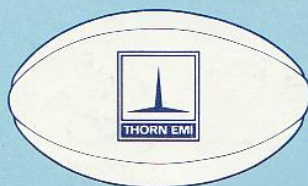


Rugby Football Union



THORN EMI COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

GLOUCESTERSHIRE V DEVON

Saturday 10th October 1981

KINGSHOLM GROUND

Kingsholm Road, Gloucester

KICK OFF 3p.m.

Cost of programme: 20p



THORN EMI COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

GLoucestershire

Colours: Red, with White Shorts

(15)	P. CUE	(Bristol)	Full Back
(14)	A. J. MORLEY	(Bristol)	Right Wing
(13)	J. CARR	(Bristol)	Right Centre
(12)	S. PARSLOE	(Gloucester)	Left Centre
(11)	R. R. MOGG	(Gloucester)	Left Wing
(10)	L. JONES	(Gloucester)	Stand Off
(9)	R. HARDING	(Bristol)	Scrum Half
(1)	G. A. F. SARGENT	(Gloucester)	Prop
(2)	K. BOGIRA	(Bristol)	Hooker
(3)	A. SHEPPARD	(Bristol)	Prop
(4)	S. BOYLE	(Gloucester)	Lock
(5)	J. ORWIN	(Gloucester)	Lock
(6)	N. POMPHREY	(Bristol)	Flanker
(7)	M. RAFTER	(Bristol) (Capt.)	Flanker
(8)	R. HESFORD	(Bristol)	No. 8

Replacements

(16)	G. KOUZARIS	(Bristol)
(17)	K. WHITE	(Gloucester)

Touch Judge:

J. ROBERTS (Gloucester Society Referees')

Referee:

F. A. HOWARD (Lancs./Liverpool)

THORN EMI COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

DEVON

Colours: White with narrow Green Hoops

(15)	K. TURTON	(Plymouth Albion)	Full Back
(14)	K. BUTTERWORTH	(Torquay)	Right Wing
(13)	B. HAINE	(Plymouth Albion)	Right Centre
(12)	S. DONOVAN	(Exeter)	Left Centre
(11)	P. DREWETT	(Exeter University)	Left Wing
(10)	S. WEBB	(Exeter)	Stand Off
(9)	K. SUMNER	(Exeter)	Scrum Half
(1)	W. DAVIES	(Devonport Services)	Prop
(2)	B. PRIDAY	(Exeter)	Hooker
(3)	T. HARRIS	(Exeter)	Prop
(4)	C. PINNEGAR	(Exeter University)	Lock
(5)	G. LOVELL	(Plymouth Albion)	Lock
(6)	S. DAY	(Exeter) (Capt.)	Flanker
(7)	G. JONES	(Torquay)	Flanker
(8)	G. BAXTER	(Plymouth Albion)	No. 8

Replacements:

(16)	A. TREEBY	(Torquay)
(17)	T. WOODROW	(Exeter)

Touch Judge:

R. PENGELLY (Devon Society Referees')

X Indicates International

GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S WELCOME TO DEVON

In our first game of this season's County Championship we welcome Devon Rugby Football Union's representatives to Kingsholm.

Next year the Championship will take on a new formation of leagues which will break up the traditional regional pattern. The results this season will therefore have a special significance.

Despite Gloucestershire's success over the last decade many games have been closely contested, and none have been more attractive than our encounters with Devon.

If the weather is kind to us we expect a close and skilful match today.

Whatever the outcome friendships will be strengthened and though we naturally aim to win we trust our visitors will enjoy their visit.

South-West counties will always have a major contribution to make to our game, and we look forward to this match providing all of us, players, officials, and spectators alike with fun and entertainment.

J. E. Taylor, President
Gloucestershire R.F.U.

WELCOME DEVON !

It seems peculiar doesn't it? Here we are, about to watch a match between a team which has won our sport's premier Championship 13 times and another which has won it 8 times, and yet the game is only important on a regional basis. Surely - it's only in Rugby Union that such a state of affairs could exist.

All of which proves nothing very much, except the often acknowledged fact that our Western group is just about the strongest one in the County Championship. Other strong sides there undoubtedly are, but in no other group can it be said that every game is a real 'toughie'.

And if you accept that - as I'm sure that even a Northumbrian or Lancastrian would - then you'll also accept that the Gloucestershire v. Devon game is likely to be the toughest of them all.

Remember how it was two years ago? Gloucester started by losing to Somerset, which apparently let Devon in. Gloucestershire then beat Devon, which left it all up to the mathematicians.

These things are decided, these days, on the ratio of 'points for' to 'points against'. Gloucestershire scored 40 points, and conceded 36. Devon actually scored more points than Gloucester - 44 - but had also let in more - 40, in fact. This meant that Gloucester's ratio was 0.001 point better than Devon's.

Surely, this must be the only time that a team has gone through to the quarters and semis by the margin of 0.001 recurring!

So Gloucestershire are off on the Championship trail again, starting against very valued and worthy opponents. For the past two years, that trail has led to the County Final. Could this year be the time we go one better?

The glittering prize in 1981/2 is even greater than usual. This is the last year that the County Championship, as we know it, will be at stake, before the new system takes over. Surely it would be thoroughly fitting if the honour went to the West Country.

Whichever team wins today has a good fighting chance of pulling it off. So welcome Devon - we couldn't wish for finer opponents.

THANKS TO THORN

Whatever happens in certain other quarters, we aren't embarrassed by sponsorship in Gloucestershire, and feel it only good manners to give a heartfelt vote of thanks to the Thorn organisation for their continued generous sponsorship of the County Championship. We certainly hope that the arrangement brings Thorn everything they hope for themselves, and welcome the Company's representatives here today.

But why wait for County matches, Gentlemen? Drop in and see more of us - and of our Rugby, anytime you're in the area.

DEVON, GLORIOUS DEVON!

While there is no doubt that the County Championship was in need of an overhaul, it would be regrettable if this were to be the last time that Gloucestershire and Devon were to meet. Yet that is, at least, a theoretical possibility.

Our visitors' record in the Championship bears comparison with any other County - and that includes Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Warwickshire, or anyone else you care to name.

This aspect tends to be obscured by Gloucestershire's dominance of the Group over the past decade and a half, but Devon have always been there and thereabouts, and who's to say that they wouldn't have done at least as well as Gloucester if they had been able to progress farther more often?

Devon first won the Championship as long ago as 1899, when they beat Northumberland at Newcastle. They did it again in 1901, at the expense of Durham, and beat the same opponents in 1906.

The following year, Devon and Durham were declared joint Champions, after two games had resulted in draws. They were back again in 1910 and 1912 beating Yorkshire and Northumberland, respectively.

After that, Devon had to wait until 1957 when they became Champions by beating Yorkshire 12-3 at Plymouth. This has been their last Championship to date, but it was a precious close thing in 1961, when they just failed by only 5 points to 3, to beat Cheshire at Blundellsands. This game was itself a replay, an earlier match at Plymouth having resulted in a no-score draw - and you can't get closer than that!

FIXTURES 1981

For your diary, the next Gloucestershire Thorn County Championship match is in two weeks time at Bath, when the opponents, obviously enough, are Somerset - the last County to beat Gloucestershire.

The set is then completed by the game against the rapidly improving Cornwall side, in their own cockpit at Camborne - surely the Kingsholm of the far West. But you'll have to wait until November 14th if you fancy the trip.

This year, of course, we have a bonus. A Christmas one.

On Tuesday December 22nd, the South and South West Counties take on the Australian tourists, here at Kingsholm - one not to be missed, if you can possibly make it

A WORD FROM GLOUCESTER

May I, as a devout and practising Kingsholm fanatic, offer a welcome and all good wishes from all of us at Gloucester R.F.C., to the many distinguished visitors we have here today.

That includes the players, on both sides, the Officials of both Counties, the representatives of our generous sponsors, anyone who may have strayed this way from the Rugby Football Union, and anyone else I may have forgotten.

Perhaps the County would forgive a small commercial.

The next match at Kingsholm is on Wednesday next, when Gloucester take on the tough Ebbw Vale side. Next Saturday, the Welsh invasion continues with a visit from Newport.

If you can't make Bath for the Somerset game, for some reason, on October 24th, we can offer you a good 'second best' at Kingsholm, when we have a visit from Nottingham.

However - today's County Day. Best wishes for a good, exciting game - and for a County season which lives up to its many illustrious predecessors.

STOP PRESS

Just heard that those wonderful people at British Rail are setting up some special fares for the County match trips - so there's even more incentive to support the lads on away matches.

For the Bath trip on October 10th you can travel from Gloucester for £2.00, or £1.00 if you happen to be under 14. On November 14th, you can travel from Gloucester to Camborne for £7.50 (U14 £3.75), or if you can make up a party of at least 6, the fare comes down to £6.00 and £3.00. Can't be bad!

PETER ARNOLD