

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

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THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

## KNOCKOUT MATCHES AGAINST IRISH EXILES

The London Irish club was formed in 1898, but Gloucester did not appear on their fixture list until 1973-74, Gloucester's centenary season.

The Irish travelled to Kingsholm on 24th November 1973, and were sent packing to the tune of 27-9.

Since then the clubs have met regularly, and have been drawn against one another in cup competitions on several occasions.

### FIRST CUP ENCOUNTER

The first cup match was in the John Player Cup on 28th February 1981 at Sunbury-on-Thames.



Steve Boyle



Peter Butler

open rugby when players could be paid and the game took its first stuttering steps towards professionalism.

The match, which took place on 2nd November 1996, was in the European Conference, with Gloucester securing an away win 29-13. Audley Lumsden (2), Phil

#### London Irish

15 MOSS FINN \*  
14 JIM BATES \*  
13 HUGH CONDON \*  
12 ROGER MCKIBBIN  
11 CLIVE MEAKWELL \*  
10 PAUL O'DONNELL \*  
9 GRAHAM PAGE  
8 TOM HENNESSY \*  
7 GUY BERNIER \*  
6 PETER FINEVOLDSON  
5 DAVID MCCRACKEN \*  
4 MIKE SMYTHE \*  
3 WALTER JONES \*  
2 JOHN O'DRISCOLL \* (Capt)  
1 STEWART MACINNEY \*  
NEIL MURPHY

#### JOHN PLAYER CUP — 4th Round Saturday, 28th February, 1981—k.o. 3.00 p.m.

FULL BACK  
RIGHT WING  
RIGHT CENTRE  
LEFT CENTRE  
LEFT WING  
STAND OFF  
SCRUM HALF  
PROP  
HOOKER  
SECOND ROW  
SECOND ROW  
WING  
LOCK  
WINGS  
REPLACEMENTS  
(Latics/Main Society)

THREE-QUARTERS  
HALF-BACKS  
FORWARDS  
PROPS  
HOOKER  
SECOND ROW  
SECOND ROW  
WING  
LOCK  
WINGS  
REPLACEMENTS  
(Latics/Main Society)

#### Gloucester

15 P. BUTLER \*  
14 P. CONWAY  
13 P. TAYLOR \*  
12 S. PARFLOE  
11 R. MOGG \*  
10 C. PRYCE  
9 S. BAKER  
8 G. SARGENT \*  
7 S. MILLS \*  
6 P. BLAKEWAY \*  
5 S. BOYLE \*  
4 J. FISHER \*  
3 J. GARD  
2 M. TEAGUE  
1 M. LONGSTAFF  
P. KINGSTON  
K. WHITE

Resources: *Referee*/Tenth Judge: R. J. HOWARD (London Society)

Gloucester had travelled there earlier in the season, and lost 9-10, but they were up for the cup, and won 22-13 thanks to tries from Steve Boyle, Richard Mogg and Padraig Conway, and 2 conversions, a penalty and a dropped goal from the boot of Peter Butler.

Gloucester went out in the next round after a 9-9 draw at London Scottish, who progressed because they scored the only try.

### FIRST EUROPEAN CLASH

The clubs first met in European competition in the 1996-97 season, the first season of



Richard Mogg



Audley Lumsden



Phil Greening



Alastair Saverimutto



Mark Mapletoft

Greening (2) and Alastair Saverimutto scored the tries, Mark Mapletoft converting two of them.

During 1999-2004, the teams met three times in domestic cup competitions, once in the Tetley's Bitter Cup and twice in the Powergen Cup, the Irish winning all three. However, Gloucester triumphed (just) in the big one that followed:

## EUROPEAN CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

**20TH MAY 2006,  
AT THE TWICKENHAM STOOP  
GLOUCESTER 36 - LONDON IRISH 34  
(after extra time)**

It all boiled down to a matter of inches when James Forrester touched down his own kick ahead just before it crossed the dead ball line for the winning score in extra time of this pulsating European Challenge Cup Final.

Peter Richards began the move from his own 22 with a chip kick that was swept up by James Simpson-Daniel. Anthony Allen burst through into the Irish half and, from the ruck, Forrester pursued his kick to the line.

Gloucester had led 31-19 with only ten minutes remaining, through tries by Foster,



Hazell and Simpson-Daniel, and goals by Lamb and Mercier.

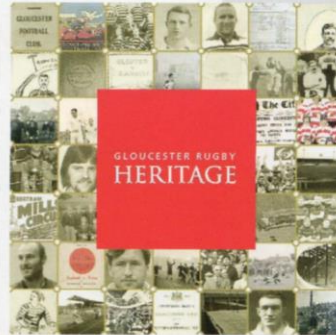
Mark Foster had outstripped Topsy Ojo to reach a delicate grubber kick by Mike Tindall to score the first, Andy Hazell had charged through a breaking lineout for the second and Simpson-Daniel had run 60 metres following an interception to score the third.

However the pack was tiring and had conceded two tries in the later stages, both to rolling mauls, to tie the scores at 31-31 at the end of regulation time.

When Barry Everitt kicked his fourth penalty goal to take Irish ahead in the 9th minute of extra time, the writing appeared to be on the wall, but Gloucester had one shot left in the locker to give them a memorable victory.

## CHERRY AND WHITE CHRISTMAS PRESENT

For any Gloucester supporter, the ideal Christmas present is a copy of the "Gloucester Rugby Heritage" book, which tells the story of Gloucester Rugby using material from the Club's archive, richly illustrated with many contemporary photographs, sketches and newspaper cuttings.



The book captures the special place that the Club has within the City, recording the stories, the characters and the landmark matches.

What is the true story of the famous Cherry and White strip? What happened when the circus came to town?

Star players of each era are highlighted and some very special Gloucester Greats are featured.

The book is on sale at Hudsons Sports, Northgate Street, and the Gloucester Rugby Club shop - or you can order your copy from the Gloucester Rugby website and receive your copy by post.

All proceeds are put back into the Gloucester Rugby Heritage Project.

European Challenge Cup  
Winners 2006

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: THEY PLAYED FOR GLOUCESTER AND FOUGHT FOR THEIR COUNTRY

**When war broke out in August 1914, the British Government called for volunteers.**

Within two weeks practically all of the players from the Gloucester Rugby Club had enlisted. The Gloucester Club announced the cancellation of all fixtures.

By Christmas 1914, William Hancock (Gloucester A, full-back) and Bernard 'Peter' Roach (Gloucester A, centre) were already dead.

By the end of the Great War, twenty-two players who had represented the Gloucester Club, had been killed with their worst day being July 23rd 1916 during the Somme offensive.

Martin Davies will be telling the story of the men from the rugby club and their experiences during the Great War, both those who returned home, and those who did not, at 7:30pm on Tuesday 8th January 2013 at Prince Michael Hall, The Bacon Theatre, Dean Close School, Cheltenham.

All are welcome to attend this talk organised by the Western Front Association - entry by donation (suggested £4 non-members, £3 members).

**For further information telephone Peter Gill on: 01242 237937 or e-mail: [petergill@live.co.uk](mailto:petergill@live.co.uk).**

This talk previews part of a book, written by Martin, and due to be published by the Gloucester Rugby Heritage Project in April 2013, which will recount the exploits of Gloucester players in the Boer War and both World Wars.



**Bonus**  
CHERRIES

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY**  
**HERITAGE**

