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**COUNTY**  
**RUGBY UNION CHAMPIONSHIP**

**(SEMI - FINAL)**



**NORTHUMBERLAND**

**v.**

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE**



**at the**

**COUNTY GROUND, GOSFORTH**

**23rd JANUARY, 1971**

**SPECIAL SOUVENIR PROGRAMME**

**1/-**



## A LONG LONG TIME !

It has been a long time! A long time since our County won the Northern Group in season 1935/6, the year before I had the honour to first represent Northumberland, and 73 years after we last won the County Championship in the reign of Queen Victoria!

All this long time I believe we have always been dedicated competitors, and this season the performance of the county team has been magnificent.

I find it hard to recall a county side which simply would not accept defeat. They are fit and well drilled, and this afternoon they will all give all they have to give.

From experience out there in the arena, I know what it means to players in the Northumberland jerseys to **know** they have their supporters with them. **Please** let them hear you!

The selectors, led by Danie Serfontein, and coaches, under John Elders, have done a great job in preparing our side, and are to be congratulated.

Our opponents, Gloucestershire are new to the County Ground, and we welcome them warmly to Northumberland.

It will be a hard game — let us enjoy it.

J. G. T. MORALEE,

(President, N'land Rugby Union).

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County Honorary Secretary : E. C. CRAVEN

Honorary Treasurer : R. E. APPLEBY

Selection Committee :

D. D. Serfontein (Chairman), A. R. Bell, W. Charlton, J. Rogan  
J. Elders and J. M. Smith

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## NORTHUMBERLAND

15. **B. C. KEENLEYSIDE** (Rockcliff)
14. **D. A. CARR** (Tynedale)
13. **D. SIMPSON** (Gosforth)
12. **J. K. BRITTEN** (Northern)
11. **M. W. MAHONEY** (Gosforth)
10. **M. HEPPLE** (Northern)
9. **M. YOUNG** (Gosforth)
1. **C. WHITE** (Northern)
2. **J. HODGSON** (Northern) Capt.
3. **F. M. McLOUGHLIN** (Northern)
4. **J. HALL** (Cheltenham)
5. **R. M. UTTLEY** (Gosforth)
6. **D. PARKER** (Gosforth)
8. **W. R. DEMPSTER** (Novos)
7. **D. PRINGLE** (Morpeth)



## GLOUCESTERSHIRE



15. **R. ETHERIDGE** (Gloucester)
14. **P. M. KNIGHT** (St. Lukes College, Exeter)
13. **D. C. DIAMOND** (Gloucester)
12. **P. J. SIMMONS** (Rosslyn Park)
11. **M. R. COLLINS** (Bristol)
10. **J. B. GABITASS** (Bristol)
9. **J. H. SPALDING** (Gloucester)
1. **R. J. COWLING** (Gloucester)
2. **J. V. PULLIN** (Bristol)
3. **B. A. NELMES** (Bristol)
4. **D. E. J. WATT** (Bristol)
5. **A. BRINN** (Gloucester)
6. **D. M. ROLLITT** (Bristol) Capt.
8. **R. C. HANNAFORD** (Bristol)
7. **R. SMITH** (Gloucester)

Referee : **G. C. LAMB** (R.A.F.)



# GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Gloucestershire have a remarkably good record in the county championship having won it nine times — a record.

Yet their last success was in 1937, although since that time they have been in four finals and 11 semi-finals. These are the players who will attempt to reach their fifth post-war final :—

**Ron Etheridge** (Gloucester). Full-back. Age 20. The discovery of the season in the South-West. Was playing in junior Rugby little more than a year ago, but has already attracted the attention of the Scottish selectors. Born on the Isle of Bute, but has lived for many years in Gloucester. A running full-back in modern style.

**Peter Knight** (St. Luke's College). Right wing. Age 24. With the premature retirement of Don Rutherford and the serious back injury sustained by David Ainge two years ago, Gloucestershire were left without a recognised full-back of quality. Peter took over the duties with outstanding success last season. The meteoric rise of Etheridge enabled the speedy St. Luke's winger to return to his normal position. He was at Durham University. Lives in Bristol.

**Des Diamond** (Gloucester). Centre. Age 21. Has risen rapidly to the forefront this season with brilliant displays for Loughborough Colleges, where he is still in residence, though he recently joined the Gloucester club. Played in the final England trial at Twickenham and for English Universities.

**Pat Simmons** (Rosslyn Park). Centre. Age 24. Born in the Forest of Dean, former skipper of Loughborough Colleges and has played for both Leicestershire and Surrey. His previous three games for Gloucestershire have been at fly half, but he moves back to centre with the recall of Gabitass. He is a teacher in London.

**Mike Collins** (Bristol). Left wing. Age 27. One of the longest established players in the Gloucestershire side, and skippered them in the quarter-final against Dorset and Wilts when Rollitt withdrew shortly before the kick-off. He has played in an England trial. Married, he is a brewery trainee manager.

**Jonathan Gabitass** (Bristol). Fly half. Age 26. An Oxford "blue" in 1965-66, he has only recently started playing again since suffering a depressed fracture of the cheek bone in the Western Counties—Fijians game in October. Teaches at Clifton College, where one of his colleagues is Hannaford.

**John Spalding** (Gloucester). Scrum half. Age 26. Like his partner, Gabitass, was seriously injured in the Fijians match, suffering severe damage to his back and ribs. He has since played only one game for Gloucester, against Old Merchant Taylors on Boxing Day. A slaughter man in his father's business in Gloucester.



**Robin Cowling** (Gloucester). Prop. Age 26. Although in his fourth season with the Gloucester club, he has never previously played for the County in a championship or friendly match. A farm manager near Tewkesbury, he is an expert rifle shot.

**John Pullin** (Bristol). Hooker. Age 28. The present England hooker, a Barbarian and a British Lion. Married, he is a farmer at Aust, a village on the River Severn.

**Barry Nelmes** (Bristol). Prop. Age 22. He has taken over the position in the front row vacated by former international Bev. Dovey. Married, he works in an engineering firm at Bristol.

**Dave Watt** (Bristol). Lock. Age 30. An international, this semi-final is his 49th appearance for Gloucestershire — a county record. Married, he is a tobacco firm representative.

**Alan Brinn** (Gloucester). Lock. Age 28. An England trialist, he has also played for North Midlands. He is partner in a sports outfitters' shop in Tewkesbury with Ron Pitt, a former Gloucestershire centre. Was educated in Rhodesia and Northern Ireland.

**Dave Rollitt** (Bristol). Wing-forward. Age 28. The Gloucestershire skipper, though a Yorkshireman by birth, he is an international and Barbarian. Married, he teaches physics and physical education at Bristol. He missed the quarter-final because of a strained back.

**Charlie Hannaford** (Bristol). No. 8. Age 26. Scarcely needs any introduction to rugby men in the north. Formerly played for Durham while at the University. He was born in Gloucester and played for the City club before going to Cambridge, where he won his "blue". A teacher, he played for Rosslyn Park last season. Won his first England cap last Saturday against Wales.

**Dick Smith** (Gloucester). Wing-forward. Age 29. Another of the longest-serving Gloucestershire players, also played in the final England trial this season and was generally deemed unlucky to miss his first "cap". Like his team-mate Charlie Hannaford, he was educated at Crypt School, Gloucester.

Foreman in a fruiterers' business of Peter Ford, the former Gloucestershire and England wing-forward.



**Charlie Hannaford**  
ex. Durham



# HOW THEY GOT THERE!

## NORTHERN GROUP

Northumberland beat Cumberland/Westmorland 6—0 (Gosforth)  
 beat Lancashire 15—12 (Fylde)  
 beat Durham 14—3 (Gosforth)  
 beat Yorkshire 11—6 (Headingley)  
 beat Cheshire 19—13 (Gosforth)

	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Northumberland	5	5	0	65	34	10
Lancashire	5	4	1	90	41	8
Cheshire	5	2	3	73	70	4
Yorkshire	5	2	3	51	51	4
Durham	5	1	4	44	99	2
Cumberland/Westmorland	5	1	4	22	50	2

## SOUTH WEST GROUP

Gloucestershire beat Devon 9—8 (Torquay)  
 beat Somerset 14—0 (Gloucester)  
 beat Cornwall 9—6 (Bristol)  
 beat Dorset/Wilts. 18—3 (Bristol) in quarter-final

	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Gloucestershire	3	3	0	32	11	6
Devon	3	2	1	47	29	4
Cornwall	3	1	2	25	34	2
Somerset	3	0	3	14	44	0

Thirty-five years is a long time, yet that was the last time that a Northumberland side figured in a semi-final of this championship.

Several of that successful side which went on to lose in the final to Hampshire — on this same ground — are here today.

The team was :—

E. R. Blench (Tynedale); G. H. Bailey (Old Novos); C. R. Wood (Gosforth); T. B. Bland (Tynedale); J. C. Oldroyd (Northern); A. Brogdon (Tynedale); B. Liddle (Tynedale); A. C. Barker (Old Novos); J. C. Suddes (Tynedale); E. Paulin (Old Novos); K. W. D. Hodgson (Tynedale); R. Robinson (Northern); G. S. Waller (Gosforth); J. McD. Hodgson (Northern); C. H. Errington (Gosforth).

A. Robson (Heriots F.P.) and S. Edwards (Seghill) also played during the season, Edwards in all but the final.

**Note:** Old Novos have now dropped the "Old".

This programme has been written and edited by John Pargeter of 'The Journal' and the 'Sunday Times' on behalf of the Northumberland Rugby Union, and he wishes to thank all who have helped, especially Arthur Russell, freelance journalist of Gloucester.