

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

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## A NEW CLUB WITH OLD ASSOCIATIONS

Union Bordeaux-Begles were founded in 2006 as a result of a merger between two Bordeaux clubs, Stade Bordelais ("Bordeaux") and Club Athletique Bordeaux-Begles Gironde ("Begles").

They play at the Stade Andre Moga in Begles, a suburb of Bordeaux. The two clubs which amalgamated had accumulated nine French championship titles: seven for Stade Bordelais and two for Club Athletique Bordeaux-Begles Gironde.

In the early years, Stade Bordelais, founded in 1889, were the nationally recognised senior club and won seven titles before the First World War, the last in 1911. At the time of the merger they were playing in the French second division.

In modern times, Begles, founded in 1907, had become the dominant force, winning French Championships in 1969 and again in 1991 when they were captained by Bernard Laporte and Serge Simon was among their leading players.

The Begles club, named Club Athletique Begles until 1983, were in the French first division from 1913 until 2003, when they were found to be unable to continue financially and were declared bankrupt the following year.

Since the amalgamation in 2006, Union Bordeaux-Begles competed in the second division until winning the 2011 play-offs. They finished 8th in the Top 14 last season and, as a result, are competing in the Amlin Challenge Cup.

### PREVIOUS MATCHES

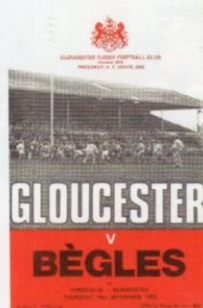
Today will be the first match between Gloucester and the current Union Bordeaux-Begles club. However, Gloucester and Begles have met before.

18th September 1975  
at Kingsholm  
Gloucester 20 Begles 21

The match was played on a Thursday evening under floodlights. Begles, billed as the "1969 French champions", were on tour, and scored two tries in a dominant first half, Peter Butler replying with two penalties for Gloucester.

The home side countered strongly in the second half, both sides playing sparkling open rugby.

Alan Brinn and John Bayliss, who had an outstanding game, scored tries in reply to two tries from Begles and, when Eddie Pinkney crashed over in the corner, Gloucester needed the conversion to win the game. For once Peter Butler missed and Begles won a thriller 21-20.



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GLOUCESTER		BEGLES	
15. P. Butler	**	15. Full Back	Bordeaux
Three Quarters	**	16. Three Quarters	L. Lacombe
14. J. Day	**	17. Jersey	J. Bouchard
13. R. Jardine	**	18. Half Backs	1. Verdyger
12. J. Bawley	**	19. Line	2. Carrelet
11. R. Blairidge	**	20. Forward	3. Bessard
10. D. Palmer	**	21. V. Van	4. V. Van
9. T. Kingston	**	22. S. Luggin	5. Luggin
8. J. Mackintosh	**	23. S. Amis (Capt.)	6. Clavette
7. J. Palmer	**	24. S. Amis (Capt.)	7. Villote

**WESTGATE motorhouse**  
DANLON • JAGUAR • HONDA • TRIUMPH

**16th October 1996**  
**at Kingsholm**  
**Gloucester 10 Begles 17**

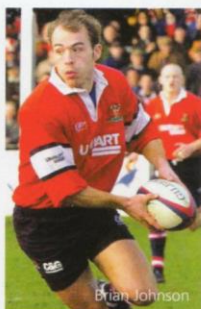
**In contrast to the first match in 1975, this tie in Pool D of the European Conference was a dismal affair.**

In a match of missed opportunities, Gloucester, who were 10-3 down at half time, dominated the second half but, although enjoying an enormous territorial advantage, could not break the Begles line.

The scores were finally levelled when Gloucester were awarded a penalty try with six minutes to go. But, after Mark Mapletoft missed two difficult penalty chances, Begles centre Luc Lafforgue raced through to score the winning try.

**10th August 1999**  
**at Biscarosse**  
**Begles 11**  
**Gloucester 19**

A pre-season match watched by Clive Woodward, who was assessing the form of the Gloucester front row of Trevor Woodman, Neil McCarthy and Phil Vickery before announcing his World Cup squad later in the month.



Brian Johnson

In a tight game, Gloucester were leading by four penalties to two in the 75th minute when Begles replacement full back Filali scored a try to leave them one point behind.

However, Brian Johnson chipped ahead to gather and score two minutes into injury time and Gloucester won 19-11, a promising start to a successful 1999-2000 season.

### THEY PLAYED FOR BEGLES AND GLOUCESTER

**Prop Serge Simon only played 18 games for Gloucester between 1999 and 2000, but in that short space of time became a folk hero (especially in the Shed) for his tough uncompromising style and obvious enthusiasm for the game.**

After a stint with Gloucester in 1999-2000, he received a hero's welcome in August 2000 when he returned in answer to

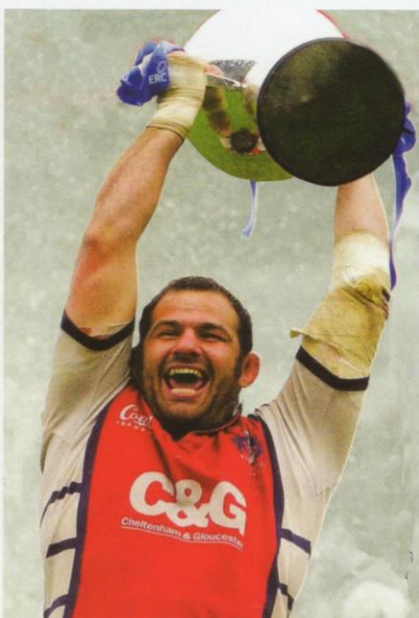


Serge Simon  
 - An unforgettable character

Patrice Collazo  
 - Cup Winner

**Prop Patrice Collazo played for Begles against Gloucester at Kingsholm in the 1996 European Conference game, as a promising 22 year old.**

He joined Gloucester from Begles in 2001,



a front row crisis.

A true character, his shuffling appearance belied the fact that he was a doctor working for the French government and a talented artist. His two international caps were won in 1991, the year he helped Begles win the French Championship.

playing 78 games for the club in between 2001-03 and 2005-08, with two seasons at Toulouse in between.

Accomplished in tight and loose, he won an international cap while with Begles and, but for the strength of the French front row at the time, could have won many more.

Collazo played for Gloucester in both the Zurich Championship Final victory against Bristol in 2002 and in the European Challenge Cup Final victory against London Irish in 2006.

**Bonus**  
CHERRIES

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY**  
**HERITAGE**

The guilty men – the Gloucester Rugby Heritage team which is bringing you these articles in each match programme this season – Chris Collier, Dick Williams, Malc King, John Theyers, John Cowen.