

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

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# A BIT OF PREVIOUS

**Today is the 209th meeting between Gloucester and Leicester. The record is fairly even, Gloucester having won 104 and lost 96 (points for 2,743 against 2,530).**

The Castle Grim factor has given Gloucester a significant advantage at home, with 71 wins, 26 losses and 4 draws (1,598 points for, 964 against) at Kingsholm.

## THE EARLY YEARS

**The Leicester club dates back to 1880, but it was a few years before they took on Gloucester, who travelled to Leicester for the first match on 31st October 1891.**

They came up against a Leicester side resplendent in new jerseys with scarlet, green and white vertical stripes. This was the first season they adopted the colours in which they have remained ever since, although the change from stripes to hoops was not made until 1895.

Many will also remember Leicester as being one of the last clubs (along with Bristol) to have letters, rather than numbers, on their jerseys.

That first match in 1891 resulted in a 15-0 victory for Gloucester, with tries from Walter Jackson, Trevor Powell and Walter Taylor, all of them converted by Jackson.

After the game the Gloucester team were mightily impressed by the "substantial meat tea" provided by their hosts – future fixtures were assured.

Perhaps Leicester had shown too reverential an attitude during the game, since they had four members of the clergy in their team, all in the backs.



Gloucester's three clergymen players: Kit Tanner, Mervyn Hughes and Bill Phillips

Many years later, Gloucester almost matched this by playing three clergymen (Kit Tanner, Mervyn Hughes and Bill Phillips) in the November 1937 fixture, which Gloucester won 14-9.

The first fixture at Kingsholm was played on 2nd January 1892, when Gloucester won by 3 tries to nil, with

Walter Jackson, Walter Taylor and C Williams scoring.

By the time Gloucester next visited Leicester on 19th November 1892, the game was played at the new Welford Road ground. Gloucester won again, 16-0, with 2 tries from Walter Jackson and 3 from Walter Taylor, Jackson converting 2 of them (a try then counted for 2 points and a conversion 3). Full reports of these early matches can be read on our website.

The history of the development of the two clubs has much in common – after moving into their permanent homes in 1891/2, England internationals were hosted and changing rooms built in the early 1900s, new stands in the 1920s, and floodlights installed in the 1960s.

By which time, Leicester players recall that the highlight of away games at Kingsholm

The Walters: Taylor and (inset) Jackson



was the excellent lunch for which they stopped off in Stratford-on-Avon on the way down.

## BIGGEST WINS

**21st March 1998**  
at Welford Road  
**Leicester 12 - Gloucester 53**

Leicester put out a weakened team in the semi-final of the C&G Cup. In a feast of tries, Terry Fanolua scored 3, Phillippe St Andre 2, and Audley Lumsden and Dave Sims one each, Mark Mapletoft converting all 7 and kicking 2 penalties.

**4th March 2012**  
at Welford Road  
**Leicester 36 - Gloucester 3**

Leicester's biggest league victory against Gloucester.

**1st October 1999**  
at Kingsholm  
**Gloucester 36 - Leicester 4**

Gloucester's biggest league win against the Tigers, 36-4. Chris Catling, Richard Tombs, Ian Sanders scored tries, with a penalty try and 4 conversions and 2 penalties from Simon Mannix.

## MEMORABLE MATCHES

**15th April 1978**  
John Player Cup Final  
**Gloucester 6 - Leicester 3**

This was Leicester's first appearance in a Twickenham final. Gloucester was the premier club in England that season and any doubts were dispelled when they won the cup. The score may have been close, but Gloucester dominated territory and possession, and scored the only try of the match.

Richard Mogg was the hero of the final, not only scoring Gloucester's try, which Peter



Cartoon and photo of the 1927 match at Kingsholm

Butler converted, but also pulling off a match-saving tackle close to the final whistle.

On the way to the final Gloucester had beaten the holders Gosforth, Wasps and Harlequins.

Commemorative ties (which had been produced before the game!) were presented to the players and the Mayor gave a civic reception for the team in the Guildhall.

**8th April 1997**  
Courage League  
**Gloucester 32 - Leicester 30**

As the Citizen put it: "The script was perfectly written. There were 80 – or actually 90 – minutes of non-stop action, a bit of violence, two amazing twists in the tail of the plot, and, although there were no bedroom scenes, boy, there was passion from the cast of 1000's."

An incredibly exciting Tuesday evening game, with Gloucester squaring the score at the death with a Phil Greening try in the corner, which Mark Mapletoft converted from the touch line to take the lead.

There were about two minutes left on the clock, and the ref then proceeded to play interminable injury time. Leicester had a five yard line-out but could not score. The tension by the end was unbearable.

**16 April 2011**  
Aviva Premiership  
**Leicester 41 - Gloucester 41**

An incredibly exciting game, with Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolo saving the game for Gloucester with a last minute interception to run almost the length of the field to score, and Freddie Burns' conversion drawing the match.





**GLOUCESTER RUGBY**  
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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.