



THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

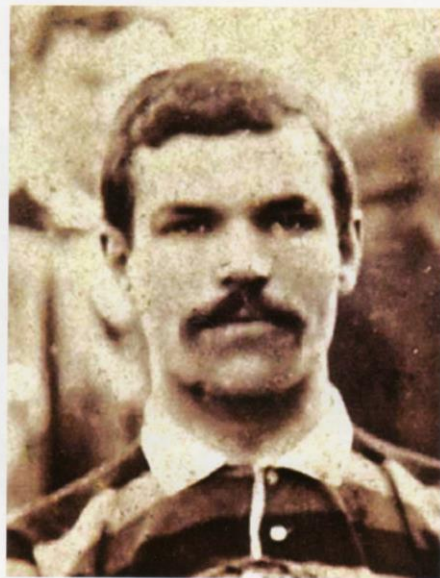
THE 139TH MATCH

Gloucester and Northampton have much in common – founded in 1873 and 1880 respectively, both bought their present grounds in the 19th century, and built stands on them in the 1920s.

The clubs have been locking horns for more than a hundred years, and today is the 139th match. Gloucester are comfortably ahead in the series, having won 85, lost 48 and drawn 5, the points difference being 1,926 – 1,552.

Since league games have been played, Gloucester are ahead 22 – 15 in matches won, but Northampton lead 738 – 713 on points difference.

The clubs first met in 1899, at Kingsholm, Gloucester winning 18 – 8. Home and away matches were played most seasons thereafter.



Walter Taylor, captain and try scorer for Gloucester in the first fixture against Northampton in 1899.

Northampton tasted their first success, 8 – 3, in 1902, but for thirty years, Gloucester were in the ascendancy, and Northampton did not win at Kingsholm until they squeaked home 11 – 8 in 1930. This ended a run of 22 consecutive home victories for Gloucester.

Gloucester enjoyed their biggest win in 1975, scoring 9 tries, with 5 in the last 13 minutes, as they romped home 51 – 10 at Kingsholm.

On the same day, the United travelled to Franklin's Gardens accompanied by Micky Booth as the committee representative, but they found themselves short and he agreed to come out of retirement to play full back and anchored the team to a 27 – 16 win over Northampton Wanderers.

Northampton registered their biggest win, 58 – 12, in a league match in 2002.

MEMORABLE MATCHES

**1990 Pilkington Cup semi-final at Franklins Gardens
Northampton 12 - Gloucester 17**

Although Northampton had been relegated the previous season, and Gloucester were the current league leaders, they were given a tremendous fright.

H. Pitt scores
Gloucester's first try,
24 Sep 1927



The atmosphere was electric, the Northampton tackling was ferocious, and Tim Rodber played the game of his life. Northampton led 12-8 at half-time, despite tries from Derrick Morgan and Kevin Dunn. Tim Smith's boot was the winning difference in the second half.

1994 Pilkington Cup at Kingsholm Gloucester 11 - Northampton 6

Four years later, Gloucester were rebuilding their team, and Northampton, with five internationals in their side, were strong favourites to win this tie.

However, they met their match in a Gloucester pack containing seven forwards who had learned their rugby at Longlevens.

The only try was scored by Gloucester scrum half, Bruce Fenley, who had a fine all round game. Although the Saints threw everything at them in the final quarter, the home side held out.

2003 Powergen Cup Final at Twickenham Gloucester 40 - Northampton 22

On a sunny April day, a capacity crowd enjoyed a final to remember. Although trailing 20-22 at the break, Gloucester took the lead early in the second half, and from then on Northampton were chasing the game.

Ludovic Mercier kicked 20 points, and Gloucester's four tries were scored by their young stars, James Simpson-Daniel (2), Jamie

Forrester and Marcel Garvey.

In the absence of injured captain Phil Vickery, the honour of going up to collect the Cup was given to the veteran Andy Deacon.

2010 LV= Anglo-Welsh Cup Final at Worcester Gloucester 24 Northampton 30

A riveting match was played on a glorious spring day. Gloucester, missing a dozen players, were very much the underdogs, but played their part in a wonderful display of open rugby, holding the lead twice and stretching their opponents.

After a tight first quarter, the game sprang to life with both sides playing rugby at a pulsating pace.

In the dying minutes of the match, with the score 24-30, a Gloucester try seemed inevitable, only for the Tongan prop, Tonga'uiha, a massive presence throughout, to break away with the ball. The move took play into the Gloucester 22 where it remained until the final whistle.

Action from Gloucester 9 Northampton 3 at Kingsholm in 1927 - note the dapper referee and the terrace which pre-dated the Shed.



The victorious team with the
2003 Powergen Cup

Bonus
CHERRIES

GLoucester RUGBY
HERITAGE



This season every programme will
contain an article by the Gloucester
Rugby Heritage Project.

Much more on the history of the
Gloucester Club, and the Project, is at
www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk