

Rugby Football Union



THORN

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

SEMI - FINAL

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
V
WARWICKSHIRE

Saturday 22nd November 1980

BRISTOL F.C.

**Memorial Ground, Filton Avenue,
Horfield, Bristol BS7 0AQ**

KICK OFF 2-45p.m.

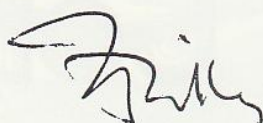
(Programme 20p)



MESSAGE FROM MR. J. A. SIBLEY

This is the second year that Thorn have sponsored the Rugby Union County Championship. As this was a completely new involvement for the Company, we had to feel our way before deciding how best to help the competition and to help create more interest in rugby football. The attraction to me is the involvement of players and spectators from as far apart as Cornwall and Northumberland.

I sincerely hope that this 1980-81 season will have its memorable moments and can reach a climax comparable to that marvellous final last year between Lancashire and Gloucestershire in the mud at the Vale of Lune. Whichever team you support, I wish you success – and by the way, I hope you will also continue to support the many Thorn products shown elsewhere in this programme.



THORN EMI DIRECTOR &
COMPANY SECRETARY

MESSAGE FROM MR. T. BODLEY

RUGBY CORRESPONDENT DAILY EXPRESS

Thorn could not have picked a better year for their initial financial involvement in the Rugby Football Union. English Rugby took fire for the first time in 23 years. They swept the board by winning the Grand Slam, Triple Crown and the Calcutta Cup. If there had been any further honours up for grabs, they would have won those too because of the team spirit and confidence all directed to the best possible use by the coaching of Mike Davis.

And, to a large extent, that success was built on the solid foundation of the Thorn County Championship.

The injection of real money into the county scene allowed the teams to prepare far more efficiently than in previous years and none put the cash to better use than the eventual champions Lancashire.

The spin-off of their total Rugby, preached so fervently by their coach Des Seabrook, was vital to England as they provided seven members, including the captain Bill Beaumont, of the national side.

Thorn helped also to inspire a major international success as they helped with the four Divisional matches against the New Zealand touring team.

The North – like Lancashire – made canny use of the extra money. They were the only side to beat the All Blacks. The 21-9 score at Otley on November 17 represented the biggest hiding New Zealand had ever suffered in England.

But Thorn's biggest contribution was to the County Championship. The final between Lancashire and Gloucestershire at the picturesque Vale of Lune ground on February 9 was one of the highlights of a memorable season.

This season, in addition to the Thorn County Championship, There will be the Thorn Divisional Championship. This competition was suspended for the last two years because of touring sides. It will start on December 13 when the North, the holders, meet the South and South West and London tackle the Midlands. All four teams will be in action a week later at Twickenham to decide the 1, 2, 3, 4 order.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Colours—White

15	P. Cue	Bristol	Full Back
14	L. Dick X	Cheltenham	Right Wing
13	C. J. Williams	Bristol	Right Centre
12	P. Taylor	Gloucester	Left Centre
11	R. R. Mogg	Gloucester	Left Wing
10	D. Sorrell	Bristol	Stand Off
9	P. Kingston X	Gloucester	Scrum Half
1	G. A. F. Sargent	Gloucester	Prop
2	K. Bogira	Bristol	Hooker
3	A. Sheppard	Bristol	Prop
4	S. P. Boyle	Gloucester	Lock
5	J. Fidler	Gloucester	Lock
6	M. J. Rafter (Capt.) X	Bristol	Flanker
7	P. Wood	Gloucester	Flanker
8	R. Hesford	Bristol	No. 8

Replacements:

16	J. Carr	Bristol University
17	T. Davis	Stroud
18	K. White	Gloucester
19	R. Allen	Stroud
20	M. Hayes	Cheltenham

Touch Judge:

Graham Jones / Somerset Referees' Society

Referee:

A. Welsby Lancashire / Manchester Society

WARWICKSHIRE

Colours—Red and White Quarters

15	P. Rossborough X	Coventry	Full Back
14	P. Knee (Capt)	Coventry	Right Wing
13	R. Grant	London Scottish	Right Centre
12	R. Massey	Nuneaton	Left Centre
11	M. Clifford	Coventry	Left Wing
10	G. Rossborough	Nuneaton	Stand Off
9	S. Thomas	Coventry	Scrum Half
1	T. Dingley	Coventry	Prop
2	S. Brain	Coventry	Hooker
3	F. Melvin	Coventry	Prop
4	A. Troughton	Bristol	Lock
5	J. Jones	Nuneaton	Lock
6	M. Malik	Coventry	Flanker
7	B. Clarke	Coventry	Flanker
8	G. Robbins	Coventry	No. 8

Replacements:

16	K. Tysall	Rugby
17	D. Bailey	Coventry
18	P. Lander	Coventry
19	A. Farington	Coventry
20	S. Wilkes	Coventry
21	R. R. Fardoe	Coventry

Touch Judge:

David Thomas / Somerset Referees' Society
X Indicates International