

EXETER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



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

COUNTY GROUND · EXETER

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Captain:

T. WOODROW

Team Colours: ALL BLACK

DEVON CUP WINNERS 1971-72-76-78

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 20p.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB OFFICIALS:

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SEASON

1979-80

EXETER v. GLOUCESTER

Today we invite Gloucester to the County Ground for the first of a month of Merit Table matches. There can hardly be a stronger beginning and Kingsholm supporters will be eager to forget last Saturday's John Player Cup Game with Rosslyn Park.

The city of Gloucester has become synonymous with Rugby, which is a boast not many Clubs can lay claim to and what is more, powerful successful Rugby as witness their record each season, their triumph over many major Welsh Clubs and the contribution they make to Gloucestershire and England. Critics associate a certain style with Gloucester of a hard robust forward nature, forgetting most of their backs play representative rugby and some have played at the highest level, Exeter will not have to give Ian Wilkin, Richard Magg and Bob Clewes too much room to find out if they can run.

Little data is available as to the early days of the Club but the first match was played in October 1873 against the College School, actually on the site of Kingsholm. Only ten Gloucester players fielded but they proved too strong for the 'boys' and won by 1 goal 6 tries to nil. Let us hope the 15 Gloucester players will be needed today and that the result is somewhat different. In 1876 a Mr. J.F. Brown succeeded to the Captaincy and it was during his seven years tenure that the game made such rapid strides in popularity. At the same time an injury to one of the players Sydney Lane who sustained a bad fracture of the thigh had a serious effect on the attendance for some time, the ladies particularly absenting themselves from the Club. What would happen today? Then in 1878 a match was arranged to be played by electric light against Rockleaze (Bristol). There were four lights but one failed entirely, one of the others was uncertain and as a result the crowd got out of hand and did a great deal of damage to the shrubs and walks. The Club were given notice to leave and no matches to be played at the 'Spa', but supporters took exception to this, a petition containing 3,000 signatures was got up and the council relented. As ever, Club support was extremely loyal - and vociferous.

The first record available 1876 - 77 shows six out of eleven matches were won, three lost and two drawn. Interesting to note the first class fixture list - Hereford, Ross, Rockleaze, Swindon Rangers, Cheltenham White Cross and one of the most powerful Clubs in the land at that time Clifton who they regularly lost to prior to 1882. After that mammoth scores were registered. Newport the oldest of the Welsh Clubs was first met in 1878. An unbeaten season 1882 - 83 saw Gloucester dropping many weaker fixtures and only playing the strongest. At this time the Club included H.E. Taylor probably the best defensive threequarter Gloucester ever possessed. During this period the most hotly contested games were against Newport and Cheltenham College and often hotly disputed. Was it ever thus. The early games against Cardiff Swansea and Llanelli set the pattern for the next 100 years with Gloucester emerging triumphant on many an occasion. Just recently in a national newspaper of some repute it was maintained by a contributor that he had always thought it a geographical accident that Gloucester happened to be in England - a point best argued by Gloucester - the nearer to the 'border' the more intense the rivalry often is.

Despite a story of execution on the Spa, eventually the Club had to leave the ground, because they used too much salt on the ground, ruined the grass and the Cricket Club ordered the Footballers to quit. A new ground was sought and it was decided that the Castle Grim at Kingsholm would be most convenient. The name has a certain ring to it especially if Gloucester are losing and there are but a few minutes to go. October 10th 1891 was the day of opening. Since then Kingsholm has become one of the best known names in British Rugby and many a famous player has emanated from that ground. Not all are Gloucester born or even Gloucestershire bred but soon become acclimatised. The first Gloucester born international was W. Jackson perhaps the finest all round centre the Club has known, who turned Rugby league before gaining many caps. Since then the roll call has been continuous and today Blakeway will be absent playing for England against Scotland for the Triple Crown Grand Slam and Championship. With him but on the substitutes bench will be the rest of the front row Sargeant and Mills. Sargeant is just one of many recruits from Lydney several of whom may be playing today like Ian Wilkins and Colin Price and maybe Peter Kingstom. In the early days transfer laws were very stringent and for

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playing a Stroud player against Newport the Gloucester Club were suspended for a month and the Captain for the remainder of the season. St. Paul's Cheltenham are not on Gloucester's Fixture list now, but provided severe opposition at one time and provided the Club with one of its finest players 'Don' D.R. Gent who had a distinguished career as both player and correspondent of some fame. With his partner Stevens they were a superb combination. Perhaps the player who epitomised Gloucesters record and an example for all was A. Tom Voyce who after representing England as a school boy, in his first season in 1920 with Gloucester gained 1st XV status, county and international honours. He never lost his international place and established a record for the Club by appearing in 18 consecutive matches for his County. He was a British Lion and a credit to his Club. Sadly just a short while ago he passed away missed by everybody who had the honour to know him - and many others as well. Arthur Hudson around ten years previously scored well over 300 tries in his career which must be some kind of record just to remind people some records are still standing.

The present Club carries on - as mentioned earlier three are on international duty today, Kingston and Williams until recently were Club and international half backs, Peter Butler has played for England as has evergreen John Watkins, whilst Lewis Dick has represented Scotland. The present Technical Administrator Don Rutherford played with distinction for Gloucester as did that doyen of conversationalism and raconteur Mike Burton who now organises Rugby tours to faraway places. Being so close to Wales it will not be too surprising to find several distinguished Welshmen having played for the Club and what is more in keeping with the Club characters as well. To mention just two Willy Jones of County cricket fame and John Gwilliam Captain of Wales at one time.

However, in todays team many of the players will be unavailable - not that complacency should set in. The front row of some fame - will be absent - otherwise engaged. Peter Butler will be unavailable - breathe easier with the penalties - Lewis Dick is not playing at the moment not perhaps Peter Kingston. Nevertheless they play Aberavon mid-week with confidence and as mentioned earlier will want to atone for the Rosslyn Park fiasco, as no doubt will several players. With Ian Wilkins, Richard Mogg and Bob Clewes available and stalwarts like Messrs. Watkin, Fidler and Boyle in the pack there should be no lack of possession. A young 19 year old Malcolm Preedy has already substituted well in the front row so the replacements will give Exeter all the testing they need. This season Gloucester have beaten Bath and Bristol were the first English Club to beat Leicester and narrowly lost by the odd penalty to Swansea 9 - 12. They hope to improve their position in the Merit Table and as mentioned earlier will concentrate all the more being knocked out of the John Player Cup last week. With fellow West Country Club Bath also losing 3 - 6 to London Irish, there are now no more West County Clubs still in. To date they have played 37. W 23. D 4. L 10. Points for 631. Against 349 - an ordinary season by their standards. Last year they P 48 W 35. D 2. L 11. Points for 798. Against 414. Their lowest points total for many years. On the last two occasions they have beaten Exeter 23 - 9 and 13- 7. They hope to make it three in a row.

Exeter will want to make a strong start to the next month's fixtures which also includes the Devon Cup semi final in between. Despite leading for most of the game they lost in the final stages at Nottingham and Gloucester are going to be a lot harder. The last month has been rather chequered winning against Weston and Cheltenham but losing to Bristol, Exeter University and Nottingham. This month the fixtures are more demanding - Gloucester, Plymouth, Bath and Bristol and it is hoped a more settled team will develop. Injuries and unavailability cannot help, if unavoidable. However, todays leading try scorer Steve Williams makes a welcome return as does Phil Treseder in the centre -both recently afflicted with shoulder injury and flu respectively. Graham Milford also returns and these three should add some experience to the backs. Peter Full (our own Peter Butler!) is preferred on the wing and Steve Lewis - who may well be playing against his old in the Devon Cup Semi-Final - also makes a welcome return after injury. Unfortunately, Steve Webber is still out injured and the very promising Winterbottom a student at

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Seal-Hayne has gone down on vacation for the Easter break. Nevertheless it is quite an experienced side, but Tim Woodrow will need to bring that out and something extra today. Leading try scorers include Steve Williams 15, John Hoskin 9 and still long departed Steve Hughes 9 and it is interesting all three have not been playing for quite some time. Of course John Hoskin will not be playing for the rest of the season. Steve Webb is top point scorer with 114, top Club scorer being Peter Full with 173, Clem Davies and Nigel Harris weigh in with 6 tries apiece and if we include Club then Nigel is first equal with 15. We hope the points will be on the board today. To date the 1st XV ave P 30. W 17. D 1. L 12. Points for 497. Against 369. The 'A' XV have P 27. W 20. D 3. L 4. Points for 590. Against 217. The 'B' XV have P 21. W 13. D 1. L 3. Points for 373. Against 207. Surely we can reach the 500 mark today - and hopefully some more.

At the dinner on April 29th England International and former Exeter player John Scott has agreed to be guest speaker - along with John Kendall Carpenter. No doubt they hope to celebrate an English victory today the most successful for 20 years. However, the game at the County Ground should be enough to occupy spectators minds for an hour and a half. The following Tuesday Exeter play Sidmouth in the semi-final of the Devon Cup Kick Off 5.45. p.m. - all pay. A large crowd is expected.

A very warm welcome is extended to Gloucester players, officials and supporters (models of objectivity and totally non-partisan) in the Club House afterwards.

T. Davies

1st XV CAPTAIN'S REPORT

From a totally inept performance against Exeter University to the "professional" job carried out against Plymouth Albion in the Devon Cup, the team certainly moved from the depths to the heights. Motivation and competition were the two reasons. The Exeter club is renowned for its ability to rise to the occasion but we must learn to treat each match with the same attitude and this will then obliterate the sloppy performances which we have produced.

There will be no room for any shortcomings in the next five games - 4 of these are Merit Table and a Devon Cup semi-final against Sidmouth on Tuesday. The future of the Club's progress hangs in the balance with these games with the reward of John Player Cup entry next season. After a long trip to Nottingham last week, the team learnt another lesson in that we must play and concentrate for the full 80 minutes. We slipped badly in defence in the last 10 minutes - which in fact cost us what should have been a hard-earned victory. However, there were some good performances notably from John Lockyer, Kevin Sumners and Peter Winterbottom. Steve Webber is still troubled with his leg injury but Steve Williams and Phil Treseder are both now fit after injury and illness respectively.

Tim Woodrow



By Courtesy of the Express and Echo.

PLAYER PROFILE

BOB STADDON. Age 35. Weight 11 st 4 lbs. Height 5'6. Position Full Back/Scrum Half. Previous Clubs Ilfracombe, St. Lukes. Joined Exeter 1965. Representative Honours Devon Schools, Devon, Devon and Cornwall, South and South West Counties, England Trialist Favourite Players Jim Waterman, Tony Neary Andy Cole. Rugby Ambition To play in 1981. Hobbies/Interests Cricket Golf Squash and Gardening. Over the years Bob has undoubtedly been the best attacking full-back in the South West. "Mr. Evergreen" himself he has been a great servant to the Exeter Club and a fine example of a true sportsman.

EXETER v. GLOUCESTER

KICK OFF: 3 p.m.

REFEREE: R. GREENHAM

TOUCH JUDGE: M. Wright

EXETER

15. Bob Staddon*
14. Steve Williams
13. Phil Treseder*
12. Phil Loder
11. Peter Full
10. Steve Webb*
9. Graham Milford*
1. Chris Mills*+
2. John Locker=
3. Trevor Harris
4. Tim Woodrow*(Capt)
5. Clem Davies
6. Simon Day*
7. Steve Lewis
8. Mike Cathary

GLOUCESTER

15. Ian Wilkins*
14. Bob Clewes* Capt.
13. Richard Magg*''
12. David Pointon*
11. Paul Tunstall
10. Colyn Price
9. Steve Baker
1. Malcolm Preedy
2. Fred Reed*
3. Steve Ashmead
4. Steve Boyle*''
5. John Fidler*'
6. John Gudd
7. Mike Teague
8. Paul Wood*

Replacements - Nigel Harris, Graham Willis

Paul Williams, Phil Winnell

* County Player 'England B + Trialist = South West Team '' England Under 23

Gloucester beat Aberavon 25 - 12.

 **Graham-Reeves SEVENS**
by invitation of the Major clubs (South West)
County Ground St. Thomas Exeter
Saturday May 3rd 1980 Kick Off 11.00 am.



SPONSORSHIP

Today Exeter Refrigeration are sponsoring the game between Gloucester and Exeter. Exeter Refrigeration, like the South West Merit Table, covers the whole of the peninsula. They specialise in industrial and agricultural refrigeration, and in particular in heat recovery from refrigeration plant. On the agricultural side they are particularly involved in the changeover of bulk milk storage tanks. The Company quote an all-in price for delivery, installation and calibration as well as a Fully Comprehensive Contract for both labour and parts.

On the industrial front equipment from 100 H.P. downwards has been supplied to companies in the South West. Both sections of the Company are backed by a highly efficient radio controlled service department.

It has always been the Company's motto that any fool can sell it but it takes an expert to keep it going and to this end Exeter Refrigeration are justly proud of their 24 hour day and night service throughout the whole of the South West. If you have any problems with your refrigeration, whether it be your domestic fridge, air conditioning, bulk tanks or a blast freezer do not hesitate to contact us.

Some ten years ago Exeter Refrigeration Company pioneered heat recovery on a commercially viable basis from refrigeration plant. They were by no means the first in the field of heat recovery, but they certainly were the first to produce a viable heat recovery unit which has subsequently been patented and is manufactured by Alfa-Laval.

It is always worth a telephone call if you are thinking about refrigeration or heat re-claim.