



GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

	O. E. HAYDEN	A. W. YEARS	J. STEPHENS	W. H. RABACH	C. J. HALL	A. C. WILLIAMS	J. J. J.
H. G. BROWN SECRETARY	H. M. TAYSTON CHAIRMAN	D. HOLLANDS	W. EDEWTON	G. GRIFFITHS	W. WAREHOUSENE	G. HOLFORD	H. BERRY
						H. DARNES	W. JOHNS
							D. B. GENT (CAPT)

The 1909-10 season stands out in the history of the Club for the representative honours won by Gloucester players.

Four gained England caps - Arthur Hudson, a high-stepping, speedy wing and prolific try scorer; Dai Gent, a small but quick and determined box of tricks at scrum-half; Harry Berry, a multi-talented forward noted for his scrummaging, lineout work and loose play; and Billy Johns, sterling scrummager and deadly tackler, renowned for his dribbling skills.

The new stadium at Twickenham was opened during the season, and Gent, Johns and Berry played for England in the first international there on 15th January 1910. England won 11-6, their first victory over Wales since 1898, and all three Gloucester players were retained for the next international, a 0-0 draw against Ireland.

There were changes for the France game in Paris, with

Hudson (2) and Berry scoring all three of England's tries as they won 11-3, with Johns also in the team. Hudson and Johns were selected for the final game in Edinburgh but could not play, so Berry was the sole Gloucester representative, and scored a try in the 14-5 victory, which secured the International Championship for England.

In the County Championship, six or seven Gloucester players played for the County in each of their south-west group games, winning 22-0 against Devon, 21-14 against Somerset, and losing 0-11 to Cornwall. This meant a three-way tie and play-offs.

In the first at Kingsholm, Gent was captain as Somerset were beaten 16-8. This led to a daunting trip to Redruth for the decider against Cornwall, but Gloucestershire pulled off a surprise 12-11 victory, all the points coming from tries scored by members of the Gloucester contingent - Vance (2), Holford and Hollands.

The semi-final at Blackheath was another tight affair,

In Memoriam – William Parham



PROGRESSES A. F. FIELDING G. ROMANS N. D. HAINES, HON. SEC.
 WYDEN G. H. BLAND W. HALL W. J. FRASER W. DIX T. BAGWELL
 WEARS W. H. WORTH
 TRAINERS TREASURER



William Parham was born in Gloucester in 1893, and as a boy went to Kingsholm to watch his uncle, Bert Parham, who played 265 games for Gloucester. William honed his skills with Gordon League before joining Gloucester. He made 21 appearances for the Second XV and his debut for the First XV in 1912-13, and became

a regular for the senior side with 35 appearances the following season.

He was a forward, playing in either the back or second row, described as "a sound scrummager" as well as performing "splendid work in the open". He appears on the Honours Board for 1913-14 in the Lions Den.

His burgeoning rugby career was cut short by the outbreak of the Great War. William enlisted with the 1/5th Gloucesters and went to France in March 1915. In 1916, he came home to marry, returned to the front, was promoted twice to Corporal, and ended the year wounded in the knee. However, 1917 started well with the birth of his son, Robert, who would play a few games for Gloucester after World War 2.

But tragically William would never see his son play at Kingsholm. He was killed in action on 4th October 1917, aged 25, at the Battle of Broodseinde near Ypres. His body was never recovered, but he is commemorated on the memorials at Tyne Cot and here at Kingsholm.

a 6-3 win, including a try by Hollands. The final against Yorkshire was played at Kingsholm with seven Gloucester players selected – Hudson, Gent, Stephens, Johns, Berry, Hollands and Holford. A huge crowd had two Hudson tries to celebrate in a magnificent 23-0 triumph, which earned Gloucestershire their first County Championship.

Of course the repeated absences of their best players for international and county matches meant that many reserves were drafted in for Club matches, but nevertheless 23 wins and only eight defeats were recorded from the 38 matches played.

Perhaps the best performance came early on when Swansea were defeated 8-5, their only defeat by an English club all season. There were only two defeats at Kingsholm by Cardiff and Headingley. Gloucester also won the County Cup, beating Lydney by six tries to nil in the final.

The great strength of the team was in the forwards and

half-backs. The pack was relatively light, but very lively, and was led by Gordon Vears, often captaining the team in place of Arthur Hudson, who was frequently absent with representative duties and injuries. Lt Carleton came quickly to the fore but was only available when Army duties permitted, and the two internationals, Billy Johns and Harry Berry, were stalwarts.

Dai Gent and "Jummer" Stephens were a formidable pairing at half-back, with the later setting a new record for appearances for the Club, and Hudson's eleven tries taking him to a new Club try scoring record.