

GLOUCESTER RUGBY  
HERITAGE

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WELCOME  
TO THE  
OSPREYS

The visit of the Ospreys (formerly the Neath-Swansea Ospreys) to Kingsholm this afternoon provides us with an opportunity to look at past matches between Gloucester and both the Ospreys and the founding clubs of the region, Neath and Swansea.

Neath-Swansea Ospreys were formed by the merger of Neath RFC and Swansea RFC in 2003 as part of the Welsh RFU's regional restructuring. They initially played their fixtures at The Gnoll, Neath and St Helens, Swansea, before moving to share the new Liberty Stadium in Swansea with Swansea City AFC at the start of the 2005-06 season. With the demise of the fifth regional team Celtic Warriors, the region was extended east to take in Bridgend and Aberavon and the club became the Ospreys.

**GLOUCESTER V  
NEATH (1909-93)**

**P 50 W 18 D 5 L 27 F 367 A 512**  
**At Neath**  
**P 24 W 4 D 0 L 20 F: 118 A: 323**  
**At Kingsholm**  
**P 26 W 14 D 5 L 7 F: 249 A: 189**

Gloucester always found Neath, the legendary "Welsh All-Blacks", to be formidable opponents and only achieved wins in 4 of their 24 visits to The Gnoll. The last of these wins was in 1981-82, when Gloucester resumed fixtures with Neath after a break of 14 years.

**NEATH 6  
GLOUCESTER 13  
20 FEBRUARY 1982**

1981-82 was arguably

Gloucester's greatest-ever season. Under Steve Mills' captaincy the club lost just 3 of their 48 games. Success, particularly against Welsh clubs, meant that Gloucester became the first English club for five years to win the Daily Mail Anglo-Welsh merit table.

Gloucester started this match quietly and Neath dominated the early stages. Soon however, the power of the Gloucester pack started to tell and, with John Orwin and Steve Boyle controlling the lineout and John Gadd and Mike Teague powerhouses in the loose, they gained the upper hand.



Neath still held a 6-3 lead against the run of play early in the second half but Steve Boyle, who had an outstanding game, scored a try coming up in support of a well executed back row move. Paul Ford kicked two penalties to add to his first half score and Gloucester were deservedly home and dry.

The match referee was John

Groves of Pontypridd, the ex-Gloucester winger and vice captain, who played 159 games for the Cherry and Whites in the sixties.

**GLOUCESTER V  
SWANSEA (1889-1999)**

**P 121 W 34 D 13 L 74 F 770 A 1388**  
(before 1889-90 and the introduction of the points scoring system: **P 7 W 2 D 1 L 4**)  
**At Swansea (1889-1999)**  
**P 59 W 5 D 2 L 52 F: 283 A: 979**  
**At Kingsholm (1889-1999)**  
**P 62 W 29 D 11 L 22 F: 487 A: 409**

The record shows that Gloucester found the All Whites of Swansea even more challenging opponents than their neighbours Neath. It was not until Gloucester's Diamond Jubilee season 1933-34, at their 41st attempt, that the Cherry and Whites won at Swansea for the first time.

**SWANSEA 6  
GLOUCESTER 8  
4 NOVEMBER 1933**

After a first half of mediocre rugby, in which Gloucester's poor tackling had presented the home side with a number of chances, Swansea led by a soft try to nil. Gloucester were transformed in the second half, but after they'd had a try disallowed, Swansea broke away and Powell, in diving on the ball, appeared to lose it over the dead ball line. The referee, who appeared to be unsighted, awarded the try to the astonishment of home and away supporters alike.



6-0 down, but far from disheartened, Gloucester took hold of the game. The pack gained the upper hand and played a final twenty minutes of irresistible rugby. Tries were scored by back row Franklin and prop and captain Fred Wadley. Full back Harold Boughton made the crucial conversion of Franklin's try – and history was made.

Gloucester went on to win the return match at Kingsholm 10-3 and to complete the first double over Swansea in their history. But it was to be 14 years before the two sides met again...

### GLoucester 3 SWANSEA 0 31 JANUARY 1948

This was the first post war match in the series – and the first for 14 years. Played in a high wind the game developed into a hard fought forward battle. There were some good phases of open rugby, however, in a contest that was played at a furious pace. It was from one of these movements that Sid Dangerfield scored the only try of the game. Swansea retaliated in the second half and a handling movement involving six of their players resulted in a touch down by Beynon, but a pass was judged to be forward.

Although Willie Jones's kicking at outside half was prodigious in the conditions and the Gloucester pack were outstanding, a draw might

have been a fair result. As it was, Gloucester completed their third consecutive win over their old rivals – admittedly spread over 14 years!

The Gloucester hooker in the 1948 game was Denzil Carpenter, son of Denzil "Bumps" Carpenter who had hooked for Gloucester in the two matches in 1933-34. In the second row was the legendary Roy "Digger" Morris who played in all three games.

### GLoucester v OSPReYS (2005-13)

P 6 W 3 D 0 L 3 F: 127 A: 139

At Swansea

P 3 W 0 D 0 L 3 F: 61 A: 114

At Kingsholm

P 2 W 2 D 0 L 0 F: 49 A: 25

At Ricoh Stadium Coventry

P 1 W 1 D 0 L 0 F: 17 A: 0

Gloucester and the Ospreys have met six times, with honours



even. Their four previous meetings in the Anglo-Welsh Cup have brought two wins to either side, although the most meaningful was the 17-0 win for Gloucester in the semi-final at the Ricoh Stadium in 2009. Perhaps the best encounter was the 26-18 win by Gloucester in 2007-08 in the Heineken Cup.

### GLoucester 26 OSPReYS 18 16 NOVEMBER 2007 HEINEKEN CUP

Gloucester came into this match, having scored four tries in the first twenty minutes of their game with Ulster in Belfast the previous week. But for the first hour of this critical encounter they were dominated by the Welsh side, who led 12-9 at half time through two Sonny Parker tries (one converted by James Hook) to three penalties by Ryan Lamb.

A brilliant try by Anthony Allen put Gloucester into the lead early in the second half. He danced through the first wave of defenders and burnt off his pursuers in a 55 metre dash for the line.

Hook restored the visitors' lead with two penalties but Gloucester were now getting well on top, and another splendid try by James Simpson-Daniel from a move started by Iain Balshaw and a Chris Paterson penalty sealed the match.