



The GRFC kit story

Below is the alleged story of how GRFC came to wear the cherry and white kit that they do currently, and have done throughout the history of the club. Compare to the story continuations that have been written.

The famous cherry and white hooped jersey did not originally belong to the Gloucester club. Painswick RFC, based in Gloucestershire and the oldest village club, are the original 'Cherry and Whites' (although they didn't use the nickname). According to local legend at Gloucester club's first meeting it was decided that the club's uniform was to be entirely navy blue, yet on an away trip they realised they had forgotten to bring sufficient navy strip for the entire team, leaving behind a kit bag full of shirts. Travelling en route through Painswick, they stopped off at the local rugby club and asked to borrow a strip for the game. Painswick RFC loaned them 15 of their cherry and white jerseys. The Gloucester side went on to win the away fixture and failed to return the shirts to Painswick, adopting the colours as their own. In 2003, to celebrate Gloucester RFC's 130th anniversary, Gloucester RFC returned the favour and donated Painswick RFC an entire new set of first team colours.

In the late 1990's, the club's jerseys changed and no longer featured the cherry-and-white hoops, but instead featured a largely red shirt with white sleeves and blue-and-white strips down the sides. The traditional navy blue shorts and socks also vanished with the new kit becoming all red. On the release of this new jersey there was a large amount of disappointment in Gloucester Rugby's decision to move away from the hooped design, a design generally associated with traditional rugby shirts, as this was a dramatic move away from the classic Gloucester Rugby design. However the majority of fans soon accepted the new design.

After the new Gloucester Rugby shirt was released Cotton Traders, who supplied Gloucester Rugby jerseys prior to the 2007-08 season, released a classic plain cherry and white hooped Gloucester Rugby jersey, albeit an unofficial jersey which is not associated with the club. In addition, many of the Public Houses in the Kingsholm area also began selling shirts with the classic hoops, although these shirts do not display the name 'Gloucester Rugby', due to copyright. Instead they use the title 'Cherry and Whites' under the Gloucester city coat of arms. Many of the fans who disapproved of the new original design were able to purchase this classic design instead.

Many fans have commented on the irony that, whilst the new crest and shirt design were originally designed in order to prevent unofficial merchandise, they have in fact increased the number of fans turning to unofficial shirts. In response to this, Gloucester Rugby released its own official shirt displaying the classic hooped design with the new club crest above the date of the club's inception '1873'.

More recently, for the 2010-11 season, the club released a new shirt which has brought back the red and white hoops, although not in the classic pattern, but with broader red panels. The shorts have also change with the all red being replaced by red with white panels. The team's red socks have also been redesigned and now boast a more traditional red and white hooped design.