

GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

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THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

FOR THE STATISTICIAN

Today is the 62nd occasion on which Gloucester and London Irish have locked horns.


To date, Gloucester have won 37 and lost 24 – there have been no drawn matches, and only 6 defeats for Gloucester at Kingsholm. Gloucester are ahead on points scored by 1332 to 1126.

Since league rugby was introduced, there have been 18 encounters at Kingsholm, with Gloucester emerging victorious in 16 of them.

narrowly missing one from well inside his own half, which led to White's try when The Irish knocked on under the posts. With 24 unanswered points in the second half, Gloucester ran out winners 27-9.

However, the Irish generally had the better of the early encounters, winning five out of the first seven games between the clubs.

Teamsheet from 1973 match programme

GLOUCESTER (Red and White)		REFEREE: Mr. A. M. LEES (Manchester Society)	LONDON IRISH	
FULL BACK 15 E. STEPHENS (c)		 <p>WHITBREAD TANKARD cool, clear, refreshing</p>	FULL BACK 15 R. BELL	
THREEQUARTERS 14 J. DIX (c) f.w. 12 R. WHITE (c) f.c. 12 R. JARDINE (c) l.c. 11 R. ETHERIDGE (c) l.w.			THREEQUARTERS f.c. 14 P. LAVERY 11 R. BELL-BOOTH 11 M. RANDELL l.w.	
HALF BACKS 10 N. EVANS (c) o.h. 9 J. SPALDING (c) s.h.		HALF BACKS o.h. 10 H. REAY 9 R. C. CROFT e.h.		
FORWARDS 1 K. RICHARDSON (c) 2 M. NICHOLLS (c) (Capt.) 3 S. BOYLE (c) 4 P. WINNELL 5 N. JACKSON (c) 6 D. OWEN (c) 8 J. JARRETT (c) 7 R. SMITH (c)		FORWARDS 1 T. JOY 2 J. BOND 3 A. NEWBERRY 4 W. LYONS 5 S. RICHARDSON 6 W. JONES 8 R. REA (Capt.) 7 L. MCCARTHY		

FIRST MATCH

London Irish date back to 1898 as a club, but only came onto the Gloucester fixture list in 1973, when Gloucester beefed up the standard of their opposition for their centenary year.

In the event, for that first match on 24th November 1973, both clubs were shorn of players away playing representative rugby or struck down with the flu'.

In the first half, Gloucester spurned several chances to score, and had a "try" by Keith Richardson disallowed. So, Gloucester found themselves 3-9 behind at half-time.

Eric Stephens kicked a couple of penalties to level the scores, before, in the last 13 minutes of the match, tries from John Dix, Bob White and Dick Smith, all of whom had been dropped from the County side, turned the match on its head.

In the final flourish, "Jardine slashed through the bhoys's defence to put over Smith". Eric Stephens converted all 3 tries and kicked another penalty, as well as

BIGGEST WINS

For Gloucester, this came on 23rd November 1985 at Kingsholm. Eight

tries were scored by Simon Long (2), John Gadd (2), Mike Longstaff (2), John Orwin and Mike Hamlin.

These were the only tries scored by Long in his 4-match career for Gloucester. Tim Smith kicked 6 conversions

John Gadd & Mike Longstaff



for a 44-3 victory.

For London Irish, the game at the end of last season, on 5th May 2012, when Gloucester completely disintegrated, produced their biggest win, 52-18.

MEMORABLE GAME

On 20th May 2000, the teams played out a thrilling league encounter, described in the Citizen as "heart-stopping stuff", when "Gloucester's season reached an astonishing crescendo at The Stoop with a white knuckle ride that secured third in the Premiership".

A pulsating first half saw Irish turn round with a 25-13 advantage, but cracking breaks from Terry Fanolua and a leggy sprint from Ian Jones swung the balance of the game for a while.

The Irish again stormed back to establish a 40-25 lead, before Adey Powles burrowed over for a try on the stroke of time to edge Gloucester ahead 42-40.

Even then the Irish had a last chance with a penalty from the half-way line, but it sailed wide, and Gloucester's celebrations started.

Gloucester's tries came from Adey Powles (2), Chris Catling (2), Rob Jewell, Adam Eustace and Mark Cornwell.

AN IRISH TAKE ON KINGSHOLM

After captaining an International XV v Gloucestershire at Kingsholm to mark the County's centenary, Willie John McBride said: "I've always wanted to play at Kingsholm, and it's good to be here at last. Before I came I'd heard a lot about your ground, I'd heard a lot about your rugby, and I'd heard a lot about your crowd.

"As soon as I arrived this afternoon, I knew everything they said about your ground was true.

"Ten minutes into the game, I knew everything they said about your rugby was true. But as soon as I ran out on the field I knew that everything they said about your crowd was true!"

IRELAND AT KINGSHOLM

In 1991, one hundred years of rugby at Kingsholm was celebrated with the visit of the England and Ireland national sides,



Phil Vickery, Chris Fortey and try scorer Adey Powles

who were playing final warm-up games ahead of their World Cup campaigns.

Gloucester first took on an England side captained by Mike Teague, and were soundly beaten 34-4.

Next up were Ireland. It was a great day for Gloucester. They produced a remarkable performance to comprehensively outplay a near full-strength Ireland, captained by Gloucester-born Phil Matthews.

John Hawker took three strikes against the head, Dave Sims dominated the lineouts, Ian Smith was first to the breakdowns, and the defence just insisted "they shall not pass".

This superiority was not adequately reflected in the final 14-13 scoreline, made up of tries by Jerry Perrins and Simon Morris, and 2 penalties from Tim Smith.

RUGBY AT FOOTBALL GROUNDS

Gloucester are fortunate in owning the Kingsholm ground, where rugby is all that matters. But there are of course several Premiership teams who play on grounds belonging to football clubs, including our visitors today.

Can you name the football grounds on which Gloucester have played rugby, and their opponents:

- in the Premiership?
- in a cup game?
- in times long past?

Answers:

◀ Answers are opposite

- in the Premiership: Madejski Stadium (Reading), V London Irish & Richmond, Vicarage Road (Watford) v Saracens, Adams Park (Weycombe v Saracens, Wanderers) v Wasps, Loftus Road (Queens Park Rangers) v Wasps, Kassam Stadium (Oxford United) v London Welsh, Millmoor (Rotherham United) v Rotherham, Edgeley Park (Stockport County) v Sale, Memorial Ground (Bristol Rovers) v Bristol, Ashton Gate (Bristol City) v Bristol (a home game whilst Kingsholm was being redeveloped in 2007)
- in a cup game: Ricoh Stadium (Coventry City) v Ospreys
- in times long past: Stamford Bridge (Chelsea) v Old Merchant Taylors (1894), Upton Park (West Ham United) v London Welsh (1908)



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