



WELCOME BARBARIANS

FOUNDED IN 1890 WITH THE OBJECT OF SPREADING GOOD FELLOWSHIP AMONGST ALL RUGBY PLAYERS, THE BARBARIANS PLAYED THEIR FIRST MATCH AGAINST HARTLEPOOL ROVERS AT FRIARY FIELD HARTLEPOOL ON 27 DECEMBER THAT YEAR.

THE legendary Easter tour of South Wales began a few years later and continued until the advent of professionalism, with the later addition to the annual fixture list of the Boxing Day match at Leicester and the Mobbs Memorial match at Northampton.

In 1948, a fixture against the current touring international side was added to the list and became an eagerly anticipated tour finale. Throughout the amateur era, Barbarians selection was a great honour and places on the Easter tour were like gold dust.

THE FIRST GLOUCESTER BARBARIAN

FORWARD Francis Oswald (Frank) Poole (Gloucester 1891-1894) was the first Gloucester player to put on the black and white Barbarians shirt when he played against Hartlepool Rovers on 1 April 1893 in the Barbarian club's third season. He went on to make five more appearances.

Frank played for Gloucester while studying theology at Keble College, Oxford. He won blues in 1891, 1892, 1893 and 1894 and, less than a year after playing his last match for Gloucester, won international caps against Scotland, Ireland and Wales in 1895. He was also a water polo international.



• FRANK STOUT

MOST BARBARIAN CAPS

FLANK forward Frank Stout (Gloucester 1895-1908), born in Gloucester and educated at The Crypt School, was a local hero who played 22 games for the Barbarians between 1897 and 1906.

He played three of his games in 1897-98 alongside his brother, the threequarter Percy Stout who also played alongside him for Gloucester (1895-1901) and England.

Frank captained his country in 1904 while a Richmond player and won 14 international caps. He won the MC in 1916 as a lieutenant in the 20th Hussars.

PETER Hordern (Gloucester 1929-1937), a flanker, brother of the actor Sir Michael Hordern, was renowned for his sense of humour and therefore the ideal tourist.

He played 19 times for the Barbarians, taking part in five Easter tours of South Wales where he played in both the front and back rows and, in an emergency, turned out at full back against Newport. He played 4 times for England and toured Argentina with the Great Britain team in 1936.

DURSLEY-BORN prop George Hastings (Gloucester 1947-1960) played 20 games for the Barbarians between 1955 and 1959. He toured South Africa and Canada with them in 1957-58 and played on four Easter tours of South Wales, captaining them against Swansea in 1957.

George played for Old Patesians and Cheltenham before making 260 1st XV appearances for Gloucester and won 13 international caps for England, playing throughout the 1956-57 Grand Slam season.

THE BARBARIANS AT KINGSHOLM

TONIGHT the Barbarians visit Kingsholm for only the sixth time in 123 years. Let's take a quick look at the previous five matches:

**Gloucester 10
Barbarians 9,
28th March 1892**

THERE were plans for the Barbarians to come to Gloucester at Easter 1891, but this fell through when





rugby ceased on the Spa as a result of damage to the pitch. It was only a postponement and the match came off at the end of Gloucester's first season at Kingsholm.

Just 15 months after the Baa-Baas' first game at West Hartlepool, Gloucester became their first club opponents from the South and Midlands. They were advertised as "15 members of a crack combination of the country" and included eight internationals (five English, two Welsh and one Scot).

The points system at the time, with two points for a try and three for a conversion, secured a narrow victory for Gloucester. Although outscored by three tries to two, the home side kicked both conversions whilst the visitors managed only one.

**Gloucester 13
Barbarians 0,
12th April 1900**

THE Barbarians added this fixture onto the start of their Easter tour. It was a match arranged to alleviate the financial problems of the Gloucester Club following their losses over the England v Wales international match held at Kingsholm three months earlier. Wet weather, a Thursday afternoon kick-off, and the presence of only 4 internationals in the Barbarians side (as opposed to the 11 fielded against Cardiff and Newport later in the tour), contributed to a poor attendance.

Gloucester won easily, scoring three tries to nil with two converted, but although they claimed a famous scalp, the takings amounted to about £35, which did little to help their balance sheet. Despite these financial woes, the prestige of Kingsholm as a venue was significantly enhanced as a

result of hosting both England and the Barbarians.

**Combined Services 26
Barbarians 45,
9th November 1999**



• PHILIPPE SAINT-ANDRÉ

THIS was the third Remembrance Match played between these teams, and Kingsholm was chosen as the venue because it was also the home of Royal Air Force rugby at the time.

Barbarian Philippe Saint-André, the Gloucester coach, playing in his last match at Kingsholm, was greeted with a roar every time he touched the ball, even though his first touch was to kick the ball dead behind his own goal-line to save a try. He later scored a try to rapturous acclaim.

Gloucester's Brian Johnson, an army captain, played on the left wing for the opposition. Scottish Amicable, sponsors of the Barbarians, promised to donate £300 for English youth rugby for every try they scored, so £2,100 was raised with a final try count of 7-4 to the Barbarians.

**Barbarians 14
Ireland 39,
27th May 2008**

IRELAND used this match to warm up for their tour of Australia and New Zealand the following month, although no Munster players were available due to European commitments. An Ireland XV, led by Shane Horgan, beat the Barbarians 39-14 thanks to a positive approach in which Horgan scored two tries.

A try before half-time by Craig Newby, the New Zealand back-row forward who was joining Leicester the following season, roused the Barbarians, but two more tries after the interval by Jamie Heaslip, the Leinster back-row forward, made sure of Ireland's win. But for stout Baa-Baa defence, Ireland might have hit the half-century mark.

**Barbarians 29
Ireland 28,
29th May 2012**

IRELAND again fielded a strong XV, using the match to warm up for a forthcoming tour of New Zealand, although on this occasion no Leinster players were available. With Gloucester players featuring in the Barbarians side, 11,654 turned up to watch on another sun-drenched evening.

The scoring was opened with a try by Iain Balshaw, still a Kingsholm favourite, and an open game saw four more tries before half-time – by Cornelius van Zyl and Paul Sackey for the Barbarians, and Craig Gilroy and Keith Earls for Ireland – to leave the Barbarians with a 19-14 advantage.

Simon Zebo and Mike Tindall swapped tries, before a dramatic late try appeared to have won the game for Ireland, only for Felipe Contepomi to kick an even later penalty to snatch the win for the Barbarians.

