

GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

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THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

NEIGHBOURS RARELY MET

Although Gloucester and Worcester first met in 1877, today's match is only the 21st between the clubs. In the series to date, Gloucester have won 13, lost 4 and drawn 3, with a points difference since modern scoring values were introduced of 388 against 279.

Three of those matches have been cup encounters – all won by Gloucester. In 2008-09, Worcester did the double over Gloucester, but this is the only occasion on which they have won at Kingsholm.

FIRST ENCOUNTERS

17th November 1877

Worcester - nil

Gloucester - 8 goals, 4 tries

This fixture was arranged when the Worcester club was re-formed after a gap of 2/3 years.

Worcester won the toss, and elected to play with the hill, but it quickly became apparent that the visitors were too strong, and by half time Gloucester had racked up 5 goals and 3 tries.

Gloucester were led by Frank Brown, who was in the second of his seven seasons as captain. Also in the team were the legendary Boughton brothers, Jimmy and William. Frank Brown scored four tries; there were three for William and one for Jimmy, who also kicked eight conversions.



▲ H V Jones, H E Taylor and H J Berry



▲ Jimmy Boughton



▲ Frank Brown

12th November 1881

Worcester - nil

Gloucester - 1 goal, 2 tries

Four years passed before the next fixture between the clubs. Although Gloucester won again, the margin was much closer, with H V Jones and H E Taylor scoring tries, and H J Berry converting one of them.

However, there were problems. The home crowd prevented the second conversion from being attempted, and invaded the pitch several times during the game.

Whether this caused a fracture between the clubs at the time is not known. However, there was a return fixture scheduled at the Spa on 7th January 1882, for which Worcester failed to put in an appearance – it went into the Gloucester records as "Not played; Worcester funk'd".

Following this, the clubs did not play each other again at 1st XV level for 117 seasons.

For most of this time, the reason was the

relative status of the clubs, with Gloucester's fixture list featuring the best clubs in England and Wales, whilst Worcester had a more parochial and less demanding fixture list.

THE PROFESSIONAL ERA

9th January 1999
Tetley's Bitter Cup
Gloucester 31 - Worcester 17

It was the Tetley's Bitter Cup which finally brought the clubs together again. Gloucester's tries were scored by Chris Fortey, Steve Ojomoh, Philippe Saint-Andre, and Mark Mapletoft, who also kicked a conversion and 3 penalties.

PREMIERSHIP DEBUT

Guinness Premiership:
16th October 2004
Worcester 13 - Gloucester 18
29th January 2005
Gloucester 28 - Worcester 16

Worcester were promoted to the Premiership for the 2004-05 season, and so began a regular sequence of matches.

Gloucester won the first league game with tries from Jon Goodridge and Henry Paul, who converted one, and Duncan McRae kicked a drop goal.

Gloucester also won the return match at Kingsholm later in the season, by 28-16, with tries from unusual sources - Seti Kiole (his first and only league try, during his one season with the club), Andy Gomarsall (his only try that season), and Terry Sigley (his only try in his two seasons with the club), 2 conversions and 2 penalties by Henry Paul, and another drop goal from Duncan McRae.

MEMORABLE MATCH

22nd April 2006
European Challenge Cup semi-final
Gloucester 31 Worcester 23

The clubs met for the second time in two weeks in front of a packed Kingsholm to play for a place in the European Challenge Cup Final.

The premiership encounter of the previous weekend had gone Gloucester's way but they



▲ Sinbad rounding Rasmussen to score his try



▲ Ryan Lamb and Mark Foster celebrating after the game

had a fight on their hands in this stirring cup tie.

The first half served up some terrific rugby. After an exchange of penalties between Ryan Lamb and Shane Drahm, Lamb ran back Nicholas Le Roux's kick ahead and James Simpson-Daniel finished off the move.

Then a long pass from Lamb sent in Anthony Allen and Lamb's conversion gave Gloucester a 15-3 lead. Back came Worcester and converted tries by Drahm and Pat Sanderson put the visitors 17-15 ahead at half time.

When Drahm scored a dropped goal and penalty early in the second half, Gloucester had some work to do, but Worcester then tried to sit on their lead.

With their pack tiring, they conceded three penalties and Gloucester were back in front by a single point.

Then came the highlight of the half when Lamb put a perfectly weighted cross field kick into the grateful arms of Mark Foster who scored the match clinching try. Lamb converted to make the final score 31-23.

Gloucester then went on to win the trophy, beating London Irish 36-34 after extra time in a memorable final at The Stoop.

The complete list of results between the clubs is:

SEASON	VENUE	COMPETITION	SCORE	RESULT
1877-78	A	N/A	8g, 4t - 0	Won
1881-82	A	N/A	1g, 2t - 0	Won
1998-99	H	Tetley's Bitter Cup	31-17	Won
2004-05	A	League	18-13	Won
	H	League	28-16	Won
2005-06	A	League	15-15	Drawn
	H	League	27-16	Won
	H	European Challenge Cup SF	31-23	Won
2006-07	A	League	33-24	Won
	H	League	33-19	Won
2007-08	H	League	29-7	Won
	A	League	14-17	Lost
2008-09	A	League	10-14	Lost
	H	League	6-13	Lost
2009-10	H	League	13-13	Drawn
	H	LV Cup	17-5	Won
	A	League	23-22	Won
2011-12	H	League	29-8	Won
	A	League	15-21	Lost
2012-13	A	League	16-16	Drawn

Bonus
 CHERRIES

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