

EXETER FOOTBALL CLUB



County Ground · Exeter

(Affiliated to the R.F.U. and Devon R.F.U.)

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Captain:

T. WOODROW

Team Colours: ALL BLACK

DEVON CUP WINNERS 1971-72-76-78

Official Programme 15p

SUPPORTERS' CLUB OFFICIALS:

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Chairman:

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Hon. Secretary:

MRS. B. FERNS

Hon. Treasurer:

J. SNELL, ESQ.



EXETER v GLOUCESTER. K.O. 3.00 p.m. Saturday 28th April, 1979.

EXETER

† 15 R. Staddon
c 14 J. Hoskin
c 13 P. Arbourne
* 12 C. Kent.
11 S. Williams.
c 10 S. Webb
c 9 G. Milford
c 1 P. Baxter
2 B. Priday
3 M. Hogwood
c 4 T. Woodrow (Capt)
5 S. Miller
c 6 F. Hartley
c 7 S. Day
c 8 S. Webber

Replacements:

16 T. Harris
17 P. Full

Referee: J.D. Murdock
(Leicestershire Society).

GLOUCESTER

15 Ian Wilkins
14 Bob Clewes
13 Righard Mogg
12 David Pointon
11 Paul Williams
10 Brien Russell
9 Peter Kingston
1 Gordon Sargeant
2 Reg Daldry
3 Alan Brooks
4 Steve Boyle
5 Aidrian Turton
6 John Watkins (Capt)
7 Mike Teague
8 Paul Wood

Replacements:

16 Ray Ellis
17 Vivian Woolley

† International Trialist
* International
c County Player

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EXETER FOOTBALL CLUB 1944-1978

Although Exeter Football Club was founded in 1872 it had to be disbanded during the Second World War owing to a shortage of playing members. The last game to be played was against RAF (Exeter) on the 29 March 1941. From the team secretary's records during the war years come the following interesting notes - V's Royal Corps of Signals 9 February 1940. First game to be played on the County Ground since 23 September 1939 owing to the ground being occupied by troops and greyhound racing - presumably greyhound racing was part of the war effort! - V's 4th Devons 9 March 1940. RJP Madge played his last game before joining the Army - 23 November 1940. SPV Fry staged a comeback!

The Club was reformed in 1944 and the first game against Royal Naval Engineering College XV was played on 7 October 1944 on Heles school ground. Playing in that match were Syd Waller and Colin Paul - the latter having also played in the last game that the Club had played prior to the disbandment. During that first season 1944-45 only twenty matches were played and most were against services sides but fourteen were won and both Syd Waller and Colin Paul played in nineteen of them.

The following season 1945-46 was the most successful ever in terms of results (34 wins and a draw out of 37 fixtures) although members of last seasons team will probably dispute this. During that season amongst those defeated were Bath (twice) Plymouth Albion (twice) Leicester and Haydn Tanner's XV. We lost to London Welsh (10-12 points) and Bristol (0-14 points). Colin Paul played in every match that season and the record number of tries scored, 147, stood for over twenty years. The highlight of the following season was taking part in the Middlesex Sevens at Twickenham in April 1947 when we were beaten by London Irish 3-6 points and playing in that team were JG Harrison, AD Hunt, RJP Madge, CW Ford, F Gibbings, W Sanders, AA Brown and reserve J Carpenter.

In the years that followed the results did not quite manage to reach these very high standards but only in the years 1955-58 did we lose more games than we won. Some will be quick to point out that the fixture list was considerably stronger in those days than at present although the Club is anxious to re-establish fixtures with as many of these top clubs as possible in the near future. In 1950-51 season, matches were played against Blackheath, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Bath, Bristol, Bridgend, Oxford University, Coventry, Leicester, London Irish, Wasps, Aberavon, Newport and Ebbw Vale. Five of these games were won!

The expression 'giving something back to the game' is particularly true when one looks at the players representing the 1st XV during the 1950's and those serving the Club so well today. Playing in the 1st XV in the traditional Boxing Day fixture against Exmouth in 1950 were Gerry Brown, John Stark, Roy Pike, Jack Harrison, Albert Heard, John Roach, Dick Manley, Colin Paul and Tony Lee - admittedly at varying stages of their playing careers!

A newspaper cutting on the game against Redruth in March 1951 describes one Exeter player as: 'The Stanley Matthews of Rugger - scrum-half wizardly leaves eight opponents standing still gaping at him mesmerised by his feinting - selling the dummy almost by his eyebrows - the player - scrum half Roy Pike. Another player who led by example on the field at this time was second row forward Les Davis; he missed only two games during the three seasons 1948-1951.

During the 1950's although the Club did not score a great number of tries those scored were mostly by the wing three quarters and the Club had two powerful wings at this time. Gerry Brown who was top try scorer for four seasons and John Stark for seven seasons. The highlights of the 1952 and 1954 seasons were the defeats of both Moseley and Leicester on the traditional Easter holiday fixtures.

The middle fifties and early sixties saw the era of Derek Atkins - a prolific points scorer - top points scorer for the Club for ten seasons, scoring well over 1000 points. He was also the prime example of a 'permanent fixture' in the side missing only thirteen matches in a period of five seasons. Off the field 1958 saw the retirement of Tom Roebuck, Hon Secretary to the Club for twenty-nine years, a wonderful servant of the Club and the man mainly responsible for building up Exeter's post war first class fixture list.

During the 1959-60 season Exeter recorded their record win since the war up to that time, 44-0 points against Moseley! Another great victory that year was over Pontypool 17-11 points. They had Benny Jones playing for them, and the previous season had been unofficial Welsh champions. Exeter's heroes that day were Keith Hopper, Derek Atkins and Dick Manley. That same season Tony Marks broke the club try scoring record and proceeded to do so for the next two seasons finally scoring 35 tries in 1961-62, a record that stood until Russell Lee scored 37 tries in 1970-71. In 1960-61 the Club scored a record win 74-6 points against the Royal Marine Corps - this including 20 tries, worth of course only 3 points in those days!

The 1962-63 season was Dick Manley's year - he played in all four home international matches that season after playing in England trials and for the Barbarians on many occasions. England won three matches that year drawing with Ireland.

In 1964 one of the highlights was a magnificent win at the County ground over Newport who had been the only side to beat the All Blacks the previous October. Exeter won by 22-14 points despite the presence of David Watkins and five other Welsh Internationals in the side. Amongst those playing for Exeter that day were John Baxter, Peter Mair, Ces Richards, Andy Cole, Dick Manley, Mike Cook, Keith Hopper, Barry Carless, Mike Maynard, Roy Sleigh and Tony Vinnicombe. During the late sixties up to the present time the names of Bob Staddon, Paul Baxter and Andy Cole are synonymous with Exeter rugby. All three have captained the side and played over 300 games for the 1st XV. During this period Mike Maynard created a new Club points record scoring 356 points in 1970-71 helping the Club to win the Devon Cup, the Devon and Cornwall Cup Winners Cup, Unofficial Devon League and the Mayflower (Devon) Sevens. Russell Lee broke the Club try scoring record with 37 and David Hughes created a new scoring record for a forward with 26 tries.

1972-73 was the Club's Centenary season and celebrated with style both on and off the field. New Club records were made for points in a season (980 points) Points in a match (80-3 points v Teignmouth) and for the third time the Club won the Devon Cup. Bridgend were beaten 20-16 points, the first time for many years.

And finally we come to last season - probably the most successful season ever. 38 matches out of 46 were won including beating Bath in the first round of the John Player Cup and beating Bristol for the first time since 1967. Bob Staddon created a new drop goal record scoring 15 in the season, and altogether 988 points were scored. The Club won the Devon Cup, the Devon Sevens, and retained the Sunday Telegraph South West Merit Table trophy which we had won the previous season. A highly successful tour was made to North West France at the end of the season masterminded by Tony Lee and both matches were won.

Large crowds came to the County ground on several occasions to see Exeter and usually they left well satisfied - let us hope that in 1978-79 we shall see even more friends at the Club and with more support, hard work from the players and a little luck there is no reason why this coming season should not be even more enjoyable than those that have gone before.

EXETER v GLOUCESTER

Today, we welcome Gloucester to the County Ground for the final game of the season. Top of the South West Merit Table and with the possibility of being the top English club in the Anglo/Welsh Merit Table, they are very formidable opponents and Exeter could not have a harder or more challenging last game.

Exeter and Gloucester are old rivals being formed within one year of each other. The meetings, until recently, have been spasmodic. The two sides first met on the County Ground on the 4th October 1890 when Gloucester were victorious by 2 tries – 1 try. The report of this game was sent to the Evening Press by Carrier Pidgeon. For the return game at Gloucester, Exeter included 7 second team men and suffered defeat by 26 goals, 8 tries – nil. Gloucester lost only 2 games that season. Gloucester won both fixtures next meeting, but only narrowly and so it was the next 2 meetings that took place in 1898/99. In 1907/8 four games took place and for the first time Exeter escaped defeat when at home drew 6–6 points on 16th February, 1907. The Rev. C.W.G. Moore playing on the wing scored 2 tries for Exeter. Fixtures were not resumed until after the 2nd World War since when, as everyone will be aware, Gloucester have again had the better of matters.

Gloucester first played at the Spa and then in 1891 moved to Kingsholm and many notable players have graced the Cherry and White jersey. It would need a book to do justice to the playing records and mention of a few must suffice. The 1st Captain was Fred Hartley, who remained so for 3 years, followed by J.F. Brown from 1876 to 1882 (7 years as Captain). Several Captains remained for 5 or more years. In the early days four of the most famous players ever to wear the Gloucester jersey went on to represent England – H. Berry, A. Hudson, D.R. 'Dai' Gent and W. Johns. All playing together for their country in 1910. The latter 3 had all captained Gloucester, Hudson for many years and 'Dai' Gent became a famous sports columnist. The legendary Tom Voyce captained Gloucester mid 20's playing for England with much distinction. Telescoping to the post war period the evergreen P. Ford, Captain of Gloucester for 5 years also representing England, British Lions full back Don Rutherford also captained Gloucester after leaving St. Lukes. The most recent Internationals include now retired Alan Brinn, colourful Mike Burton, now something of an entrepreneur but still involved with rugby, Chris Williams and the most recent Peter Kingston. Other Countries represented include Wales with John Gowilliam playing for the club and at the moment though not playing today Lewis Dick who has played for Scotland on the wing. This obviously does not include many players on the fringe and any players who on the odd quirk of a selectors whim have not caught the eye. This has certainly been the case recently when Gloucester have regularly been one of the top English clubs manifested by them having been John Player Cup Champions and Gloucestershire monopolising the County Championship. One of the better players never to wear an England jersey must be Mickey Booth, the drop goal specialist (41). Several others must spring to mind.

Loyalty and long standing players abound in Gloucester where several players seem to have been playing for decades; Peter Ford represented Gloucester 506 times, R. Smith 480, followed by M. Booth 471 and A. Brinn 450, all relatively recent players. Records are most impressive, unbeaten seasons include 1879–1881 and the most points in a season 1972 – 1145 points were scored. Around that time 51 home games were played without defeat from October 10th 1970 to September 23rd 1972. In 1901 the International Hudson scored 41 tries; the present captain, J. Watkins

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has scored most tries in a season for a forward – 20; the injured P. Butler has been a prolific goal scorer creating record after record – most penalties in a match – 6, most conversions in a season – 61 and most points in a season. The most points scored against a club might just be Exeter – 76 points, 3 seasons ago, although Gloucester did beat Castleford (now rugby League) 75–0 in 1908. Poor solace enough is enough but perhaps justification that Gloucester are not all forwards.

Although people have been complaining of a disappointing season it compares favourably with last year with the same numbers lost (11) except as with Exeter almost 1000 points were scored. The record was Played 49, won 38, lost 11, points for 993, points against 501. This year's record, including the second defeat of Newport on Wednesday night, is played 46, won 34, drawn 2, lost 11, points for 765, points against 446. Victories include Bristol, Coventry, Bedford, Aberavon, Bath, Northampton, Cardiff, Fylde and as mentioned Newport. Also a crushing defeat of Taranka in 2 tours, a record which most clubs would feel most satisfied with. They would have been disappointed with the John Player Cup game against Rishmond but are assured of a place next year.

With players like M.B. and J. Fin retiring John Watkins has captined the side for the 3rd season hoping his experience would pull the club through a difficult period. John Owen has broken his arm and P.B. is out for the rest of the season, C. Williams still being out with cartledge trouble. However, there have been more than able substitutes particularly Ian Watkins who has formed well at full back being a talented tactician and goal kicker and as well as adding pea pace as an attacker. Many players are products of local clubs like Lydney where 5 of the present Gloucester team originate including Kingston, Williams, Sargeant, Brooks and Wilkins. Ted Parfitt must feel proud. It speaks well for the rapport for clubs in the area and perhaps the Exe area could think along these lines. Congratulations are extended to Steve Mins on being selected for the Barb Easter tour to South Wales; Peter King on representing England for this season and Richard Mogg just recently selected for the under 23 tour. Gloucester will be keen to register the 35th win – a Merit Table win – and complete the season successfully. Certainly a very large contingent of followers are travelling down to make up for the many games cancelled during the winter months and the Kingsholm enclave and Exeter crowd can make a very large noise as they look for another victory.

Exeter may well consider this to be their hardest game of the season notwithstanding Rosslyn Park, London Scottish and Bristol, but will also remember the game with the latter club at the end of last season. Nothing motivates more than pride. After last season this has got to be considered a disappointing season and yet with an injury list at times more like a battlefield, the team has held many clubs like Bath, Bedford, Saracens and Gloucester at Kingholm to a few points. The J.P. encounter with London Scottish and R.P. need no explanation. Very rarely has there been anything like a full side which has spoken well for the reserves, especially in the front row, perhaps particularly at Hooker where at times it has been the 5th choice. Even allowing for this despite an unfortunate result last Saturday 17–18 points at Esher, the club has gone 8 games without defeat and with some luck could have been entering the games undefeated since mid March. This could have only given confidence. Referees have the most difficult job on the ground, but at times the interpretation of the laws if not the understanding of this leaves quite well informed observers perplexed. However, defeat last week may be just the spur Exeter need coupled with their unfortunate coach misunderstandings which could only add insult to injury.

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Still without a full team we welcome back Martin Hogwood and we also welcome Lough col Hooker B. Priddy to the side for the 1st time this season. Everybody will be there at the end of the game, there will be 100% committment and no lack of endeavour victory might put the club ahead of Bath in the Merit Table and make up for a disappointed season. Gloucester have not moved with the precision often exploits of them and has with many clubs the handling passing in the backs is not all that it should be as witness against Sale. Therefore if the determination and will is there is ought to be an interesting and absorbing game and there may well be a lot of points to prove. The club would like to say a Thank you to the following 3 players who will be either moving away or retiring at the end of this season – Martin Hogwood and Fred Hartley will be leaving the area and Clem Davies retiring.

Exeter have to date played 41, won 27, drawn 1, lost 13, points for 683, against 400. Highest Try scorers: Steve Will 19, J. Hoskin 17, Highest point scoreres: S. Webb 133, P. Full 101, S. Williams 76, J. Hoskin 68.

THE SOUTH WEST MERIT TABLE, prior to today's match, reads in the top six places as follows:

CLUB	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	PTS FOR	PTS AGST	%
GLOUCESTER	8	6	1	1	128	72	81.25
BRISTOL	7	5	1	1	141	65	78.57
BATH	6	3	0	3	74	89	50.00
EXETER	7	3	1	3	55	81	50.00
CAMBORNE	6	2	0	4	32	77	33.33
PLYMOUTH	8	0	1	7	82	128	16.25

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