

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR THE KINGSHOLM FAITHFUL

If you enjoyed our book on Kingsholm, then the next Gloucester Rugby Heritage book is due out shortly, and will be on sale at a discounted price in the Club shops at Kingsholm and the Quays. The book launch will be advertised on the Club and GRH websites, and the book should be available on the shelves before Christmas.

The Gloucester Club played their first match at Kingsholm in October 1891. Within a month both International and County Trial matches had been staged on the new ground. It was soon established as a venue regularly favoured by the rugby authorities, and remains so to this day. After England acquired permanent headquarters, Kingsholm was dubbed the "Twickenham of the West".

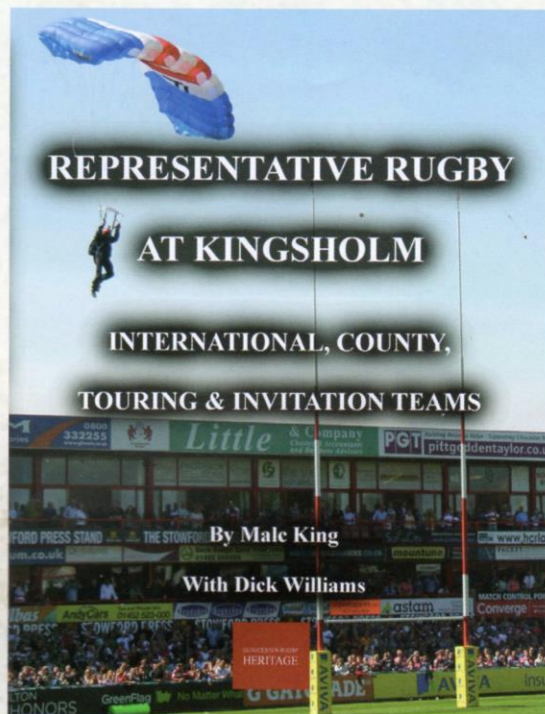
"Representative Rugby at Kingsholm" records the many matches played over the past 125 years at Gloucester, involving international, county and invitational sides. These teams have



England v Wales lineout, 1900

brought the best rugby players in the world to show off their skills and savour the atmosphere at Kingsholm. Many regard having "I played at Kingsholm" on their CV as one of the highlights of their rugby careers.

International sides representing 21 different countries have played at Kingsholm – the book will enable you to name them all. Starting with England and Wales in 1900, through several visits by the All Blacks, the WW2 wartime internationals, and fixtures during the 1991 and 2015 Rugby World Cups, all manner of matches are recalled. In addition to full international sides, there have been "A" team, age group and



New Zealand Haka 1924



schoolboy internationals as well. Details and statistics on every one of these matches are recorded in the book.

For the best part of a century the County match was the big match of the season, with Gloucestershire enjoying unparalleled success. The first County Championship Final staged at Kingsholm was in 1902, a 3-9 loss to Durham, but success soon followed when Yorkshire were defeated 23-0 in the 1910 final. Thereafter, Gloucestershire enjoyed golden periods between the wars, winning three successive Championships in 1920-22 and again in 1930-32.



1981 G'shire v Lancs: John Orwin holds off Bill Beaumont and feeds ball to Malcolm Freedy

But perhaps the most persistently successful period came during the fifteen seasons, 1969-84, when Gloucestershire appeared in eight County Championship finals, including seven in succession, and won four of them. These campaigns included many a fine victory at Kingsholm.

Invitational sides have also been eager to include Kingsholm in their itineraries, for special celebratory games, Barbarians matches, or teams such as the Bosuns or the Irish Wolfhounds. Arguably the strongest side to play at Kingsholm was an International XV assembled by



Mike Teague for England v Gloucester 1991

Don Rutherford in 1973 to celebrate the centenary of the Club, when a star-studded team including the likes of Pierre Villepreux, John Dawes and David Duckham performed their magic. Yet Gloucester, led by their fiery captain, Mike Nicholls, rose to the occasion and won a famous victory, 24-14.

This book, richly illustrated, and printed

with a hard cover in large format, presents many facts and figures, but most of all it should serve to bring back memories of great games played by many of the sport's best players on the hallowed turf of Kingsholm. It has been produced by Gloucester Rugby Heritage, a registered charity run by volunteers and supported by Gloucester Rugby and Gloucestershire Archives.



Scotland v Japan in 2015