

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGEGLOUCESTER'S
BRITISH LIONS

The selection of two Gloucester players for the British & Irish Lions in South Africa this summer gives them a special place in the history of the Club. Chris Harris and Louis Rees-Zammit have added their names to the list of sixteen Gloucester players who have previously been accorded this honour. With his appearance at Cape Town in the second Test this summer, Chris joins an even more distinguished list as the eighth Gloucester player to have won a Test cap with the Lions. This article recounts those Gloucester players in whose footsteps they have followed.

The first British Lion from Gloucester was Walter Jackson, who made 97 appearances for the Club, 1889-97. He was selected to join the British Isles tour to South Africa in 1891, the first to go to that country, where they played in red and white hooped shirts (not yet Gloucester's colours). Walter, a slightly built centre for Gloucester, was selected by the Lions as a forward, which may have contributed to him missing out on Test match selection.

Frank Stout was a forward, who made 98 appearances for Gloucester, 1895-1907. He first became a Lion in 1899, when he toured Australia and played in all 21 matches. Following the loss 3-13 of the first Test at



Walter Jackson and Frank Stout

Sydney, Frank was appointed captain and led his team to three wins to secure the series – 11-0 at Brisbane, and 11-10 and 13-0 at Sydney.

Frank Stout also went on the Lions tour to South Africa in 1903, where he was joined by Gilbert Collett, a centre who made 48 appearances for Gloucester, 1898-1904. They both played in all three Test matches, at Johannesburg, Kimberley and Cape Town, the first two being drawn and the third lost 0-8, during which Gilbert suffered a serious injury.

In 1924, Tom Voyce, who made 171 appearances for Gloucester, 1918-27, displayed his remarkable versatility for the Lions in South Africa, playing out of position at full back, centre and wing as well as in his usual wing forward berth. He scored eight tries in thirteen games, and played in two Test matches, the 3-3 draw at Port Elizabeth, and the 9-16 loss at Cape Town, where he scored a try and kicked a penalty.

In 1936, a British Isles side, which was not very representative, being largely English and including no Welsh players, toured Argentina; retrospectively this has come to be regarded as a Lions tour. They won all ten games, conceding only one try. The party included Peter Hordern, a back row forward, who made 91 appearances for Gloucester, 1930-37, and John A'Bear, a second row forward, who made 211 appearances for Gloucester, 1933-41. Hordern played in the only "Test" against Argentina, at Buenos Aires, which was won 23-0, but caps were not awarded.

Bill Patterson, a centre from Sale, played only seven games for Gloucester towards the end of the 1958-59 season, but was then called up as a replacement for the Lions in New Zealand, where he played in the second Test, which was lost 8-11 at Wellington.

Don Rutherford, a stylish full-back, made 94 appearances for Gloucester, 1964-68. He was selected to tour Australia and New Zealand with the Lions in 1966, and played in the first Test against Australia, which was won 11-8 at Sydney, but in New Zealand his tour was ended by a broken arm.

Mike Burton, a prop who made 366 appearances for Gloucester, 1964-80, went to South Africa with the 1974 Lions. They went through the entire tour unbeaten, but Mike missed out on Test selection.



Mike Burton

On the next tour to South Africa in 1980, Gloucester again provided a prop, in Phil Blakeway, who made 139 appearances for the Club, 1971-85.

Unfortunately he suffered a rib injury which ended his tour without any Test appearances.

Steve Boyle, a second row, made 303 appearances for Gloucester, 1973-84. He toured New Zealand with the Lions in 1983, and played in six games, but was not selected for the Test side.



Phil Blakeway

"Iron" Mike Teague, a back row forward, who made 303 appearances for Gloucester, 1978-95, was selected for two Lions tours. He went to Australia in 1989, was injured for the first Test, which was lost, but played in the second, won 19-12 at Brisbane, and the third, won 19-18 in Sydney. He played such a dynamic role in the Lions coming from behind to win the series, the first time that they had achieved this, that he was named "Man of the Series". On his second Lions tour in 1993 he won one Test cap in a 20-17 victory over New Zealand at Wellington.

"Raging Bull" Phil Vickery, a prop, who played 127 games for Gloucester, 1996-2006, went on the Lions tour to Australia in 2001. He played in all three Tests, the first won 29-13 at Brisbane, but the second was lost 14-35 at Melbourne, as was the third 23-29 in



Mike Teague

GLOUCESTER ROLL OF HONOUR FOR THE LIONS

Walter Jackson 1891 South Africa

Frank Stout 1899 Australia 4 caps
1903 South Africa 3 caps

Gilbert Collett 1903 South Africa 3 caps

Tom Voyce 1924 South Africa 2 caps

Peter Hordern 1936 Argentina (1 Test, no cap)

John A'Bear 1936 Argentina

Bill Patterson 1959 New Zealand 1 cap

Don Rutherford 1966 Australia 1 cap
1966 New Zealand

Mike Burton 1974 South Africa

Phil Blakeway 1980 South Africa

Steve Boyle 1983 New Zealand

Mike Teague 1989 Australia 2 caps
1993 New Zealand 1 cap

Phil Vickery 2001 Australia 3 caps

Billy Twelvetrees 2013 Australia

Ross Moriarty 2017 New Zealand

Greig Laidlaw 2017 New Zealand

Chris Harris 2021 South Africa 1 cap

Louis Rees-Zammit 2021 South Africa

Sydney. Phil won a further two Lions caps in South Africa in 2009 whilst a Wasps player.

Billy Twelvetrees, a centre, who had joined Gloucester in 2012, and is still playing for the Club, was pulled off the England tour of Argentina in 2013 as injury cover for the Lions in Australia. He played in two matches against provincial sides.



Phil Vickery

On the Lions tour of New Zealand in 2017, Ross Moriarty, a back row forward who made 49 appearances for Gloucester, 2012-17, sustained an injury during the first match, which ended his tour. Greig Laidlaw, a scrum half who made 47 appearances for Gloucester, 2014-17, was not in the original tour selection, but was called up when Ben Youngs withdrew, and played in six matches against Provincial sides.