

GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

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PAST FORM

The Exeter Club has been in existence since 1871-72, although the first recorded match was against Exeter Training College, later known as St Luke's, on 26th October 1873 – Gloucester's first match was played 3 weeks earlier against the College (King's School).

For the first match between the clubs, Gloucester travelled to Exeter on 4th October 1890, and came away with a 6-3 win, thanks to tries by Tommy Bagwell and Trevor Powell, both converted by A F Hughes (at that time a try counted only 1 point and a conversion 2).

In the return match at the Spa on 6th December, Gloucester won again, scoring 10 tries from Walter Taylor (4), Trevor Powell (3), S A Ball, Walter Jackson and Albert Collins, but only 2 were successfully converted by C Williams and A H Hughes, thus making the score 14-0 (rather different to the 54-0

which would have been scored using today's values!).

The teams played irregularly up to WW1, and not at all between the wars. Fixtures were resumed in 1946-47, and played alternately home and away in successive seasons.

The away fixtures in Exeter normally formed part of Gloucester's end of season tours to the West Country.

Gloucester were not renowned for their sobriety on these tours, and yet it was not until 29th April 1963 that Exeter recorded their first win, 5-3, in the 22nd game between the clubs.

Fixtures again ceased with the advent of professional rugby, except for a Powergen Cup match in 2002-03, which Gloucester won

The teams when fixtures were resumed in 1946 – Gloucester won 12-6, with 2 tries from Douglas Kear and a conversion and a dropped goal from Willie Jones



Chris Catling and Haydn Thomas, who have played for both Gloucester and Exeter

35-6. Tries were scored by Chris Catling (2), Jake Boer, Pete Buxton and Darren O'Leary, with Henry Paul kicking 5 conversions.

Since Exeter came into the Premiership in 2010-11, the record is 2 wins apiece. Exeter's first and only win at Kingsholm, 28-27, came in the match towards the end of last season, in the 62nd match between the clubs, and

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THE GREAT TRAINS

GLOUCESTER (Red and White)	EXETER (Black and White)
Fall Back (1) W. HOOK	Fall Back (1) S. WALLER
Three-quarters (2) G. CRABTREE Left Wing (3) S. DANGLEFIELD Left Centre (4) S. H. DAVIES Right Centre (5) W. D. KEAR Right Wing	Three-quarters (2) J. ROBERTS (3) N. H. HUMPHRIES (4) J. S. HARRISON (5) A. HUNT
Half Backs (6) W. E. JONES Fly Half (7) D. D. EVANS Scrum Half	Half Backs (7) C. W. FORD Fly Half (6) R. J. P. MADGE Scrum Half
Forwards (8) T. DAY (9) J. HOPSON (10) W. HOGG (11) R. MORRIS (Captain) (12) N. WICKHAM (13) J. THORNTON (14) G. DUNN (15) A. G. HUDSON	Forwards (8) F. GIBBINGS (9) W. SANDERS (10) P. PLUMPTON (11) S/Ldr. HOLLOWAY (12) L. DAVIES (13) A. A. BROWN (14) W. J. FORGE (15) C. L. PAUL (Captain)
Referee Mr. H. Goltsworthy (Newport)	
TO-DAY JOHN BISHOP NANCY GUILD LLOYD NOLAN SOMEWHERE IN THE NIGHT (A)	NEXT WEEK TYRONE POWER JESSE JAMES (A) Jude Gimes HIT THE HAY (A)

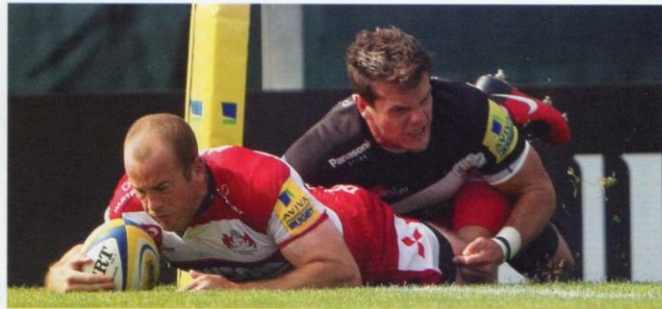
after 122 years of trying.

Today is the 63rd encounter, with Gloucester having won 49 and lost 10, with 3 drawn; the points difference favours Gloucester 1375-509.

BIGGEST WINS

8th November 1975
Gloucester 76 - Exeter 6

Tries were scored by John Dix (5), Bob Clewes (4) John Haines (2), Ron Etheridge (2), Kevin Curran, Richard Jardine, Steve Clewes, Phil Winnell and Rod Correia, who also kicked 2 conversions. The total of 18 tries equalled the best ever in a game by Gloucester, but only 2 conversions from 18 attempts must be one of their worst returns.



Former Gloucester winger Mark Foster could not stop Sinbad from scoring in 2010

4th September 2010
Exeter 22 - Gloucester 10

Tries came from James Simpson-Daniel and Tim Taylor. This was Exeter's first game in the Premiership, and they thoroughly deserved their win; Nicky Robinson had a terrible time with his place kicks, missing the lot.

BOXING DAY AT KINGSHOLM

Gloucester's early fixture lists reveal a determination to take a break from rugby across the Christmas holidays.

For example, in the "Invincibles" season, 1882-83, no matches were played between 16th December and 6th January.

But this pattern started to break down the following year, when there were no fixtures after 1st December, but, on Boxing Day 1883, a London team were entertained, and beaten by 2 Tommy Bagwell tries to nil, at the Spa.

For the next five seasons, a London team travelled down to Gloucester for a Boxing Day fixture, normally featuring A E Stoddart, who won caps for England at both rugby and cricket.

Penygraig were the opposition on Boxing Day 1889. A few days later, Gloucester played Old Merchant Taylors for the first time on 4th January 1890, and it was agreed that they should return to Gloucester for the Boxing Day fixture later that year, and that set the pattern for the next 80 years.

In the end the matches became too one sided, and the fixture was finally dropped after Boxing Day 1973, when Gloucester won 82-12, scoring 15 tries, 4 of them by Ron Etheridge, and 11 converted by Eric Stephens.



A cartoon of the 1892 fixture, published in the Magpie – Gloucester won by a goal and a try (7 points) to a try (2 points)

There was one last hurrah, when OMTs asked for, and were granted, the Boxing Day fixture in 1982 in order to mark their club centenary - Gloucester won 70-0, and that was the end of the series.

In all Gloucester played OMTs on 70 occasions, winning 59, losing 7 and drawing 4.

Only once did Gloucester travel for an away game against OMTs – on 24th February 1894, when the teams played at Stamford Bridge in front of 200 spectators, and Gloucester squeaked home by a try to nil.

From 1974-94, Lydney were the regular Boxing Day visitors. In those days, many readers will recall that half-times were only 5 minutes, and the teams stayed on the pitch to suck their slices of orange.

Some may remember one Boxing Day when a stalker, presumably full of the spirit of Christmas, ran across the pitch at half-time, and found himself on the end of a pass from Gordon Sargent.

And then professional rugby arrived, and the traditions of the fixture list were changed for ever.

Bonus
CHERRIES

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