

East Midlands



Rugby Union.



County  
Championship  
Final :-

East Midlands

v.

Gloucestershire

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FRANKLIN'S GARDENS, NORTHAMPTON,

SATURDAY, MARCH 10th, 1934,

Kick-off at 3.0 p.m.

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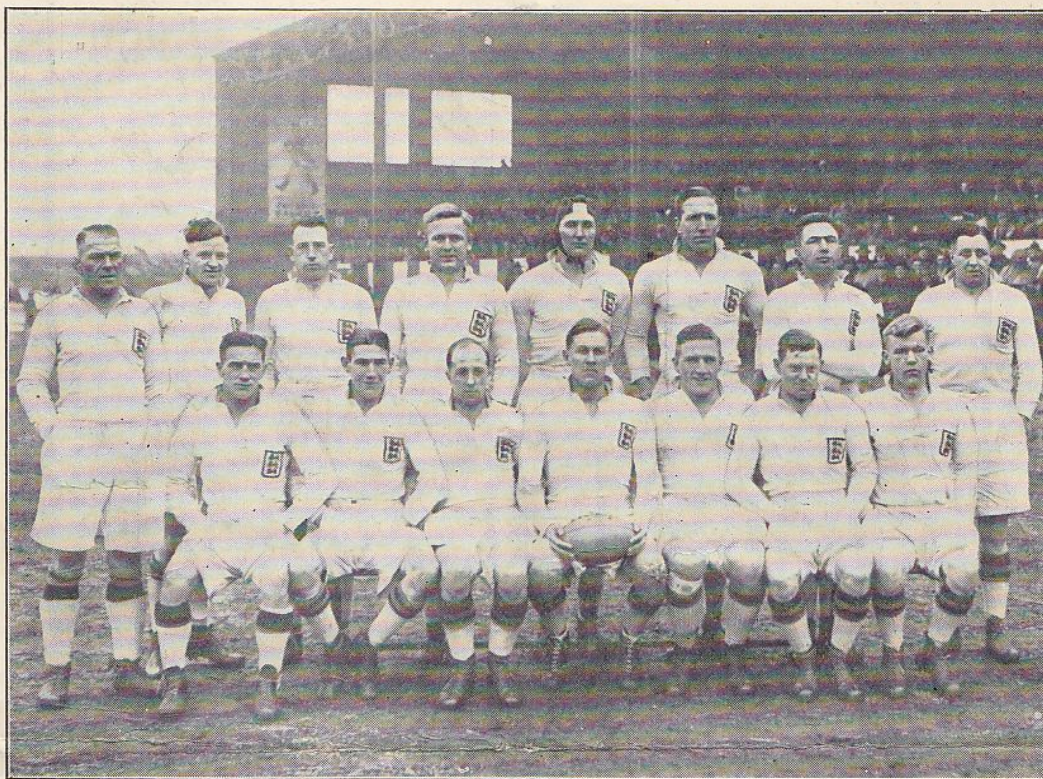
OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

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2d.



## GLOUCESTERSHIRE.



*Back row :* A. D. Carpenter, W. Rugg, L. Franklin, C. A. L. Richards, K. Salmon, A. T. Payne,  
E. Comley, F. Tucker.

*Front Row :* C. Fifeld, D. Meadows, R. James, J. C. Brooks, D. Burland, H. Boughton, C. Murphy.

### Gloucestershire XV. v. Hampshire in the Semi-Final,

FEBRUARY 3rd, 1934.

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## Notes by the Hon. Secretary,

J. B. MINAHAN, 1903-1934.

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For many years now I have penned a few notes for the programme as an introduction to the County games played at Franklin's Gardens, but never before have I found such difficulty in preparing a short story as to-day. Here am I, an old Gloucesterian, yet 30 years Honorary Secretary to the East Midlands, endeavouring to keep an open mind on to-day's issue. My old friends, Archie Hudson, Tom Voyce, Sam Tucker, Kit Tanner, and others, say it's impossible and I shall cheer for my home County. Well, as a certain well-known politician said : " Wait and See."

Thirty-three years ago I came from the County that our visitors to-day have made famous in the Rigger World and when, two years later, I was invited to take up the Honorary Secretaryship of the East Midlands I determined as far as in me lay to build up my adopted County on the lines of Gloucestershire.

*Continued on next page.*



## NOTES BY THE HON. SECRETARY (Con.)

The war came; afterwards the task of re-building. Slowly but surely we climbed back to our pre-war status—then the reversion to Saturday dates and our opportunity came to show the Rugby Football World our true strength. This is demonstrated plainly by the fact during the past two seasons we have not lost a group match and the only defeat was in that ill-fated Semi-final against Lancashire last year when Perkins, our hooker, was carried off injured in the first five minutes.

This season we have won all our group fixtures, defeated Lancashire at Blundellsands by 19 points to 18 points, after being down at half-time by 15 points, in a match that surpasses anything I have seen in my 45 years of first-class football. We followed this up by defeating a powerful Barbarians XV. in the Mobbs Memorial Match last week and so we take the field to-day with a feeling it is high time the Midlands won the Championship, and we incline to the hope it is ourselves who will take the honours.

In their long career East Midlands and Gloucestershire have only met once, in the Semi-final of 1920 at Northampton, Gloucestershire winning by two goals two tries (16 points) to one goal two tries (11 points). The teams were:—

### EAST MIDLANDS

E. C. Crisp (Northampton); G. A. Kilby (Northampton), R. C. Jones (Northampton), E. C. Cook (Northampton), Lt. H. L. V. Day (Army and Bedford); W. H. Udy and F. Millward (Northampton); Major Lawless (Army and Bedford), A. F. Blakiston, W. H. Goosey, A. E. Lack, H. Pettitt, H. Griffin, Major S. C. Lazell, J. Jeyes (all Northampton).

### GLOUCESTERSHIRE

B. Davy (Cheltenham); A. Hudson (Gloucester), L. I. Corbett (Bristol), R. C. Pickles (Bristol), F. Webb (Gloucester), W. Dix (Gloucester), T. Spoors (Bristol); G. Holford, A. T. Voyce, S. Smart, F. Ayliffe, A. Hall (Gloucester), E. Wixey (Cheltenham), A. Lodge (Lydney), S. Tucker (Bristol). This was a great game in which the East Midlands rallied splendidly in the second half, and wherein Blakiston made his name, and, if my memory hold true, the redoubtable Tom Voyce also.

What of Gloucestershire? I think, with the exception of my very old friends Jimmy Tratt, who as Treasurer is surely the oldest County Official in the Country, and Walter Pearce the one-time scrum half and the much respected ex-President of the Rugby Union, I have a more far reaching and livelier recollection of the achievements of the visitors than most of the large body of Gloucestersians who are travelling up to Northampton to-day to support their County. For years the County played on the old Spa ground and I was present at the opening of Kingsholm—transformed from an old cabbage patch to a fine athletic centre—but the pitch was parallel with the road not east and west as now.

Reflection revives memory and I recall many fine players who represented England in many great battles. L. J. Matthias, W. H. Johnstone, J. W. Jarman, Walter Jackson, A. E. Wood, H. Berry, George Holford, Billy Johns, Len Corbett, R. C. Pickles, the Brothers Percy and Frank Stout, C. Hall, Whacker Smith, Sid Smart, Dai Gent who is sitting in the press box doubtless reading these notes, and their President and Acting Secretary for this match, Tom Voyce, who with our own Freddy Blakiston will go down to history as the "Terrible Twin Rovers." Of course, we can also boast of an equally lengthy list of Internationals but they are so well known to East Midlanders it is unnecessary to mention them. I would like here to express on behalf of the East Midlands our profound sympathy to Mr. Ralph Roberts, the Honorary Secretary of Gloucestershire, in his bereavement and subsequent illness, and sincerely trust he will soon again be restored to good and lasting health.

*Continued overleaf.*



# Teams for County Championship Final.

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## EAST MIDLANDS.

RIGHT]

[LEFT

Full Back

R. O. Baillon 1 Northampton

Three-quarters

A. R. Chorlton 5 Northampton    \*J. A. Tallent 4 Blackheath    J. H. Treen 3 Northampton    T. D. Thevenard 2 Bedford

Halves

C. Slow 6 Leicester    \*B. C. Gadney 8 (Scrum) Leicester

Forwards

\*W. H. Weston 9 Northampton    A. D. Matthews 12 Northampton    F. Garratt 24 Northampton  
\*T. Harris 10 Northampton    \*J. Dicks 11 Northampton  
\*R. J. Longland 14 Northampton    R. T. Perkins 15 Bedford    N. A. York 16 Northampton

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Kick-off 3 p.m.

Referee—Mr. J. G. Bott, *London Referees' Society.*

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Forwards

E. Comley 8 Gloucester    \*A. D. Carpenter 9 Gloucester    F. Tucker 10 Bristol

C. A. L. Richards 11 Clifton    K. Salmon 12 Cross Keys

C. Murphy 14 Bristol    A. T. Payne 15 Bristol    I. Williams 16

Halves

D. Meadows 6 Gloucester    C. Fifield 7 (Scrum) Gloucester

Three-quarters

R. James 5 Gloucester    \*D. Burland 4 Bristol    J. C. Brooks 3 Gloucester    \*C. C. Tanner 2 Gloucester

Full Back

H. Boughton 1 Gloucester

LEFT]

[RIGHT

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

\* International.

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FRANKLIN'S GARDENS, NORTHAMPTON :-  
SATURDAY NEXT - SAINTS v. NUNEATON.



## NOTES BY THE HON. SECRETARY (Con.)

And now for to-day's game. I have been asked what are our chances. He would be a bold man who would forecast the result and I will content myself by saying that with the teams apparently so well matched the chances are 50/50. Of course, we have what is considered an advantage of home ground, but that does not always count as witness our grand victory at Blundellsands.

After our fine show against Lancashire and the Barbarians we certainly can fearlessly face Gloucestershire this afternoon. Knowing well their experienced fighting spirit, I am prepared for a titanic struggle, especially between the forwards. They are well matched and as both Counties have drawn heavily upon their premier Clubs—Gloucestershire have nine City representatives and the East Midlands ten Northampton men—Club combination should play a big part in the game. Good as C. Fifield and Don Meadows are I venture to express the opinion that our pair of halves, C. Slow and Bernard Gadney, are superior. Gloucestershire have a strong sturdy three-quarter line, but in John Tallent and Jack Treen we have a pair of centres just now on top of their form and the wings good enough to score if served well. Of the opposing backs H. Boughton is a good kick, with more experience than R. O. Baillon, who is only in his first year of first-class Rugger, but for a young player of his years has done remarkably well and has a bright future.

I now conclude with a personal note. As already intimated this is my last season as Honorary Secretary. I have handed my resignation to the President, Mr. H. C. Palmer, feeling that the time has arrived for a younger man to shoulder the heavy work. I am giving up office with the East Midlands right in the forefront of English Rugby, and I trust those who follow me will never let it slip back. To those splendid sportsmen who have for so long assisted me in my work I would here tender my most grateful thanks. Their loyalty and splendid friendship will always remain a gladdening memory.

I have dreamed long of this day. Dreamed that we should get into the final, that it be played at Northampton and that our opponents should be my home County. My dreams have at long last been realised. Will my ambition, the winning of the Championship, be fulfilled to-day or will Gloucestershire equal Yorkshire's record of nine times Champion County?

The answer will come this afternoon.

J. B. MINAHAN, Hon. Secretary.

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