

GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

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THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

BATH - OUR OLDEST OPPONENTS

Bath pre-dates Gloucester as a club, founded in 1865 by members of Lansdown Cricket Club "for something to do in the winter".

The club was nomadic for almost 30 years, until a lease was taken out to play sport on the "Rec", where Bath played their first game in 1894.

Of the current Premiership clubs, Bath are our oldest opponents. The clubs first met on 2nd December 1882 at the Spa, Gloucester. Gloucester won by three goals and three tries to nil.

Leading the way was George Coates with a hat trick of tries. A labourer at the Wagon Works, George was the first manual worker to play for Gloucester, and in this, his first season at the Club, he was the leading try scorer with 11 tries from 11 games.

Jimmy Boughton (captain), G J Dewey, and H B Sloman also scored tries, and conversions were kicked by Boughton, H V Jones and H J Berry.

Two weeks later, a return match was played at Bath, in heavy rain, and it was dark before it ended.

Gloucester won again, this time by one goal and two tries to one try. Jimmy Boughton scored two tries and George Coates one.

Gloucester went through this 1882-83 season unbeaten, the only time this has been achieved in the Club's history, and the team became known as "The Invincibles".

The following season, Gloucester travelled to Bath early in the season and won by the massive margin of 5 goals and 12 tries to nil.

The Citizen simply reported that "Bath had not a ghost of a chance". Back at the Spa for the return match, Gloucester managed a mere



George Coates and Jimmy Boughton



2 goals and 6 tries, with Coates scoring 5 of them.

The best season statistically in Bath's history was 1885-86, when they won 17, drew 2 and lost 1. It would have been so much better without Gloucester.



Roy James, the Gloucester wing runs in a try against Bath at Kingsholm in 1928; Gloucester won 6-0.

Bath's only defeat was by 3 goals to nil at the Spa – their nemesis, George Coates scoring two tries. Later in the season, Gloucester came away from Bath with a draw, one try each (you guessed it - Coates again).

For many years it was not a question of

whether Gloucester would win against Bath, but by how much.

Bath first savoured victory 9-6 in 1922, the 46th game between the clubs, but they had to wait until 1938 to record their first success at Gloucester (a 5-3 win on their 39th visit).

After WW2, the fixture became more competitive, but even so in 1947-48, when Bath were enjoying a very successful season, Gloucester went down there and came back with a 14-8 victory (both tries by Ken Daniell), and later in the season won 15-0 at Kingsholm.

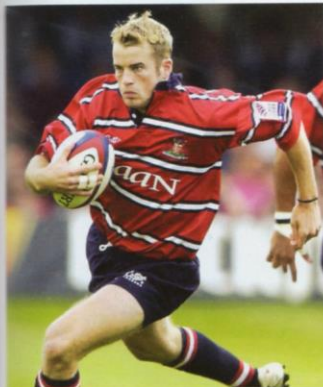
SERIES RECORDS

Today's game is the 219th between the clubs. Gloucester have won 130 and lost 67, with 21 drawn. Since 1889, when the universal scoring system was adopted, Gloucester have scored 2,855 points against Bath's 2,166.

Gloucester's biggest win was 68-12 on 4th May 2002 in a league game at Kingsholm.

Gloucester were in the runners-up spot in the Premiership but had unexpectedly lost the Parker Pen semi-final by one point to Sale the previous week. Someone was going to suffer – and it was Bath, who had been struggling all season.

James Simpson-Daniel (3), Terry Fanolua (2),



Junior Paramore, Robert Todd, Patrice Collazo and Henry Paul scored tries, and Ludovic Mercier kicked 7 conversions, 2 penalties and a drop goal.

Bath's biggest win was 71-21 in a league game at the Rec on 30th April 1997

Results for the first 20 years of league matches went very much in favour of Bath, but Gloucester are on a bit of a roll in recent years, having won eight of the last nine league games.

THE CLUBS
FIRST MET
ON 2ND
DECEMBER
1882 AT
THE SPA,
GLOUCESTER.

Tim Smith & Paul Holford



MEMORABLE MATCHES

**10th April 1996: Courage League at Kingsholm
Gloucester 16 Bath 10**

Gloucester had suffered a very bad league season, losing nine of their first ten games, and relegation was a serious possibility.

Richard Hill took over as Director of Rugby in mid-season, and things improved, but the situation was still perilous when Bath arrived on a Wednesday evening.

Gloucester played out of their skins to beat the eventual league champions. Paul Holford scored a try; Tim Smith converted and kicked three penalties.

**13th September 2008: Guinness Premiership at The Rec
Bath 17 Gloucester 21**

Gloucester had lost their first league game 20-8 at home to Leicester. Now they had to face Bath at the Rec where they had not won since the formation of the leagues in 1987-88.

They won – and the key factors in their first victory were the outstanding form of Ollie Morgan and the contributions of Willie Walker, Olivier Azam and Andy Hazell who had all been on the bench for the Leicester game. Willie Walker and Luke Narryway scored Gloucester's tries and Walker kicked 11 points.

Sinbad and Terry Fanolua



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