

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGELOTS OF
PREVIOUS
WITH SALE

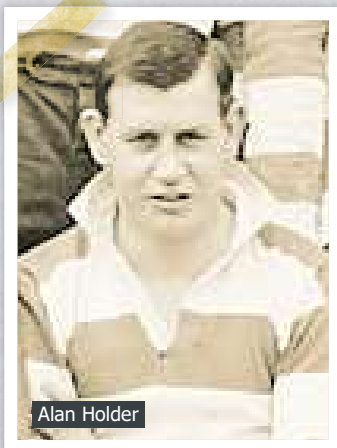
THE SALE CLUB HAS A LONGER HISTORY THAN GLOUCESTER, AND IS THE FIFTH OLDEST SURVIVING CLUB IN ENGLISH RUGBY, HAVING BEEN FOUNDED IN 1861 AS AN OFF-SHOOT OF SALE CRICKET CLUB. SALE FC'S MINUTE BOOK RECORDS IN 1865, TEN RULES TO BE OBSERVED BY ALL PLAYERS, WHICH MAKES IT THE WORLD'S OLDEST EXISTING RUGBY RULE BOOK.

However, the Gloucester and Sale clubs did not meet until 1933, when Sale set off to the south on an Easter tour. At the end of a successful season, they arrived at Kingsholm with high hopes, and Wilf Wooller, their Welsh international, scored the first try, but Vernon Sheppard ran in two for Gloucester, shaking three tacklers off for the first and showing a clean pair of heels for his second. Each side landed a dropped goal before Gloucester won 18-7. Matches came thick and fast for Gloucester during that Easter week, with three club fixtures and two sevens tournaments.



Vernon Sheppard

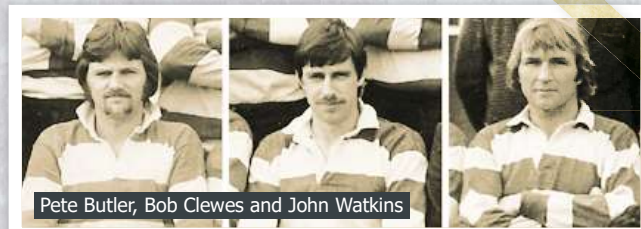
This first visit was clearly judged a success by both clubs, since thereafter, for the best part of 50 years, Sale travelled down to Kingsholm every other Easter. They won for the first time in 1937, 14-13, but, having home advantage, Gloucester won a substantial proportion of the games. It was not until April 1960 that Gloucester first made the trek up to Sale, when on a short tour



Alan Holder

they won 14-8 at New Brighton before going down 3-10 at Sale, Alan Holder scoring Gloucester's only points with a try.

During the 1975-76 season, there were two matches at Sale. The teams met for the first time in a knock-out competition, the John Player Cup, when Sale squeezed home 16-15. Dropped goals featured again for Gloucester, with one each from Dave Pointon and Pete Butler, whose boot also landed a penalty and the conversion of a Bob Clewes try. Gloucester gained their revenge with a 13-3 win in the last match of that season, John Watkins scoring a try and Pete Butler putting over three penalties.



Pete Butler, Bob Clewes and John Watkins

The clubs met again in the John Player Cup in 1981-82, the most successful season in Gloucester's history in terms of win percentage. Gloucester, drawn at home for this quarter-final, played into the wind and were 0-6 down at half-time, but with the wind at their backs they dominated the second half. "Iron" Mike Teague plunged over for a try when captain Steve Mills took a strike against the head, Paul Ford converted it, and scored a try and a penalty to round off a 13-6 win. Gloucester went on to share the title with a 12-12 draw against Moseley after extra time in the final at Twickenham.

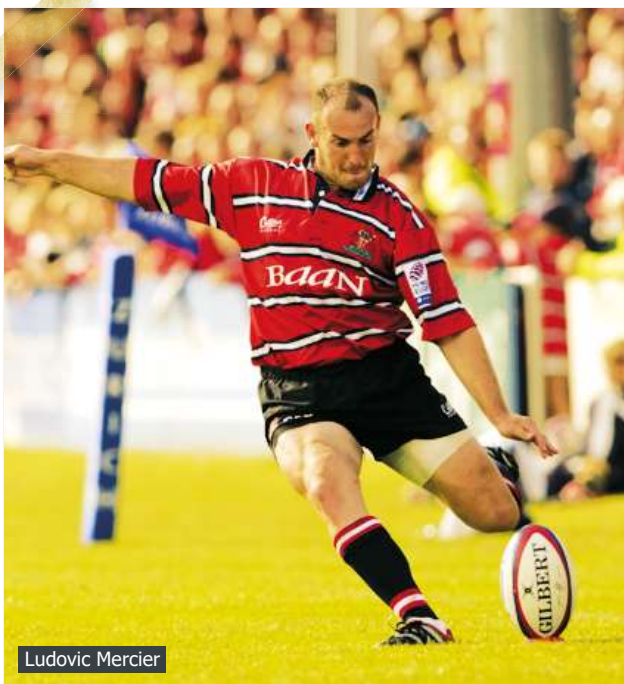
The formation of national leagues saw the clubs meet for the first time in a league match in 1988. Gloucester romped home 61-7, scoring eleven tries.



Steve Mills, Mike Teague and Paul Ford

More than half of the Gloucester team scored tries – Marcus Hannaford (2), Paul Ashmead (2), Jim Breeze, Ruari McLean, Richard Mogg, Richard Pascall, Nigel Scrivens, Ian Smith and Paul Mansell, who also kicked six conversions and a penalty, whilst Mike Hamlin contributed one conversion. At the end of the season, Sale were relegated, having lost all of their matches. However, when they climbed back into the top flight in 1994-95, they came back with a vengeance and proceeded to do the double over Gloucester for three successive seasons.

The 2001-02 season is unique in that the sides met on four occasions. Gloucester won both league games – 44-21 at Sale (with 24 points from Ludovic Mercier including three dropped goals) and 42-14 at Kingsholm (17 points from Ludo). It therefore came as a disappointment when the teams met at Northampton in the semi-final of the European Shield and Sale squeezed home 28-27 (Ludo missing a penalty in the last minute). Gloucester did bounce back the following week and put a smile back on the faces of their supporters by demolishing Bath 68-12 in the league. At the end of the season, Gloucester travelled to Sale for the Championship semi-final and won 33-11 (18 points from Ludo), before going on to beat Bristol 28-23 in the final at Twickenham (23 points from Ludo).



Ludovic Mercier

Three years later, Gloucester's season ended with a 44-35 win over Sale, with 24 points from the boot of Henry Paul. This game was a wild card play-off for European qualification, which was quickly rendered irrelevant when England was awarded an additional European slot which was filled by Gloucester. This was the last game in cherry and white for Trevor Woodman and Robert Todd, before they both went off to play for Sale.

Another connection between the clubs is Phillippe Saint-Andre, revered at Kingsholm as player (1997-99) and Director of Rugby (1998-2002), and the cause of much humming of the Marseillaise whenever he reappears at Kingsholm. He was later appointed Director of Rugby at Sale (2004-09). He enjoyed much success with both clubs, including the Premiership with Sale.



Phillippe Saint-Andre

A remarkable LV Cup match in October 2011 saw Gloucester triumph 58-27, with tries from Lesley Vainikolo, Jonny May, Luke Narraway, Rory Lawson, Charlie Sharples, Freddie Burns and Scott Lawson. Freddie Burns kicked three penalties and six conversions, and Tim Taylor one conversion.

Today's match is the 98th between the clubs. So far Gloucester have won 52, Sale 43, and two have been drawn. Points scored have been Gloucester 2166 Sale 1738. Gloucester have won 39 of the 57 matches played at Kingsholm, but only 13 of the 40 fixtures at Sale. The biggest win for Gloucester was 61-7 on 16 April 1988, and that for Sale was 57-10 on 29 September 2017.

All the matches in Gloucester have been played at Kingsholm, whilst those in Sale have been at Heywood Road, Sale, up to 2003, at Edgeley Park, Stockport, up to 2012, and more recently at the A J Bell Stadium at Barton-upon-Irwell, Salford.