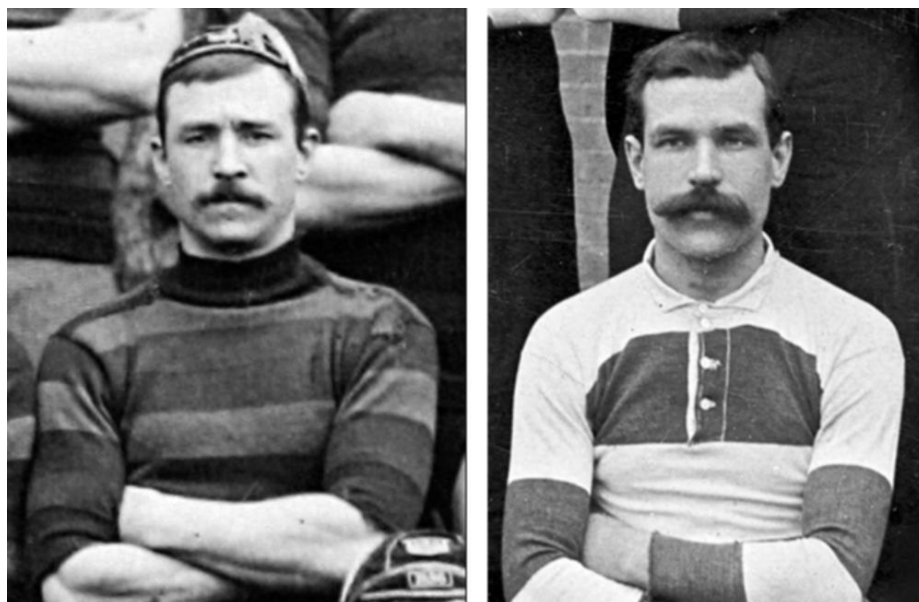


GLOUCESTER RUGBY HERITAGE

GLOUCESTER HAVE BEEN PLAYING EXETER SINCE 1890

Gloucester have been playing Exeter since 1890. There have been 87 meetings, of which Gloucester have won 59, Exeter 24, and four matches have been drawn.



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 26 October 1873, just three weeks after Gloucester had played their first game.

The first game Gloucester played against Exeter was 4 October 1890, down in Devon. Gloucester won 6-3, thanks to tries by Tom Bagwell and Trevor Powell, both converted by A F Hughes. This was at the time when a try counted as only one point whilst the conversion scored two points. In the return match at the Spa on 6 December, Gloucester won again, scoring ten tries; Walter Taylor (4), Trevor Powell (3), S A Ball, Walter Jackson and Albert Collins being the scorers. There were only two conversions, by C.Williams and A.H.Hughes.

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. Gloucester had very much the better of things and Exeter did not win a game until 29 April 1963, when they won 5-3. Exeter's first win at Kingsholm did not come until as recently as 24 March 2012, and by then they had become a Premiership team, quickly earning a well-deserved reputation as doughty opponents.

For many years Exeter had played their home games at the County Ground, but in 2006 moved to a purpose-built stadium on the outskirts of the city – Sandy Park.



By then Exeter had certainly come a long way. When the National leagues were inaugurated in 1987, the Chiefs were placed in National League 3, but by 1995 had fallen into National League 4. After that things began to improve. There were successive promotions in 1996 and 1997. Iconic Rob Baxter played for Exeter for 14 years, and on retirement turned his hand to coaching. He was appointed head coach of the Chiefs in 2009, and promotion to the Premiership followed in 2010. A fact that probably most people would not remember is that Baxter played one season (1993-94) for Gloucester.

Exeter went on to great things. The Chiefs won the Premiership in 2016-17 and 2019-2020 and were European Champions in 2020, beating Racing 92 in the final.

4 September 2010: Premiership: Exeter 22 Gloucester 10

The game started at pace, and soon both sides had scored penalties through Laidlaw and Henry Slade. A clever kick ahead by Hook caused problems for the Exeter defence, and Meakes took advantage of the confusion to collect and score. Laidlaw converted, for a half-time lead of 13-6. Slade kicked two penalties to narrow the gap to one point. Savage drove over for a try following an attacking line-out. Laidlaw converted and added a penalty for a 23-12 lead. Exeter fought back with a try from Elvis Taione, which Slade converted, but Jonny May intercepted and ran in to quash any chance of a late Exeter come-back. Gloucester went on to win the final against Edinburgh.

Team: Ollie Morgan; James Simpson-Daniel, Mike Tindall (Captain), Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu, Lesley Vainikolo; Nicky Robinson, Dave Lewis; Nick Wood, Scott Lawson, Pierre Capdevielle, Dave Attwood, Alex Brown, Peter Buxton, Akapusi Qera, Luke Narraway. Replacements: Tim Taylor, Tim Molenaar, Jordi Pasquelin, Alasdair Dickinson, Ollie Azam, Will James, Alasdair Strokosch.

This was the fourth encounter between the teams that season and Gloucester won them all. In the league, Gloucester won 41-40 at the Memorial Ground and The Chiefs very first Premiership game was against Gloucester at Sandy Park. Not surprisingly, Exeter and their crowd were really pumped up for this game, and outplayed Gloucester, winning 22-10. Exeter were on the scoreboard after five minutes, when ex-Gloucester player

Mark Foster crossed for a try. Gareth Steenson converted, and proceeded to have a perfect day. He kicked three first half penalties, another in the second half, and not content with that, added a drop goal. Gloucester did at least score two tries through James Simpson-Daniel and Tim Taylor. Unfortunately, Nicky Robinson had an off day with boot and missed all five kicks at goal, with two hitting the post! There were no two ways about it, Gloucester were well beaten. This result made the rugby world sit up and take notice. Exeter quickly established themselves as a force to be reckoned with, particularly noteworthy when compared to all other “new” clubs which gained promotion from the Championship and quickly went back down again.

8 December 2018: European Champions Cup: Exeter 19 Gloucester 27

Team: Tom Hudson; Matt Banahan, Henry Trinder, Owen Williams, Ollie Thorley; Danny Cipriani, Willi Heinz (Captain); Josh Hohneck, Jaco Visagie, Fraser Balmain, Tom Savage, Gerbrandt Grobler, Freddie Clarke, Jake Polledri, Ben Morgan. Replacements: Jason Woodward, Billy Twelvetrees, Callum Braley, Ed Slater, Ciaran Knight, Alex Seville, Gareth Evans, Henry Walker.

18 April 2015: European Challenge Cup Semi-Final: Gloucester 30 Exeter 19

Few people gave Gloucester much of a chance, and when Don Armond scored a try after only six minutes, it appeared they were likely to be correct. But Thorley made a scintillating 70 metre break, and almost made it to the try line, but he was able to pass to Heinz to score. Cipriani kicked a penalty for a 10-5 lead at half-time. Immediately after the restart Nic White scored a try for Exeter, and Gareth Steenson converted.

Exeter were now attacking strongly, but after a break-out Cipriani kicked a penalty, and the momentum began to shift. For the last half hour Gloucester attacked. Visagie scored a try, which Cipriani converted. But Gloucester were not finished. When a maul close to the Chiefs try line was halted, Ben Morgan seized the ball to charge over. Cipriani converted from the touch-line. Exeter scored a consolation try through Tom Lawday.

Team: Charlie Sharples; Jonny May, Bill Meakes, Billy Twelvetrees (Captain), Henry Purdy; James Hook, Greig Laidlaw; Nick Wood, Richard Hibbard, John Afoa, Tom Savage, Mariano Galarza, Sioni Kalamafoni, Matt Kvesic, Gareth Evans. Replacements: Dan Murphy, Darren Dawidiuk, Ross Moriarty, Elliot Stooke.

