



**Back row (left to right):** Brendan Thomas; Roger Hancock; Matt Bebbington; Huw Williams; Harry Yarwood; Oskar Hirskyj-Douglas; Dave Baldwin; Rory Hill; Lewis Bundy-Davies; Stuart Dodds; Jonathan Leggett; Andrew Gibbs; Mark Vincent  
**Middle row (left to right):** Max Wortley; Harry Patch; Nathan Budd; Jordan Derricott; Sam Broster; Will Batterbury; Callum Westaway (captain); Robert Taylor; Tommy Wilkinson; Travis Heywood; Jonny Pugh; James Venables  
**Front row (left to right):** George Hopwood; Harry Pulfer; Ellis Hindle; Wilf Noden; Jordan Griffiths; Jonathan Allman; Matthew Burgess; Rob Shotton

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020** marked the ten year anniversary of one of Wilmslow High School's greatest sporting triumphs: being crowned the Daily Mail U15 National Champions at Twickenham.

On the day Wilmslow beat the heavily fancied private school, Wellington College, 10-7, with all of Wilmslow's points coming from our crafty scrum-half, Will Batterbury. It is a day and a season that will live long in the memory of the players, coaches, parents and supporters alike.

To put this victory into context, it is a rarity for a non-selective state school to win this competition that is traditionally dominated by the independent and grammar school sector. The magnitude of our victory is highlighted by the fact that since Wilmslow's victory in 2010 only one other non-selective state school has reached the final in both the U15 and U18 Cup competitions with no winners.

To mark this special anniversary, Mr Williams and Mr Bebbington have been in touch with key members of the squad to find out their favourite memories of Wilmslow High School, what they have been up to since and, what advice, ten years on, they would they give to our current Wilmslow students?

### **Will Batterbury (scrum-half)**

#### **Favourite part of your WHS experience?**

I loved my time at Wilmslow High School. Looking back on it, I had some of my best days there. The amount of people that you are socialising with and the friends for life that you come out with. But I think my stand-out moment was winning the Daily Mail Cup in Year 10 and scoring at Twickenham. It

was a dream to play there but to score was a different feeling. If I could go back and relive one day, I think it would be that experience with that group of friends again.

**Where did you go on to study?**

After my GCSE's I left Wilmslow and moved to Myerscough College in Preston to study BTEC Sports. I got the opportunity through Sale Sharks to get put on the ASSE scheme which would develop young players. The option to do that was tough as I loved my time at Wilmslow and all my friends were there, but I thought it would be the best place for me to develop as a player and hopefully fulfill my dream of becoming a professional player.

**Where do you live now and what is your career?**

I currently live in Handforth and have been for 5 years now. I am currently working as a Sales Executive at Avis at Manchester Airport and I am also a personal trainer at Energie Fitness in Cheadle.

**What advice would you give to your 15 year old self now you are 10 years older and wiser?**

To focus on your studies but also find a balanced lifestyle to enjoy the things you love doing. If you are focusing on a dream to become a professional player then the best advice I can give you is to put in the extra time to improve yourself as a player. You do this by finding parts of your game that you need to improve on and focus on training them in your own time that will help you reach your end goal. This is the same outlook I have with my career, too.

**Are you still involved in sport today?**

I am still playing rugby for Bowden RUFC. I'm not as agile as I used to be as my biscuit body is coming back to haunt me!

**Robert Taylor (loosehead prop)**

**Favourite part of your WHS experience?**

I would say being able to take part in so many different opportunities, particularly through sport. If I had to narrow it down, it would be winning the Daily Mail semi-final, knowing we were going to be playing at Twickenham or the day it was confirmed I had got into University.

**Where did you go on to study?**

I went to Northumbria University and completed a Bachelors degree in Marketing Management.

**Where do you live now and what is your career?**

**I am still based in Wilmslow and I currently work as a Recruitment Consultant for the Financial Services industry.**

**What advice would you give to your 15 year old self now you are 10 years older and wiser?**

Take advantage of every opportunity offered to you as you don't know where it could take you. I would also make it evidently clear to myself that undershorts down to my knees and green Nike boots are not a good look!

**Are you still involved in sport today?**

I am currently in my first year of captaining the Wilmslow Wolves First XV. This is a great honour for me as I get to play alongside so many of my friends whom I went to WHS with.

### **Harry Yarwood (winger)**

#### **Favourite part of your WHS experience?**

Looking back at it, the whole seven year experience at WHS was highly enjoyable. The sports facilities and opportunities were what made me choose to go to WHS in the first place. Obviously, Twickenham in 2010 was an experience that stands out. I was lucky to be part of that squad and my school year also had a great cricket team which I was a big part of and we won the Cheshire Cup. One of my most memorable experiences was getting three wickets for the first team when I was in year ten with the team being captained by Mr Herriot who is now teaching at the school.

#### **Where did you go on to study?**

I went on to study Sport & Exercise science at Leeds Beckett. It was a really enjoyable yet highly challenging course. Each side of the course gave me an understanding of lots of different aspects of sports science.

#### **Where do you live now and what is your career?**

I now live in Manchester city centre and I am a brand ambassador for Manchester Gin working for them for the North West. Couldn't be further away from Sports Science!

#### **What advice would you give to your 15 year old self now you are 10 years older and wiser?**

Keep working hard and being yourself. I'd tell myself that you can do whatever you want to do in the future. I never expected to be in a role which in two years has given me a lot of enjoyable experiences and has outlined a future path for me.

#### **Are you still involved in sport today?**

I haven't been able to play cricket for the past two seasons due to working away lots in the summer and not being around on the weekend. Hopefully I will be back at it soon.

### **Jonathan Pugh (open-side flanker)**

#### **Favourite part of your WHS experience?**

The look on Mr Bebbington's face when I said I was missing a rugby match to be in a Shakespeare play (*Mr Bebbington has since broadened his literary horizons!!*)

#### **Where did you go on to study?**

I studied Medicine at Cardiff University with a semester abroad at the l'Univeristé Paris Sud. I also spent a year at King's College London gaining a degree in Philosophy.

#### **Where do you live now and what is your career?**

I'm about move to Glasgow to start work as a Junior Doctor

**What advice would you give to your 15 year old self now you are 10 years older and wiser?**

Decide what you want to achieve and make it happen

**Are you still involved in sport today?**

I no longer play rugby but I'm a keen hiker, fell runner and have created a Wild Swimming Society

### **Harry Patch (Outside Centre)**

**Favourite part of your WHS experience?**

The sporting activities in both lessons and extra curriculum

**Where did you go on to study?**

Apprenticeship: Electrical Engineering and then a degree at the University of York in Electronic Engineering

**Where do you live now and what is your career?**

I live in Harrogate, North Yorkshire and I am a Project Engineer in the automotive industry

**What advice would you give to your 15 year old self now you are 10 years older and wiser?**

Don't grow up too quickly

**Are you still involved in sport today?**

I occasionally play rugby for Wilmslow RUFC, I go to the gym and I enjoy kiteboarding and mountain biking

### **Rob Shotton (Full-back)**

**Favourite part of your WHS experience?**

Playing on the first team pitch in front of the whole school in the Daily Mail Cup. A feeling like no other!

**Where did you go on to study?**

I completed a Business and Management degree at The University of West of England, Bristol.

**Where do you live now and what is your career?**

After travelling the world for 6 months, I headed back down to Bristol for a job at Bristol Sport. I work in the commercial activation team, working closely with Bristol City and Bristol Bears. I also co-founded LooseHeadz, an ever-growing organisation that is hugely passionate about using rugby as a way of tackling the stigma around mental health.

**What advice would you give to your 15 year old self now you are 10 years older and wiser?**

Never give up - winners never quit and quitters never win. And keep smiling!!

**Are you still involved in sport today?**

Unfortunately, I'm not playing rugby at the moment. Breaking my back a few years back meant I had to put rugby on hold for now. However, I do plan on getting back out there...I miss it too much!

**Max Wortley (Lock)**

**Favourite part of your WHS experience?**

Both the ski trips Year 9 and 12 and the Annual Rugby Dinner after the U18 Cheshire Cup Final win in 2013 when we beat Lymm convincingly.

**Where did you go on to study?**

I studied Cyber Security at Coventry University

**Where do you live now and what is your career?**

At the moment I live in Northampton working as a Cyber Security Consultant for Santander.

**What advice would you give to your 15 year old self now you are 10 years older and wiser?**

Don't stop playing sport - you'll miss it when you stop and it's a great way to meet future life-long friends

**Are you still involved in sport today?**

I played rugby at university and a season for Wilmslow RUFC. I am now playing (injury permitting) at Old Northamptonians.

**Tommy Wilkinson (hooker)**

**Favourite part of your WHS experience?**

Two moments stand out: a breathless Rob Taylor (prop) asking me to fake a cramp prior to a scrummage (he had just ran 70 metres back onto the pitch following his 10 minute sin bin 'rest'). Also, playing rugby in front of the whole school on the 'sacred' WHS 1st Team pitch is a unique rugby experience. Enjoy it.

**Where did you go on to study?**

I completed a degree in Biomedical Science at Northumbria University and I am undertaking a MSc in Cardiac Science at MMU.

**Where do you live now and what is your career?**

I currently live in Manchester and I am training to be a Clinical Scientist at Wythenshawe Hospital.

**What advice would you give to your 15 year old self now you are 10 years older and wiser?**

Work hard, play hard

**Are you still involved in sport today?**

I still play at Wilmslow RUFC

**Jordan Derricott (Winger/Full-back)**

**Favourite part of your WHS experience?**

Being part of the sports teams including football, rugby and cricket which created huge and life-long friendships, discipline, memories and enjoyment. By far the best experience and achievement would be playing in the rugby team from Year 8 to 11. Winning multiple Cheshire Cups and becoming National Champions in Year 10. The staff and their teaching ability played a huge part in my enjoyment of school, our achievements and the man I have become today. They are a credit to the school!

**Where did you go on to study?**

I left WHS and studied a BTEC in sport which was the best 2 years of my whole education! I would recommend this course to anyone who enjoys sports. I then went on to get a job in sales supplying manufacturers. I am sure the teachers who know me can vouch for my ability when it comes to talking

**Where do you live now and what is your career?**

I now live in Somerford with my fiancée and dog Alvin. I am currently the business development and sales manager for Corcoran Chemicals.

**What advice would you give to your 15 year old self now you are 10 years older and wiser?**

The best advice I could give is listen to your teachers and focus on both sport and education. In year 10 my parents separated and without sport and support from my teachers I would have gone off the rails. We get one shot at life, make the most of your education and strengths and be the best you can!

**Are you still involved in sport today?**

Not as much these days but I need to get back into it