

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

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KINGSLEY JONES

Kingsley Jones had already won 10 caps for Wales, one as captain, before arriving at Kingsholm in 1998. As well as leading Wales, he captained every team he played for. His first club was Ebbw Vale, and it was whilst playing for them that he won his first cap against the Barbarians in 1996.

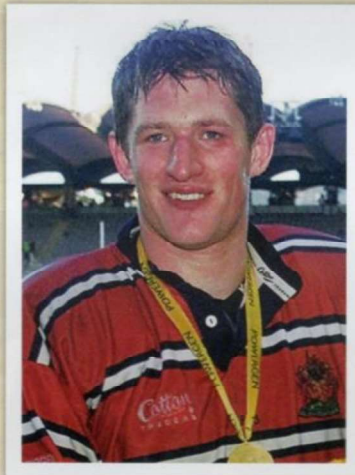
His first appearance for Gloucester was off the bench against Sale on 12 December 1998. He started the next two games, but snapped his Achilles tendon playing against Wasps. That ended his season but he was made captain for the following term, and he led the side to third position in the Premiership.

Ian Jones was made captain for 2000-01 but resigned the role early on, and Kingsley took the helm again. Gloucester had an indifferent league campaign, but in the club's first season of Heineken Cup rugby, they advanced to the semi-final only to lose narrowly to Leicester.

Most Gloucester fans were then disappointed when Kingsley

GREAT PLAYERS FROM THE GLOUCESTER BACK ROW: THE NOUGHTIES

announced that he was moving to Worcester, where he was yet again made captain. He later became Director of Rugby at Doncaster, before joining up with Phillipe Saint-Andre at Sale where the duo led the club to the triumph in the European Shield in 2005 and the Premiership title in 2006. Kingsley coached Russia in the World Cup of 2011, and is currently coaching Newport Gwent Dragons.



JAMES FORRESTER

James was a hugely talented, speedy and popular open-side or number 8. In addition, he had the pace of a three-quarter, and did play at centre for Gloucester as well as in the back row.

His was a career that was cruelly curtailed by injury whilst he was at the peak of his powers. He made 136 appearances for Gloucester, scoring 54 tries. He won two full England caps as well as several appearances for England 'A'.

James 'Django' Forrester was born

on 9 February 1981 and educated at St.Edward's School, Oxford.

He joined the Gloucester Academy in 1999, and made his first team debut on Easter Monday that year, away against London Irish. The game was lost but James scored a try.

It was the following season when he really broke through, scoring hat tricks of tries against Caerphilly in October and Bristol in the Powergen Cup in December. He appeared for England Under 21's, followed by 'A' caps against Wales and Samoa. At the end of the season he was in the Gloucester team that won the Zurich Championship final against Bristol, and played for England in a non-cap game against the Barbarians.

In 2002-03 Gloucester won the Powergen Cup, beating Northampton in the final at Twickenham, and 'Django' scored a try. He gained a further 'A' cap against Scotland, scoring two tries in a 78-6 demolition.

James suffered a dislocated shoulder playing for England 'A' against France in 2003, but in the 2004-05 season gained his two full England caps both as a replacement against Wales and Samoa. Towards the end of that season he played several games for Gloucester in the centre, scoring two tries against Newcastle.

In 2006 Gloucester won a thrilling European Rugby Challenge Cup final against London Irish. James scored what proved to be the crucial try, when kicking ahead and winning a thrilling chase to touch-down just inside the dead ball line.

In April 2007 in a game against Bristol at Ashton Gate, James suffered a very severe knee injury. He missed all the following season to surgery and rehab. During an attempted come back playing in an 'A' fixture against Sale, James broke down and he immediately announced his retirement. What might he have achieved but for that injury?



ADAM BALDING

Adam Balding was born on 7 December 1979 and first played for his home club Coventry. He was then spotted by Leicester for whom he played 66 times, before coming to Gloucester for the start of the 2004-05 season. By the time he arrived at Kingsholm he had already played at England Under 21 and England 'A' level.

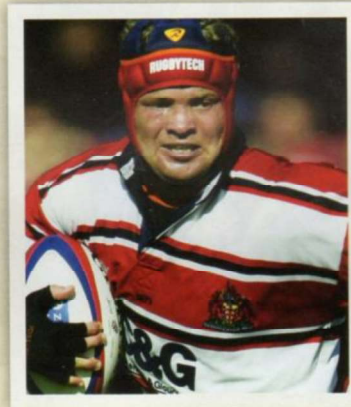
At Castle Grim he was an immediate success and became a "Shed" favourite. Although initially playing a few games at blind side flanker he soon settled at Number 8 where he was brave, forthright and extremely mobile. He was so well thought of by the club that despite having only played one term he was appointed captain for the 2005-06 season.

Cruelly in the first game of the season against Worcester he suffered a fractured cheek bone

which required surgery and as a result only started 11 games in that season, and thereafter never seemed to regain his earlier form.

Appearances became harder to come by and after the 2007-08 season he went north to play for Leeds. Further moves to Newcastle, Worcester and London Welsh followed, and he even played a few games for Cinderford in 2013, helping to keep them in National League 1, just two levels below Gloucester. Adam made 62 appearances for Gloucester.

In 2015 Adam was Event Co-ordinator in Gloucester for the Rugby World Cup. He is now back with the Club as Head of Community.



JAKE BOER

Although a South African, Jake Boer was taken to the hearts of the Shed because he demonstrated "Gloucester Dog". In 2002-03 he took over the reins of captaincy from injured Phil Vickery, and was made club captain from 2003-05. That season the sports writers of the national press made Jake "Premiership Player of the Season" as well as "Overseas Player of the Season". He made 190 appearances for Gloucester from 2000-10 in two spells and scored 32 tries.

Jake Boer was born on 1 November 1975 in Cape Town, South Africa. He first played for Village Football Club and Cape Town, before appearing for Western Province 'B'.

Injury followed and he decided to try his luck in England.

He tried to break into the Leicester side, but was up against Neil Back, Martin Corry and Lewis Moody for a place in the back-row. Leicester offered him a contract, but in search of regular first team rugby, Jake moved on to London Irish where he played two seasons before signing for Gloucester for the start of the 2000-01 season. He was an immediate favourite and scored a try in the Zurich Championship final win against Bristol at Twickenham.

Phil Vickery was made captain for the 2002-03 season, but suffered injury, leading to Boer taking over. He played in all but three games and scored 14 tries. Gloucester topped the Premiership by 15 points, and Jake lifted the Powergen Cup after Northampton were beaten 40-22 in the final. Unfortunately this was the first season where the league title was to be decided by a knock-out tournament and Wasps trounced Gloucester in the final 39-3.

In 2006-07 Gloucester again topped the Premiership, and Jake was a replacement in the final against Leicester which was lost 16-44. Boer then decided to return to South Africa due to business commitments.

However, that was not the end of his Gloucester career. Early in the 2009-10 season, the Cherry and Whites were hit badly by injuries, and in October Bryan Redpath asked Jake to help out. He made six appearances before making his final bow on 17 April in a Premiership game against Northampton.

In August 2010, Andy Deacon who was Director of Rugby at Cinderford asked Jake to come to the Foresters as a Player/ Defence coach. Boer played a few games, but returned to South Africa in January 2011.

He was a welcome guest at last Sunday's game between the Gloucester Rugby Heroes and the South Africa Legends.