



Gloucester Rugby Shirts through time

Gloucester Rugby, which is more popularly known as the "cherry and whites" because of the striped red and white Gloucester Rugby shirts that the team originally wore, is one of the most popular professional Rugby Union teams in England. This club, the pride of Gloucester (a city west of England), competes in the national Guinness Premiership. The home stadium is situated in Kingsholm, which is near the centre of Gloucester city.

The shirt story:

Although the team is lovingly known as the "cherry and whites", it is not actually its official nickname. Navy blue was the original colour of the Gloucester Rugby shirts when the team started out. The team that carried the cherry and white uniform originally was Painswick RFC.

According to urban myth, the Gloucester team was only forced to wear the red and white colours when they forgot to bring their navy blue shirts en route to an important competition. Since there were no airplanes or fast modes of transportation at that time, the team just stopped by at the nearest rugby club (which happened to be Painswick in Gloucestershire) and borrowed some jerseys. Fortunately, Painswick had 15 available jerseys in cherry pink and white.

The Gloucester team was overwhelmed by their victory at that particular competition so they failed to return the kits that they borrowed from Painswick, which incidentally is one of the oldest rugby union clubs. Since that day, the Gloucester Rugby Union club wore the cherry and white hoop, although often the design changed slightly.

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Learning Zone



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Changes through time:

In the late 1990's, the club's jerseys underwent a major redesign and instead of the hoops, featured a largely red shirt with white sleeves and blue-and-white strips down the sides. 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.



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.

Continued





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2005

In the 2005 season, fans were surprised to find that the official Gloucester Rugby shirts no longer carry the coat of arms of the city of Gloucester as the team's crest. This move, although supported by many fans, is part of the efforts of Tom Walkinshaw, the club's chairman, to modernize the club.

The material:

The material used to be thick cotton we think and the shorts were quite heavy. They have now changed materials and are a lot lighter, stretchier, and allow air to circulate better even though they are tighter fitting.

Questions:

- 1) How many times have GRFC changed their playing shirts?
- 2) How many different sponsors have there been?
- 3) How many different material changes have there been?
- 4) Is the modern day shirt much better than the older shirts?

Continued



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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.