

EXETER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



Affiliated to the R.F.U. and Devon R.F.C.

COUNTY GROUND, EXETER

President:
S. A. W. WALLER

Chairman:
R. C. SPILLER
Tel. 67211 (home)

Hon. Secretary:
M. J. R. COOK
Tel. 73790 (home)

Hon. Treasurer:
C. J. TARR
Tel. 79894 (home)

Hon. Teams Secretary:
D. C. BERRY
Tel. 57959 (home)

Hon. Fixtures Secretary:
R. HUXTABLE
Tel. 77385 (home)

Captain:
T. HARRIS

Team Colours: All Black

DEVON CUP WINNERS 1971-72-73-76-78-80-82

SUPPORTERS' CLUB OFFICIALS

President: C. L. PAUL
Chairman: T. E. IRISH
Hon. Secretary: Mrs B. FERNS
Hon. Treasurer: J. A. SNELL

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 30p

SEASON 1984-85

EXETER v GLOUCESTER

Today's South West Merit Table game against Gloucester may be the final game of the 1984-85 campaign, but the circumstances in which it will be played mean there will be no room for end of season lethargy. Nobody is fooled by Gloucester's position at the bottom of the table with a nil percentage after losing four games out of four. The defeats have come, home and away, against Bath and Bristol - none of them by particularly wide margins. Gloucester must win today to qualify for next season's John Player Special Cup while Exeter need to draw if they are to take fifth qualifying position which would leave Gloucester anchored to the bottom. However, the gulf between the two clubs is very wide at the moment with Gloucester appearing unconcerned that their England men Malcolm Preeedy, John Orwin and Mike Teague are all resting today before joining the New Zealand tour party while the recent retirement of Phil Blakeway means the absence of another big name. , Apart from their unusual South West Merit table position, Gloucester have had another fine season and are well past the 1,000 points scored mark. Last Saturday, they came close to denying Sale the honour of becoming the first champions of the England Merit Table A. The Cheshire club had not won at Kingsholm in memory but this time held on to a 16-13 win to preserve their 100 per cent record and keep ahead of Bath.

For Exeter, the closing weeks have brought no respite in the problems and poor results that have made it a most difficult season. A Simon Banks penalty, Exeter's only method of scoring during the last eight games, was all the side had to show from a disappointing 22-3 defeat here against Launceston last week. Some of the lessons, painfully learned, from this season will hopefully help towards a better season next time. It is certainly going to be a busy close season for the club with plans to attract more new players and preparations being made for a new English Merit Table C, to include Exeter, which is likely to be launched in September. Along with Plymouth Albion, Exeter will be joining seven northern clubs, two from the Midlands and Metropolitan Police if the table comes into existence.

Exciting times ahead, but for the moment a welcome break after today's game in which everybody at the club will be able to rekindle their enthusiasm and make 1985-86 a much happier season in this part of Devon.

Paul Easterbrook,
Express & Echo.

EXETER v GLOUCESTER

Kick Off 3.00 pm Touch Judge John Stark

Referee Steve Griffiths
(North Midlands)

EXETER

15 Simon Banks
14 Mike Bleasdale
13 Phil Cole *
12 Jeff Tutchings
11 Andy Vanstone
10 Shawn Phillips
9 Paul Lander *
1 Paul Kettell
2 Kes Oliver
3 Trevor Harris * (Capt.)
4 Peter Tregloan
5 Peter Hodge *
6 Mark Budgett
7 Rob Pugsley
8 Graham Bess *

Replacements John Poustie
Ian Wensley

GLOUCESTER

15 T. Smith
14 D. Morgan
13 R. Mogg *
12 P. Taylor * (Capt.)
11 N. Prowse *
10 N. Hamlin
9 M. Hannaford
1 P. Jones
2 K. White
3 R. Pascal *
4 D. Burn
5 J. Brain
6 J. Gadd *
7 I. Smith
8 J. Burnett

Replacements R. Wood
G. Mann

* County