

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGECUP GAMES
AGAINST THE
SARACENS

The Saracens club was founded as long ago as 1876, by the Old Boys of the Philological School in Marylebone, London. They played home games at several grounds until taking up residence at Bramley Road, Southgate, just after WW2. For six seasons they ground-shared at Vicarage Road, Watford, with the football club, before moving to Allianz Park, Hendon, in 2013.

The first time Gloucester and Saracens met was in March 1968 at Kingsholm. The result was a 3-3 draw, Gloucester's points coming from a Don Rutherford penalty. With regard to cup games, there have only been five encounters with Saracens and, so far, (this might be putting the kiss of death on it) Gloucester have won the lot!

**23 FEBRUARY 1985, JOHN PLAYER CUP:
GLOUCESTER 29 SARACENS 3**

This was a game dominated by the Gloucester forwards. Early on Marcus Hannaford got his three-quarters running, Richard Mogg chipped the ball through for Tim Smith to collect and put Nick Price over for a try. Smith converted and added a penalty



Damian Cummins



Marcus Hannaford

for a 9-0 interval lead. After further forward pressure Ian Smith touched down and Tim Smith converted. Saracens replied with a penalty, but another try resulted after a run from John Brain, and Paul Taylor scored. Derrick Morgan added another, before - just before the end - a glorious try was scored after Hannaford broke from his own 22. Mogg, Tim Smith and Morgan all handled before Damian Cummins burst over the try-line, for Tim Smith to convert.

**8 MARCH 1986, JOHN PLAYER CUP:
SARACENS 6 GLOUCESTER 13**

Sarries and Gloucester met in the cup for the second season running. It was an edgy and error-strewn game, with the referee issuing several penalties. As a result, the first half produced no tries, but two penalties from Tim Smith to one from Laurence Smith. The dour fare continued after the break, with further penalties from the two Smiths, before in the last minute Mike Teague broke from a scrum, handed on to Mike Longstaff, who fed Tim Smith, who in turn handed on to Marcus Hannaford who scored a fine try.

**25 JANUARY 2003,
POWERGEN CUP:
GLOUCESTER 51 SARACENS 20**

Only a week before this game Gloucester had lost to Munster in the "miracle game", where all the Cherry & Whites had to do was lose by no more than 26 points to proceed from the group stage of the Heineken Cup. Munster won by 27 points. The team needed to restore shattered morale.

After only three minutes James Forrester, as the Times put it, "driving low on the narrow side, crashed a couple of tackles and dived over in the corner." Gloucester were up and running.

After ten minutes, Thinus Delpont chased an Andy Gomersall grubber kick, caught the ball and streaked home. For Saracens Adryan Winnan, following a good run, kicked ahead, and regathered to score. This merely seemed to encourage Gloucester more, and Terry Fanolua, with little room weaved his way in. Delpont added another before half-time when Gloucester led 23-8. In the second half, with the wind at their backs, Gloucester ran riot scoring tries through Gomersall, Adam Eustace, Rodrigo Roncero, and another from Forrester.

Wayne Shelford, the Saracens coach, said, "I don't think anyone would have stopped Gloucester today."



Henry Trinder

**13 NOVEMBER 2010, LV CUP:
GLOUCESTER 36 SARACENS 10**

After only a few minutes Gloucester opened up, playing through several phases before Charlie Sharples scored a corner try. Tim Taylor converted. Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu fielded a Sarries clearance kick, broke through mid-field to send in James Simpson-Daniel for the second try, which Taylor also converted. Taylor and Owen Farrell exchanged penalties, then, just before half-time, Henry Trinder intercepted from his own 22 to streak home. The lead was 24-3 at the break. Fuimaono-Sapolu passed to Simpson-Daniel who made 50 metres before slipping the ball to Trinder to score. The pack produced a try for Ollie Azam, before Saracens scored a consolation try through Short.

**5 NOVEMBER 2016, ANGLO-WELSH CUP:
GLOUCESTER 36 SARACENS 32**

Eight Gloucester players were making their first appearance. The debutants were soon put to the test as Sarries attacked and eventually scored through Griffiths. Gloucester replied with a try from Joe Mullis. But it was one-way traffic for the rest of the half as Saracens scored two more tries and penalties for a lead of 25-5 at the interval. In the second half the Cherry and Whites played with great fire and scored tries through Dan Thomas, Henry Purdy and David Halaifonua. Lloyd Evans converted two so that the score was now 25-24 for Saracens. However, Saracens responded with a try by Whitely and a conversion to open up the gap to eight points. Back again came Gloucester, and a pulled-down maul resulted in a penalty try. In the last minute, Lloyd Evans hit the post with a penalty attempt, but the Gloucester forwards following up regained possession. Ben Vellacott passed to Halaifonua who scored the winning try amid wild rejoicing. It was a remarkable come-back.



David Halaifonua