitness means everything, his keen conscientious play in the pack was as sound as ever, although he has yet to win that England cap which has appeared to be in his grasp for the past season or so."



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1270
Name: Stephen Harold Wilcock
Career: 1959 - 1963
Appearances: 85
Position: Back row
Scores: T: 28 C: 3 P: 3 DG: 0 Total Points: 99
Representative Honours: Regional: Lancashire , Oxford Blue
International: Barbarians: 10 caps

Wilcock was born in Lancashire on the 21st June 1935 and educated at Kirkham Grammar School and Oxford University where he read law. Between 1957-1959 he won three Blues at number 8 and open-side wing forward. He made his debut for Northampton away at Harlequins on the 6th February 1960 and the following week he made his home debut against Oxford University, whom he had been playing for up until the previous December. Northampton won that match 40-3 and he scored a hat-trick of tries.

The following season according to the annual report: "he started the season slowly and unfortunately reached peak form too late to gain the expected England cap". He never did gain an England cap despite playing in five international trials, including three final trials at Twickenham, and being an England reserve.

The following season 1961/62 he was the club Vice-captain and regularly stood in for regular captain P Taylor #1204 who was away on England duty. Midway through the following season 1962/63 business reasons compelled him to give up playing for Northampton.

During his playing career he also played for Fylde, Bedford and Harlequins as well as the Barbarians on ten occasions.

Stephen Wilcock

Bob Wilkins

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No: 1262
Name: Robert C . Wilkins
Career: 1958 - 1967
Appearances: 147
Position: Prop/Second row
Scores: T: 5 C: 0 P: 1 DG: 0 Total Points: 18
Representative Honours: Regional: East Midlands

Wilkins made his debut for Northampton as a prop forward against Old Merchant Taylors on the 13th December 1958, a match Northampton won 18-0. He made an instant impact for the team that season playing a further 21 times in the second half of the season with the annual report stating: "R .Wilkins in the front row was partly responsible for restoring the balance between forwards and backs. Both big and fast and able to give and take a pass he fitted well into the new pattern of the game".

The following season 1959/60 he played in 40 games whilst his fellow front row colleagues A. S. Pearson #1247 and R. Jacobs #1121 played 37 and 36 times respectively. This contributed to a remarkably strong and consistent pack and helped the team win 34 of their 42 matches with one draw and seven losses. An outstanding season.

The following year, 1960/61, he got injured in the second half of the season and only made 22 appearances. Then during the 1961/62 season he swopped position from prop to second row and though initially this appeared to be a successful transition he gradually started playing fewer first team games over the following seasons until his retirement in 1967.



Bob Wilkins

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

FOUNDATION

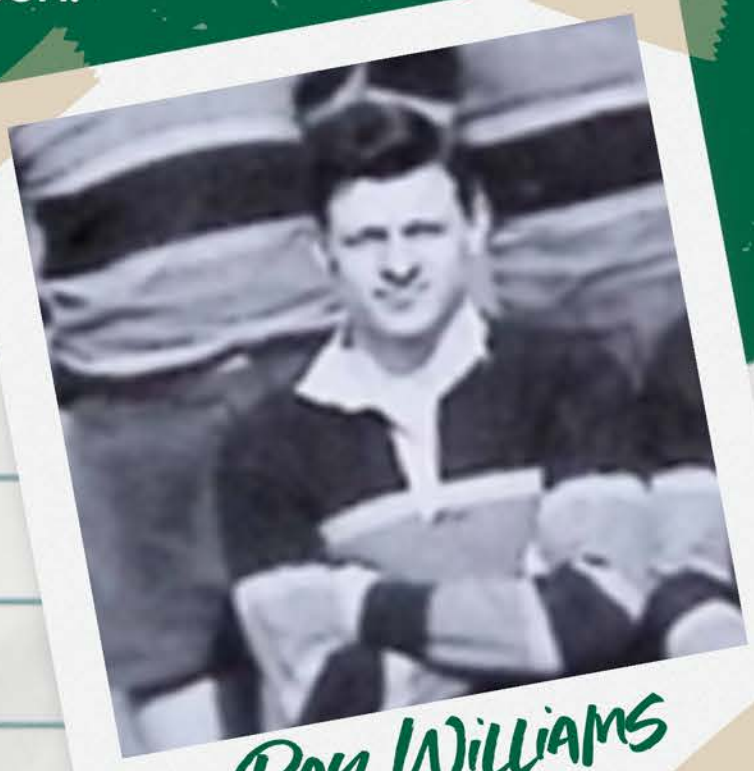
Ray Williams

SAINT No: 1178
Name: Raymond Williams
Career: 1952 - 1958
Appearances: 73
Position: Fly-half/Wing
Scores: T: 14 C: 3 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 48

Williams was primarily a fly-half, who was also able to play elsewhere in the back line. He made his debut in a 6-3 loss against Pontypool on the 24th January 1953 and played a total of eight matches that season.

In the following two seasons he established himself as the first choice fly-half playing 28 and 29 matches respectively. The 1953/54 annual report states: "R. Williams play at fly-half in the early part of the season earned him a Welsh trial, and when necessary, he was equally effective in the centre or on the wing."

In subsequent seasons he played mainly for the Wanderers (2nd XV) and only occasionally appearing for the first team. His final appearance was in the 1957/58 season.



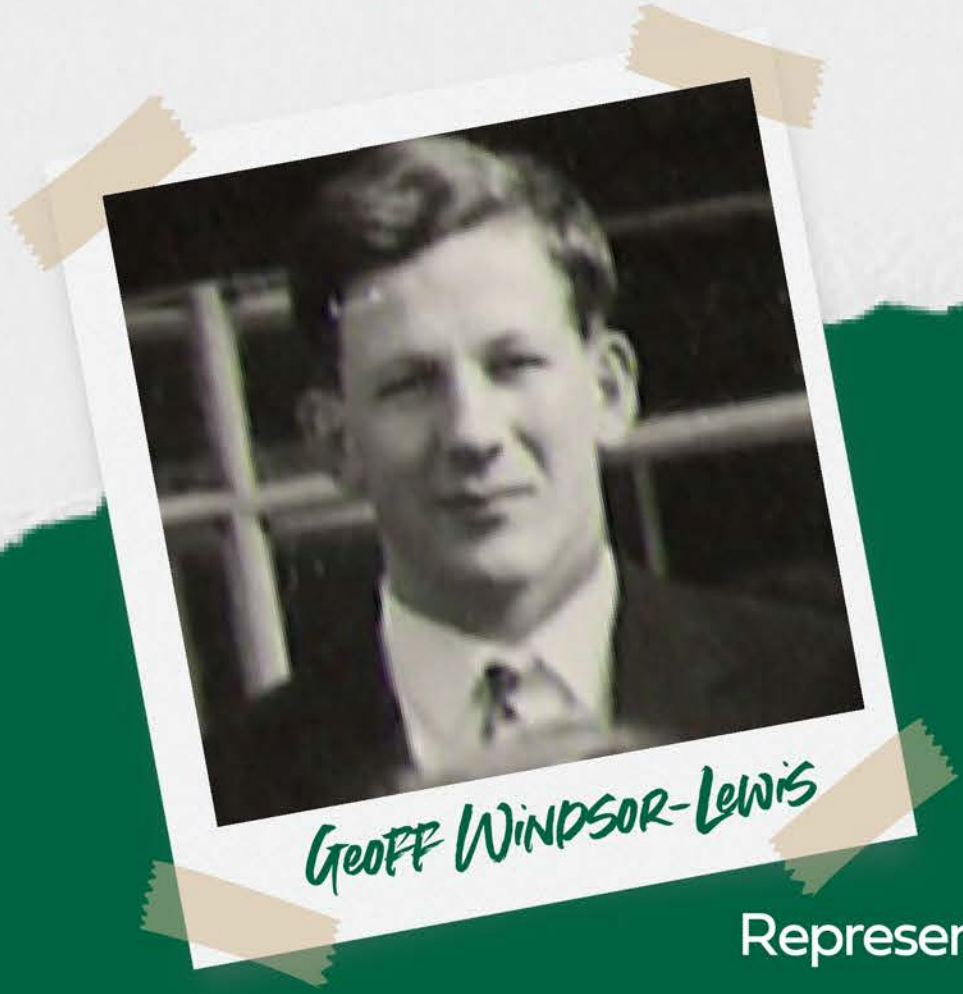
Ray Williams

F.A. Wilson

SAINT No: 1165
Name: F. A. Wilson
Career: 1951 - 1955
Appearances: 2
Position: Fly-half
Scores: T: 0 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 1 Total Points: 3

Wilson, a fly-half, only played twice for Northampton with a four year gap between his two appearances. He made his debut on the 8th September 1951 against Headingley and the annual report in it's Wanderers (2nd XV) section states: "F. A. Wilson highly tried in his only game for the senior side, in which he dropped a goal to draw the match, showed improved form and is young enough to develop into the player we expect him to be."

It was four years before he played his only other match for the senior side which was against Old Millhillians on the 9th October 1954, a match the Saints lost 17 - 3. In between his two appearances he had played regularly for the Wanderers (2nd XV).



Geoff Windsor-Lewis

SAINT No: 1238
Name: Geoff Windsor-Lewis
Career: 1956 - 1957
Appearances: 1
Position: Centre
Representative Honours: International: Wales 2 caps

Windsor-Lewis played once for Northampton during the 1956/57 season whilst studying at Cambridge. In the same season he also played against Northampton for Cambridge University in a match won 12-0 by Northampton on the 9th February 1957. He would go on to play for Richmond and was capped twice for Wales in 1960.

After retiring from playing Windsor-Lewis was a long time honorary secretary of the Barbarians and in 2010 was appointed Vice president.

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1207
Name Rickie R. Winn
Career: 1954 - 1961
Appearances: 135
Position: Fly-half/Centre
Scores: T: 26 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 78
Representative Honours: Regional: Yorkshire

Winn made his debut for Northampton on the 18th September 1954 in a 17-8 victory over Richmond at Franklins Gardens, and made a total of 12 appearances in the 1954/55 season. One of those matches was against Rosslyn Park on the 12th March 1955 and his brother, Chris Winn an England winger, was playing for Rosslyn Park. Chis scored a try for Rosslyn Park but Rickie was on the winning side as Northampton won 12-8. The annual report for that season states: "R. R. Winn started the season at fly-half in excellent style only to get crocked and unable to play until March".

In 1955/56 he made 31 appearances and the annual report states: "R. R. Winn probably showed the greatest improvement of any player either at fly-half or centre three quarter and his future will be watched with considerable interest". The following year he was a reserve in the England trial match.

For the next five seasons Winn would regularly make around 20 appearances each year but reports suggested he only ever captured his best form in the second half of each season which harmed his chances of international honours.

In 1961 whilst playing for Yorkshire he injured his knee and did not play for Northampton again.

R R Winn

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

1880

FOUNDATION



SAINT No: 1331
Name: Trevor C. Wintle
Career: 1965 - 1969
Appearances: 83
Position: Scrum-half
Scores: T: 2 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 6
Representative Honours: Regional: Cambridge Blue 1961 & 1962
International: England 5 caps, 1966 - 1969

Wintle came to Northampton from Lydney Grammar School via Cambridge University (where he gained a blue) and Rosslyn Park. He trained as a doctor and on completing his studies he took up a position at Northampton General Hospital. He took over the scrum-half position from Dickie Jeeps #1174. He made his debut away to Bristol on the 4th September 1965.

In 1966 at the age of 26, and after eight England trials, he was selected to face Scotland in the Five Nations tournament. After one game he was dropped and didn't play again for England until 1969 when he played in all four matches of that year's Five Nations tournament.

TREVOR WINTLE

J. Wood

SAINT No: 1226
Name: J. Wood
Career: 1955 - 1956
Appearances: 1

Wood played once for Northampton during the 1955/56 season.



Peter Woolfenden

SAINT No: 1313
Name: Peter S. Woolfenden
Career: 1963 - 1969
Appearances: 57
Position: Lock

Woolfenden made his debut on the club tour of Ireland in November 1963 playing first against Ballymena and then Bective Rangers on successive days.

Peter was studying at St Luke's College, Exeter, so was not available regularly for selection, but the annual report of 1964/65 states "P. S. Woolfenden played whenever possible and showed that he has now matured into the type of player we predicted two seasons ago".

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

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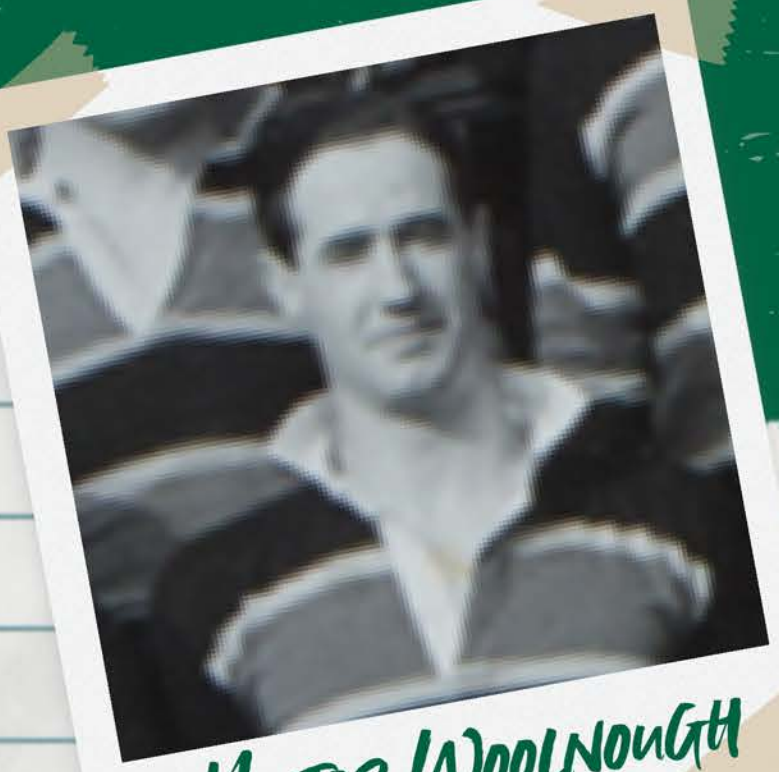
Hector Woolnough

SAINT No: 1118
Name: Hector T. Woolnough
Career: 1948 - 1955
Appearances: 168
Position: Number 8/Wing forward/Centre
Scores: T: 17 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 51

Woolnough made his debut for Northampton on the 13th November 1948 against Coventry playing in the centre. He played once more in the centre for Northampton prior to Christmas that year, but then he switched position to play in the back row because as the annual report states: " his height, weight and pace suited him admirably for the back row."

Although he made the occasional further appearance it was in the back row that he made his name as a solid, reliable performer for Northampton over the next six years averaging just under 30 games a season. The annual reports of this time repeatedly mention his reliability and high standards as a player.

He retired from rugby at the end of the 1954/55 season and ran the family decorating business. He was a loyal clubman and for the next ten years and helped run 'The Wanderers' (2nd XV).



Hector Woolnough

David Wrench

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

SAINT No : 1377
Name: David Wrench
Career: 1969 - 1970
Appearances: 9
Position: Prop
Representative Honours: Regional: Cambridge Blue
International: England 2 caps & Barbarians

Wrench was born in Winsford, Cheshire on the 27 November 1936. He studied chemistry at the University of Leeds before taking an MA in education at the University of Cambridge.

By the time David was 17 he was playing for Wilmslow (later known as Winnington Park). His preferred position was tight head prop. He won a rugby blue at Cambridge and went on to play for Harlequins, where he captained the team for a season, before moving to Northampton. In 1964, prior to his time at Northampton, Wrench made the first of two appearances for the England team, and he also represented the Barbarians.

David was married and had four children. His daughter Rachel Gilmour was elected Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Tiverton and Minehead in the 2024 United Kingdom general election.

He died in June 2018.



David Wrench

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880

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Geoff Wright

SAINT No: 1357
Name: Geoff C. Wright
Career: 1967 - 1983
Appearances: 246
Position: Second row
Scores: T: 6 C: 0 P: 0 DG: 0 Total Points: 23

Wright or "Dougal" as he was better known, made his debut for Northampton on the 2nd March 1968 in an 18-8 victory over Gloucester. Over the next decade he became a regular fixture in the Northampton second row but he was equally well known for his brilliant post-match singing voice.

When he stopped playing for Northampton he turned out for a local junior team, Trinity.

After his playing career, Wright became a successful Saints youth team coach and was instrumental in the development of players such as Matt Dawson #1634.

Away from rugby, Geoff worked as an electrician at Carlsberg Brewery in Northampton until his retirement.

Geoff Wright

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 1880 FOUNDATION

Ian Wright

SAINT No: 1378
Name: Ian D. Wright
Career: 1969 - 1978
Appearances: 251
Position: Fly-half
Scores: T: 29 C: 73 P: 109 DG: 29 Total Points: 631
Representative Honours: International: England 4 caps

Wright also known as 'Stumpy' joined Saints from Rosslyn Park in 1969, and racked up 218 points in his introductory season. He made his debut in the game against Bristol on the 6th September 1969. Welsh legend Barry John described him as: "the best fly-half I have played against in Britain for several seasons".

His decision to join Saints came as a direct result of being a student at St Luke's college in Exeter with Peter Sweet #1344 and Glen Robertson #1293. A resourceful, inventive stand-off and intelligent kicker, Ian stayed for nine seasons and amassed 631 points.

In his first international, he was on the receiving end of a 30-9 Welsh hammering at Cardiff Arms Park on January 16th 1971. He started in the next two internationals, a win against Ireland and a draw with France and came on as a sub in the loss against Scotland, but was never called up again.

He died in 2000 at the age of 54.



Ian Wright

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

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The research in this booklet has been gathered from a wide range of sources, including Northampton Saints club records, committee minutes and correspondence, match programmes, and Brian Barron's books Oh When The Saints... and Nothing Without Labour. It also draws on newspapers, magazines, and family history resources such as Ancestry and Find My Past.

Most importantly, it includes details from oral histories and interviews with former players, their relatives, and friends, as well as personal documents and memories kindly shared, loaned, or donated to the Heritage Team by members of the Northampton Saints community.