

LONDON WELSH RFC

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP



LONDON WELSH v GLOUCESTER

SATURDAY,
JANUARY 3rd, 1998
Kick-off 2.15 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £2.00

FOUNDED 1885

OLD DEER PARK KEW ROAD RICHMOND

PATRON: HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES

London Welsh v Gloucester

LONDON WELSH

(Colour - Scarlet)

15	Matt Vines
14	Scott Roskell
13	Nick Marval
12	Michael Dawes
11	James Reynolds
10	† Craig Brown
9	Tom Lewsey
1	Garry Holmes
2	Alfie Harbinson
3	Richard Thomas
4	David Ruffell
5	Miles Hayman
6	Graeme Peacock/Dai Harries
7	Luke Jones/Dave Muckalt
8	*† Rowland Phillips

REPLACEMENTS

16	Darren Edwards
17	Steve Pilgrim
18	Andy Tucker
19	Simon Emms
20	Mark Langley
21	Dai Harries/Graeme Peacock

GLOUCESTER

(Colours - Cherry & White)

Chris Catling	15
Audley Lumsden	14
Terry Fanoia	† 13
Richard Tombs	† 12
Robert Jewell	11
Mark Mapletoft	† 10
Scott Benton	9
Tony Windo	1
Chris Fortey	2
Phil Vickery	3
Mark Cornwell	4
Dave Sims	5
Pete Glanville*	6
Nathan Carter	7
Simon Devereux	8

REPLACEMENTS

Ian Sanders	16
Nick Osman	17
Chris Hall	18
Adey Powles	19
Richard Ward	20
Craig Emmerson	21

*Captain

† International (RU/RL)

Referee: **Mr. A. Rowden** (Berkshire /RFU)

Touch - Judges: **Mr. P. Dickens & Mr. B. Suttle** (RFU)

Touchlines

* Our very warm thanks are due this afternoon to our good friend Jerry Hughes who, together with a number of other former players and business colleagues, are supporting this afternoon's cup-tie. This is a handsome gesture, and we hope that all concerned have a great day at Old Deer Park.

* Next Saturday we turn our attentions once again to the league, when we hope to achieve our second double of the season. Our visitors will be Lydney, whom we beat by 28-10 down at Regentsholme in November, and kick-off will be at 2.15 p.m.

Club Notes

For the last couple of weeks we have been living out a fairy tale: " Little Jack Horner sat in a corner, eating his Christmas pie. He put in his thumb and pulled out a plum, and said what a good boy am I". Well, for Jack Horner read London Welsh, and for plum read Gloucester. By any yardstick, this tie is the very stuff of cup rugby, and the fact that most of us have been growing old and grey since Gloucester were last with us, only enhances the occasion. With Gloucester modestly holding their own in Premiership One, making good progress in the Cheltenham & Gloucester, and having cut a very impressive figure in the European Conference, our visitors will obviously start today's game as clear favourites, notwithstanding our good position in National One. But whatever the outcome, it is simply a great pleasure to be able to welcome this grand old club to Old Deer Park after so many years away.

We doubt if anyone will remember now - well, perhaps some older members will - but for roughly fifty years Gloucester was one of our chief ports of call on our much-loved Easter tour. And how Kingsholm was packed for a game which invariably produced a feast of open rugby. 'Club Notes' wasn't actually there, you understand, but if you come across the yellowing pages of *The Citizen*, or any of Fleet Street's finest, you soon come to realise that this was a very special fixture. And then, in 1953, we started visiting Aberavon on Easter Saturday - another wonderful tradition which has gone by the board - and that was that. So nostalgia is in the air this afternoon. How could it be otherwise when we meet so rarely?

There may be many in today's crowd, however, who will recall three games - two of them in the cup. In the inaugural year of 1971-72 we quietly fancied our chances of winning the competition. In the event, it was Gloucester's year - and largely because of their 9-4 quarter-final victory in a fevered atmosphere at Old Deer Park, watched by a crowd of 7,500. A few years later we were down at Kingsholm for a friendly, with Gloucester leading by ten points going into injury-time. Cue a tour-de-force by John Taylor, whose try and touchline conversion helped us escape with a draw. But our cup revenge came in 1983 when, with Clive Rees and Bob Ackerman at their magnificent best, we were 14-3 winners at Kingsholm. And just as Mike Burton, no less, declared that Gloucester's cup display here was the finest in which he had ever taken part, we, for our part, felt much the same about our triumph in Gloucester.

Kingsholm is, for many, one of the most powerfully emotive grounds in the British Isles. All-seater grounds and executive boxes are all very nice, of course, but to savour the very essence of Gloucester rugby, you should stand in the shed or tanner bank of this westcountry citadel. And isn't it nice, too, that big-time rugby returns this afternoon to Old Deer Park - the oldest senior ground in the country, with a seductive and timeless quality all of its own. Who are we to argue with those who declare it to be the most appealing in London? So, a quarter of a century since they were last with us, let us give Gloucester a rousing welcome, and hope for a great afternoon of cup football.

Gloucester's Great Cup Record

Gloucester bring with them to Old Deer Park the fourth best cup record in the country. They were, indeed, the first winners of the cup in 1972, won the competition again in 1978, and shared the honours with Moseley in 1982 - the only time in 26 years that a game has ended in a bona-fide draw. Their other appearance in the final, in 1990, ended in a heavy defeat by Bath. The Welsh also have a good cup record, but will be well aware that Gloucester's form away from home is just about the best in the business - only nine defeats in 35 ties.

London Welsh

	Ties	Won	Lost	For	Agst	Pct
Home - Old Deer Park	31	20	11	541	377	64.52
Home - Other Venues	4	4	0	111	30	100.00
Away Matches	28	16	12	431	387	57.14
Neutral Matches	1	0	1	15	24	0.00
All Matches	64	40	24	1098	818	62.50

Finalists: 1985

Semi-Finalists: 1973, 1977

Quarter-Finalists: 1972, 1976, 1979, 1983, 1986

Biggest Home Win: 65-17 v Clifton (Old Deer Park, 1997)

Biggest Away Win: 45-12 v Harlequins (Twickenham, 1972)

Worst Home Defeat: 3-43 v Leicester (Old Deer Park, 1990)

Worst Away Defeat: 8-36 v Bristol (Memorial Ground, 1984)

Gloucester

	Ties	Won	Lost	For	Agst	Pct
Home - Kingsholm	35	23	12	722	321	65.71
Away Matches	35	26	9	555	351	74.29
Neutral Matches	4*	2	1	41	69	62.50
All Matches	74	51	22	1318	741	69.59

* includes one game drawn

Cup Winners: 1972, 1978, 1982 (Shared)

Finalists: 1990

Semi-Finalists: 1985, 1989, 1992, 1996, 1997

Quarter-Finalists: 1977, 1980, 1981, 1986, 1987, 1994

Biggest Home Win: 52- 0 v Broughton Park (Kingsholm, 1991)

Biggest Away Win: 36-10 v Nottingham (Beeston, 1996)

Worst Home Defeat: 13-26 v Leicester (Kingsholm, 1997)

Worst Away Defeat: 6-48 v Bath (Twickenham, 1990)

In the second-round tie at Old Deer Park, Andy Currier (facing page) surges over for the 11th Welsh try against Clifton. Andy scored a hat-trick in the 65-17 victory.

The GLOUCESTER File

Formed 1873

Colours: Cherry & White

Ground: Kingsholm, Gloucester
Capacity 12,000 (seated 1,250)

League Record:

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos
1987-88	National 1	10	6	1	3	206	121	29	5th
1988-89	National 1	11	7	1	3	215	112	15	2nd
1989-90	National 1	11	8	1	2	214	139	17	2nd
1990-91	National 1	12	6	0	6	207	163	12	6th
1991-92	National 1	12	7	1	4	193	168	15	4th
1992-93	National 1	12	6	0	6	173	151	12	5th
1993-94	National 1	18	6	2	10	247	356	14	8th
1994-95	National 1	18	6	1	11	269	336	13	7th
1995-96	National 1	18	6	0	12	275	370	12	8th
1996-97	National 1	22	11	1	10	476	589	23	7th

Cup Record:

Best Season: Winners (1971-72, 1977-78, Shared 1981-82)
Last Season: Semi-Finals (lost 13-26, home to Leicester)

League Highs & Lows:

Biggest Home Win: 61- 7 v Sale (Kingsholm, 16.4.88)
Biggest Away Win : 49- 3 v Orrell (Edgehall Road, 16.11.96)
Worst Home Defeat : 29-45 v Bath (Kingsholm, 21.9.96)
Worst Away Defeat: 19-75 v Harlequins (Stoop MG, 31.8.96)

Leading League Scorers:

Most Points 1996-97: Mike Mapletoft (fly-half) - 269 points
Most Tries 1996-97: Mike Lloyd (wing) - 7 tries

Prior to last Saturday, Mark Mapletoft had scored 70 league points, and centres Terry Fanolua and Richard Tombs, each 3 tries.

London Welsh Connection:

First Game in London: January 7th, 1905 (Queen's Club)
First Game in Gloucester: March 28th, 1902 (Kingsholm)
Biggest London Welsh Win: 14-3 (Kingsholm, 22.1.83)
Biggest Gloucester Win: 40-8 (Kingsholm, 13.4.25)
Old Deer Park Record: Games 1, Gloucester 1 win