



Example of a Gloucester Rugby Stadium

Kingsholm is the home stadium of Gloucester Rugby with a capacity of 16,500 people. It has recently been renovated by C & D construction and was once home to England's national team before they settled at Twickenham. The first ever match to be played at Kingsholm was on the 10th of October 1891 between Gloucester and Burton, which led to a home victory for Gloucester. Since then Gloucester has been recognised as a formidable force in the Guinness Premiership, winning the title and reaching the play-off finals.

Kingsholm is well known amongst rugby union fans for its partisan supporters and its intimidating atmosphere, and is widely regarded as a superb venue for rugby.

1925 - 1950

There was a grandstand covering part of the enclosure that was named 'St Marks Pavilion'. It had a curved roof that in this period advertised the old Hippodrome cinema that later became the Gaumont and is now just shops! Next to it, where the club's gymnasium now is, the building was festooned with a Winfields advert, the local florist and seed merchant.

A main grandstand was erected in 1926 opposite the 'popular enclosure' at a cost of £2,500. It contained 1,750 seats. Six years later it was destroyed by fire. One year later, grandiose plans to increase the capacity of Kingsholm to 20,000 with seating for 7000, was considered a feasible proposition, but as far as we know, the proposal remained as it was - a proposal. However, the grandstand was replaced.

The 'Shed', now famous throughout the vocabulary of rugby union, was mainly open terracing and known as 'the popular enclosure'.

Kingsholm was the venue for several of the wartime services internationals. Gordon Hudson, son of the revered Arthur, featured in the England versus Wales on 20 March 1943. Gordon was serving as a corporal in the Royal Air Force, and played in further services internationals against Wales and Scotland.

Continued



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1950 - 1975

This was a period of innovation both on and off the field at Kingsholm. The 1950s commenced with the Club introducing the first public address system. Prior to its installation the crowd had been entertained by Cinderford town band before matches.

More off the field activity continued with the Worcester Street terraces being constructed in 1951. They were to stay in place for a further 53 years before being replaced by the Buildbase Stand in 2004.

The season 1969-1970 saw record 57 fixtures fulfilled under the captaincy of Dick Smith. 33 of those were played at Kingsholm. The Club experienced their longest run of home matches without defeat in this period of 51 matches from 10 October 1970 to 23 September 1970

Floodlights were installed at Kingsholm in November 1967 and Gloucester Rugby Club's opponents when they were switched on were the Bosuns who were defeated by 34 points to eight. In this period the Club had at its disposal a Ladies Committee who resigned 'en bloc' in 1962.

1975 - 1995

At Kingsholm more than £200,000 had to be spent on safety measures in the wake of Lord Justice Taylor's proposals.

1995 - Present day

Gloucester Rugby announced that work on a new 7,500-seater grandstand at Kingsholm would take place, increasing the capacity of the stadium from 12,500 to 17,500.

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Learning Zone



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The old grandstand and bars were demolished in early July and a covered stand erected temporarily in its place until the end of the 2006/7 season. All Grandstand ticket holders were given replacement seats in similar locations as in the existing grandstand and they were closer to the pitch. Other facilities such as toilets, bars, changing rooms and press facilities were also temporarily relocated.

Kingsholm was used as a home stadium for England before they settled at Twickenham and hosted New Zealand vs United States for a pool match in 1991 rugby world cup.

KINGSHOLM STADIUM PLAN TURNSTILE LOCATIONS

