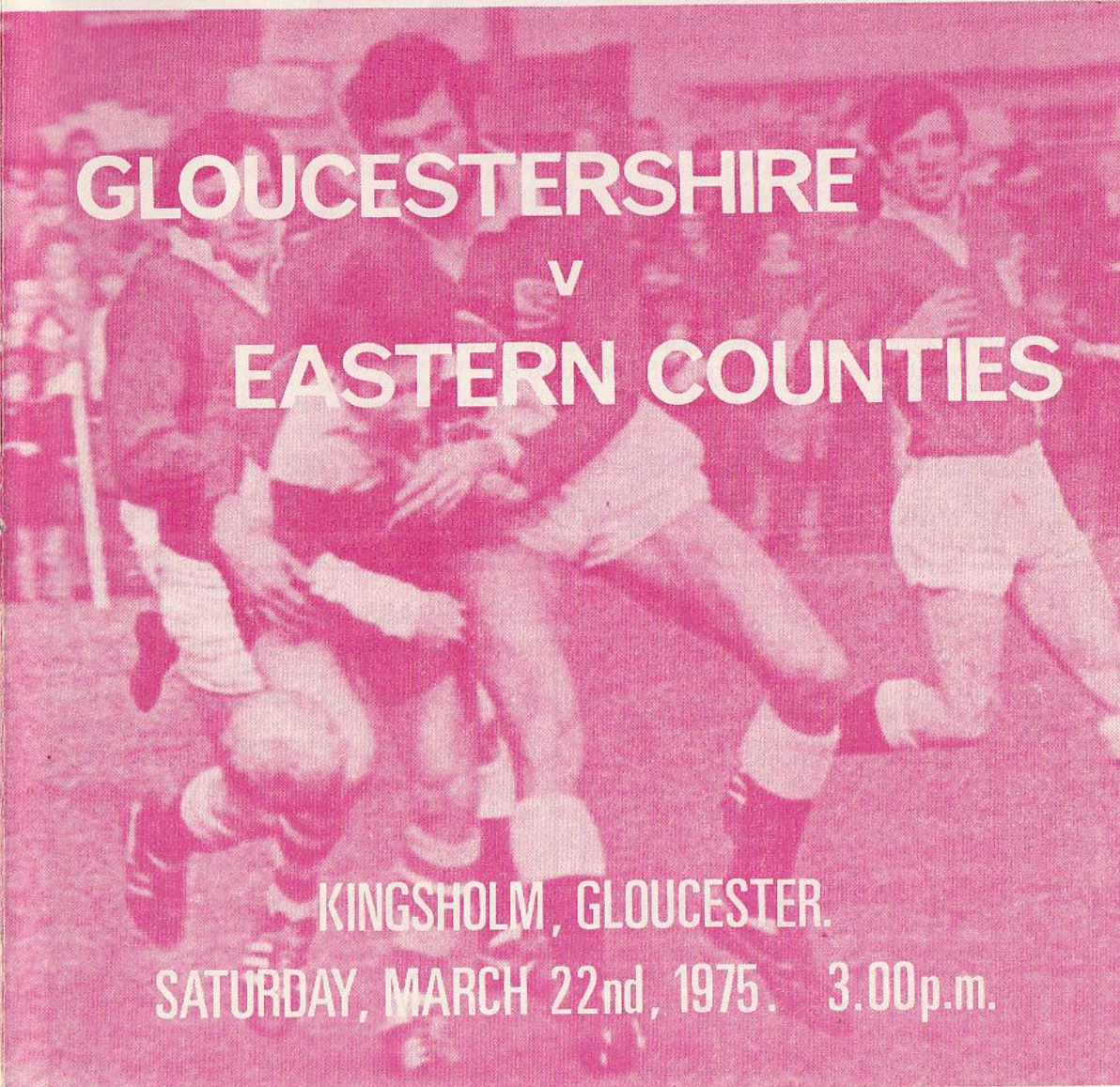


COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



GLOUCESTERSHIRE
v
EASTERN COUNTIES

KINGSHOLM, GLOUCESTER.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22nd, 1975. 3.00p.m.

**Lucky
No:**

4654

**Official
Programme
10p**

FOREWORD

Today it is our pleasure to welcome Eastern Counties to Kingsholm. The party is led by their president, Ronnie Williams from Norwich, and includes Dickie Jeeps, their vice-president who is no stranger to Kingsholm from his playing days with Northampton. John Motum, their honorary secretary, and Joe Arnold, their representative for so many years on the R.F.U. committee.

On the field they are captained by Tony Jorden, the current England full-back who was at school at Monmouth and whom Gloucestershire supporters will be interested to compare with our own Peter Butler.

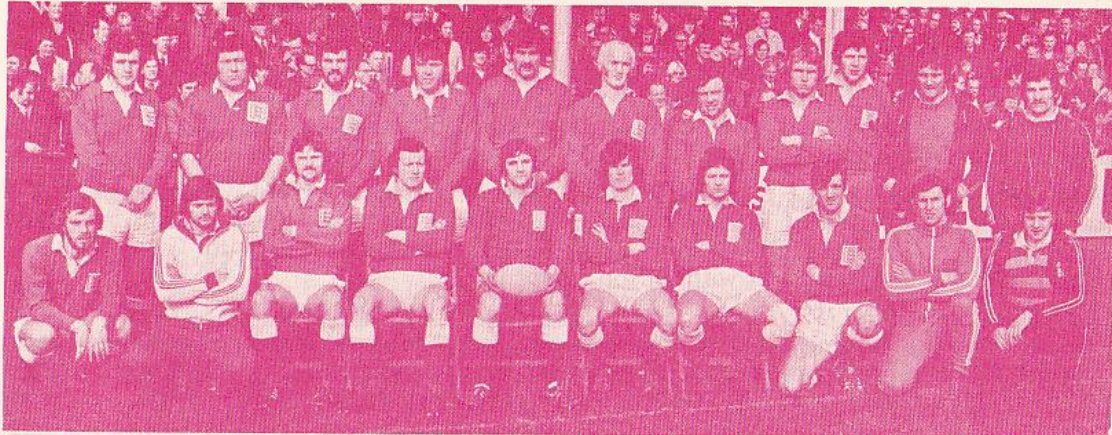
As hooker they have Philip d'A Keith-Roach who hails from Minchinhampton; was schooled at Cheltenham and has worn both the Stroud and Gloucester colours.

To all the 35 members of the official Eastern Counties party, and to their supporters we offer the hand of rugby friendship and a West Country welcome.

This is only our third meeting, and the results before today's game stand all square at one win each. We met in a semi-final at Bristol in 1948 which Eastern Counties won. They went on to lose the final against Lancashire. Again we met in a semi-final at Bristol in 1973 which Gloucestershire won by the narrow margin of 7 points to 6.

This year our opponents have reached the final by beating Lancashire decisively at Blundell-sands, so we know the magnitude of the task ahead. Eastern Counties have proved themselves worthy challengers of the title we defend.

Welcome also to Alan Welsby from the Manchester Society who today ends Johnny Johnson's record run of six successive appointments to the County Final. He has referred both teams before, so is well known to the players, and we wish him well.



*Back row: Mike Burton (Gloucester), Barry Nelmes (Cardiff), Richard Jardine, Alan Brinn, John Fidler (all Gloucester), Dave Rollitt (Bristol), Dave Protherough (Moseley), John Watkins, Nigel Jackson (both Gloucester), Ken Phelps (Bristol), Dave Pointon (St. Paul's College).
Front row: Alan Morley (Bristol), David Crabbe, Peter Butler, John Haines, John Bayliss (captain), Peter Kingston, Stuart Dix (all Gloucester), Chris Williams (Headingley), Eddie Pinkney (Gloucester), Colin Patterson (Bristol University).*

SIXTH SUCCESSIVE FINAL FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE by Arthur Russell

Assessing the form and prospects of Gloucestershire in recent seasons has been a task which even the most experienced rugby writers and pundits have come to view with considerable apprehension. Their exploits just don't make sense, as one bewildered journalistic colleague pointed out to me last season.

One can fully understand his plaintive plea. Gloucestershire, often struggling desperately, have somehow contrived to win the South West group with almost monotonous regularity in the past decade, then have occasionally given such uninspiring displays in the quarter-finals that anyone daring to suggest they could reach the final would have been regarded with suspicion; mentally unstable.

Yet, as the King of Siam might say, "It's a puzzlement!" Back from the near depths of mediocrity Gloucestershire rebound to Olympian heights, dazzling even their most critical supporters as they positively sparkle through the later stages of the competition. And it is this "rags to riches" contrast to what has gone before that brings Gloucestershire to their sixth successive final this afternoon.

Perhaps an answer to the perplexing fortunes of Gloucestershire is the very solid core of West Country rugby. It's tough, mighty tough, in the South-West group; no-one romps gaily through its tortuous paths to the opening at the end which leads to the final stages. Having long realised this Gloucestershire, fully mindful of those inhibitions and affectations which could sway results in this hardest of all groups, have been perfectly happy to win through by no more than honest endeavour and a dedicated approach.

Others may have their own views on Gloucestershire's seemingly inconsistent efforts in recent years, but since everything came right at the end it would be churlish to tender even a word of criticism. The indisputable fact remains that they have won the championship title 11 times — twice more than their nearest rivals.

This afternoon's final, then, might be termed a battle between the vastly experienced and the comparatively raw recruits. But this would only be true from the statistical view point. In every other way it has the prospects of bringing a close and exciting tussle. The form of the Counties suggests that they are a more disciplined and constructive side than Warwickshire, who so disappointed in the semi-final.

. . . . It would not be a wise man who dare pronounce any prognostications on the outcome of this afternoon's final!

MEET GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Peter Edward BUTLER (Gloucester) - full-back. Age 23. In only his third season in first class rugby, but has been the country's leading points' scorer each year. Generally recognised as the "king of place-kickers". Educated at Crypt School and Birmingham University, where he was rugby captain. Played for U.A.U. Production controller in chemical industry.

Alan John George MORLEY (Bristol) - wing. Age 24. Current England winger. Began rugby career with Bristol at age of 18 and has scored 125 tries for his club. Toured South Africa twice - with England in 1972 and the British Lions last year. Has scored 20 tries for Gloucestershire. Qualified valuer and auctioneer with Clifton company.

John Alexander BAYLISS (Gloucester) - centre. Age 33 later this month. The Gloucestershire skipper. Has also led England in a Youth international. Numerous injuries in a long career, including a broken neck two years ago. First played for Gloucestershire in 1961. Stylish batsman in senior club cricket. He and his wife have a greengrocery business.

Richard JARDINE (Gloucester) - centre. Age 27. One of the two police officers in the side. Educated at Chipping Sodbury and joined Gloucester from the County Police side. Shot rapidly to the forefront three seasons ago and has been virtually a regular in the team since. Has represented English and British Police. Stationed in Gloucester.

Stuart DIX (Gloucester) - wing. Age 23. The youngest - by a mere matter of months - member of the Gloucestershire team. Only joined Gloucester last season from local club Gordon League, but made immediate impact on affairs. Was in the recent England Under 23 squad session. A machinist.

Christopher Gareth WILLIAMS (Headingley) - outside-half. Age 24. His partnership with Peter Kingston for Lydney Grammar School, Lydney, England Schools, and St. Paul's College became practically a legend in the north and west of the County; yet oddly enough, this is only the second time that the pair have played together in the county championship for Gloucestershire. Chris has also played for Royal Air Force and the Combined Services. A flying officer stationed at Catterick.

Peter KINGSTON (Gloucester) - scrum-half. Age 23. A few months younger than his partner, he has played in all Gloucestershire's matches this season. Last year played in the county championship for North Midlands while living in the area. Formerly played for St. Paul's College, Lydney and Moseley before joining Gloucester this season on taking an appointment in Swindon. School-teacher.

Barry George NELMES (Cardiff) - prop. Age 26. Essentially a Bristol player, becoming an "exile" when he moved to Cardiff in the course of his employment. "Disappeared" from the first-class rugby scene for nearly two years, but returned to display all his old skills. Represented the Western Counties against three touring counties and the South of England against the All Blacks. A sales representative.

Victor David PROTHEROUGH (Moseley) - hooker. Age 34. The "old man" of the team. Like Kingston, played for North Midlands in the county championship last season. Played most of his rugby for Cheltenham before leaving them three years ago, but previously was also with Cambridge University and Saracens. England Schools (Under 19 group) international. Schoolteacher at Chosen Hill.

Michael Alan BURTON (Gloucester) - prop. Age 29. The current England prop and a British Lion. Has also represented Berkshire, the county of his birth, in the championship. An irrepressible character; not only knows all the rigger songs, but says he wrote the majority in his odd moments. Product of local school, Longlevens. Oil company sales representative.

Alan BRINN (Gloucester) - lock. Age 33. Has been referred to as "the gentleman of Rugby football". Won his first England "cap" only three seasons ago. Has made more appearances (516) for Gloucester's senior XV than any other player in the club's history. Educated at High Wycombe, in Rhodesia and Northern Ireland. Runs his own sports' outfitters' business.

John Howard FIDLER (Gloucester) - lock. Age 26. The County's other police officer, "Big John" began his rugby career with Cheltenham. Played for England in a National Association of Boys' Clubs' international match against Wales. Has figured in area trials and currently bidding for higher honours. Stationed in Cheltenham.

John Arthur WATKINS (Gloucester) - flanker. Age 27. The "blond bombshell" of England rugby, as he has been called, won his first "cap" against South Africa three years ago. Like Stuart Dix and John Haines, is a product of that first-class rugby nursery, Gordon League. He holds the Gloucester club record of the most tries (20) scored in one season by a forward. A machinist.

David Malcolm ROLLITT (Bristol) - No. 8. Will be celebrating his 32nd birthday on Monday. Selected for England last Saturday as a flanker. Hair turned prematurely grey as a teen-ager. Born in Yorkshire, educated at Barnsley Holgate Grammar School. Played for Wakefield, Loughborough Colleges, Bristol University, U.A.U. and Barbarians before taking up post in Bristol. Has skippered Bristol, Gloucestershire and South-West Counties. Schoolteacher.

John Henry HAINES (Gloucester) - flanker. Celebrates his 26th birthday next Friday. The natural successor to the long-serving Dick Smith. Rapidly moved to the top flight on joining Gloucester from Gordon League. With his two international colleagues forms a speedy and constructive back row. Wholesale meat caterer.

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GLOUCESTERSHIRE 13PTS

(All Red)

15.	P.E. Butler (<i>Gloucester</i>)	1c 1pe	Full-back
14.	A.J.G. Morley (<i>Bristol</i>) *		Right wing
13.	J.A. Bayliss (<i>Gloucester, capt.</i>)		Centre
12.	R. Jardine (<i>Gloucester</i>)		Centre
11.	S. Dix (<i>Gloucester</i>)	1T	Left wing
10.	C.G. Williams (<i>Headingley</i>)		Outside-half
9.	P. Kingston (<i>Gloucester</i>)		Scrum-half
1.	B.G. Nelmes (<i>Cardiff</i>)		Prop
2.	V.D. Protherough (<i>Moseley</i>)		Hooker
3.	M.A. Burton (<i>Gloucester</i>) *		Prop
4.	A. Brinn (<i>Gloucester</i>) *	1T	Lock
5.	J.H. Fidler (<i>Gloucester</i>)		Lock
6.	J.A. Watkins (<i>Gloucester</i>) *		Flanker
8.	D.M. Rollitt (<i>Bristol</i>) *		No. 8
7.	J.H. Haines (<i>Gloucester</i>)		Flanker

*International

Replacements:

- D. Pointon (*St. Paul's College*)
- D.T. Crabbe (*Gloucester*)
- C. Patterson (*Bristol University*)
- M.J. Nicholls (*Gloucester*)
- N.A. Jackson (*Gloucester*)
- E.A. Pinkney (*Gloucester*)

EASTERN COUNTIES 9PTS

(All White)

A.M. Jordan (<i>Bedford, capt.</i>) * +	1c 1pe	15.
D.J.K. McKay (<i>Rosslyn Park</i>)		14.
J.P.A.G. Janion (<i>Richmond</i>) *		13.
I.R. Vinter (<i>Saracens</i>)		12.
D.M. Wyatt (<i>Bedford</i>)		11.
P.L. Byrne (<i>Blackheath</i>)		10.
J.J. Page (<i>Northampton</i>) * +		9.
C.J. Bailward (<i>Bedford</i>)		1.
P. d'A. Keith-Roach (<i>Rosslyn Park</i>) +		2.
K.B.P. Cairns (<i>Saracens</i>)		3.
A.K. Rodgers (<i>Rosslyn Park</i>) +		4.
N.O. Martin (<i>Harlequins</i>) * +		5.
A.L. Bucknall (<i>Richmond</i>) * +		6.
A.T. Hollins (<i>Bedford</i>)		8.
S. Callum (<i>Upper Clapton</i>)	1T	7.

+ Blue

Replacements:

- D.J. Ling (*Ipswich*)
- T. O'Hanlon (*Richmond*)
- J. Stokoe (*Blackheath*)
- G. Swainson (*Blackheath*)
- P. Holden (*Saracens*)
- B. Carter (*Moseley*)

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Referee: A.A. WELSBY (*Manchester Society*)

Touch Judge: N.P. JONES (*Gloucester Society*)

Touch Judge: D.M. ROBINSON (*Eastern Counties & London Society*)



DENIS POWER (Gloucestershire)

A Gloucestershire win today would be perhaps the most fitting tribute that our County could possibly offer to Denis Power, their dedicated coach who resigns the post at the end of the season.

Denis, educated at St. Brendan's College and Bristol University, has coached Gloucestershire to six successive finals, assuming responsibility for team tactics seven years ago when Derek Neate was forced to stand down due to business pressures.

Later this year Denis, together with his wife Marion and children Lisa, Karen and Simone, leaves for Holland where he has received an appointment with the Dutch Sports Foundation. He has also received the appointment as Technical Advisor to the Dutch Rugby Union.

YOUR REFEREE

Alan Welsby is a member of the Manchester Society and affiliated to the Lancashire R.F.U. Graded top of the potential England international panel, he lives on a farm, but is, in fact, a schoolmaster.