

## 10<sup>th</sup> Season 1881-2

If the previous season was scant of match details then season 1881-2 proved even more barren. A fixture list of eighteen matches can be found but reports of matches played numbers only seven, of which three were won and four lost. Even the return matches against Blundell's appear to have been unreported.

The only new name among the regular games was that of Devonport Engineering Students, variously also referred to as Keyham Students and Royal Naval Engineering College in seasons to come.

Where results are known the victories came in games against Wellington at home and away, at Teignmouth and Newton College. Exeter was defeated by Tiverton (both home and away), Torquay Athletic and Taunton (both home games).

In wet conditions Exeter scored two tries to three by Torquay. Later in the season visitors Taunton scored two tries to nil. Both tries were touched down by Hancock, the Wiveliscombe captain, who had been enlisted for this game. On the day he was described as "the backbone of the Taunton team". It was not uncommon at this time for clubs to borrow players for certain games, especially away fixtures. Exeter was known to do the same. The team that travelled to Teignmouth included Fagan the Tiverton and Devon full back. He kicked a decisive drop-goal to help win the match.

Against Newton College, in early December, the match "continued until it was too dark to play". Exeter scored a goal and a try to nil.

It is possible that the club elected joint-captains for this season, something they would repeat two seasons later. In an early match the captain was J.S. King, a former committee member, who played full back. Amongst the forwards was W. Wakeham who is listed as captain when King was not playing. However it must be realised that full team lists for only four matches have been discovered. King, son of a partner in the engineering company Garton & King, in later years was to be found occasionally refereeing club matches. It was not uncommon for ex-players or even current players to referee home games.

Many years later a former player recalled that 1882 saw the introduction of club caps. The initial design of the cap was said to have been black with a white peak and a white badge. By the end of the century first team caps made of a velvet like material and were all black with a metallic braided tassel with the award season applied to the peak and a pressed metal badge of the city coat-of-arms attached to the front of the cap.