

CHAMPIONSHIP

SEMI-FINAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE V SURREY

Saturday 27th November 1982 BRISTOL F.C.

MEMORIAL GROUND, FILTON AVENUE, HORFIELD, BRISTOL KICK OFF 2.30p.m.



THORN EMI COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

WELCOME TO SURREY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION.

The records indicate that we have met our visitors of to-day on three occasions before. Two of these go back to successive years of 1920/21 and 1921/22 when we won, but more recently in1970/71 in a final at Kingsholm we were well beaten.

Other times at club level and at the Rugby Union ensure that we know one another better than that and no doubt our players will be renewing friendly rivalries, and our respective committees will be welcoming meeting at Bristol.

Given reasonable weather we can expect a highly entertaining game and with the prospect of a place in the final available both sides will be keen to win.

Whatever the outcome we aim to make Surrey welcome and hope they will enjoy their memories of the day.

We shall both enjoy being in Division One again next season and wish that to-day's game will illustrate the merit of the new championship format.

J. E. Taylor President



FORTHCOMING MATCHES ON THIS GROUND FOR YOUR DIARY

December 4th v Newport

December 18th v Leicester

December 27th v Newbridge (Monday)

THORN EMI COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

	Colours: White			Colours: White with narrow Red Hoops
15	P. CUE (Bristol)	Full Backs Threequarters	15	N. ANDERSON (Rosslyn Park)
14	A. MORLEY (Bristol)	Right - Wing - Left	14	R. SAINTER (Rosslyn Park)
13	J. WATSON (Bristol)	Right - Centre - Left	13	A. WATKINSON (London Irish)
12	R. KNIBBS (Bristol)	Left - Centre - Right	12	N. MURPHY (London Irish)
11	N. PRICE (Gloucester)	Left - Wing - Right Half - Backs	11	D. WALSH (London Irish)
10	D. SORRELL (Bristol)	Stand Off	10	N. PRESTON (Capt.) (Richmond)
9	R. HARDING (Bristol)	Scrum Forwards	9	A. WOODHOUSE(Harlequins)
1	M. PREEDY (Gloucester)	Prop	1	A. NEWBURY(London Irish)
2	K. BOGIRA (Bristol)	Hooker	2	A. N. OTHER S-BERINSER
3	A. SHEPPARD (Bristol)	Prop	3	P. ENEVOLDSON (London Irish)
4	S. BOYLE (Gloucester)	Lock	4	M. SLAGTER(Richmond)
5	J. ORWIN (Gloucester)	Lock	5	N. MANTELL (Rosslyn Park)
6	J. GADD (Gloucester)	Blind Side	6	R. MONTGOMERY (Rosslyn Park)
8	R. HESFORD (Bristol)	Open Side	7	F. EMERUWA (Manchester University)
7	M. RAFTER (Capt.) (Bristol)	No. 8	8	A. BLAIR (London Irish)
	Replacements:			
16	K. WHITE (Gloucester)			Replacements:
17 18	M. TEAGUE (Gloucester) A. N. OTHER		16	P. CROTTY (London Irish)
19	C. PRICE (Lydney)		17	S. MORIARTY (Harlequins)
20	P. HOWELL (Lydney)		18	K. KENNEDY(London Irish)
21	S. HOGG (Exeter Univ./Bristol)		19	N. P. HINTON (Rosslyn Park)
Tou	uch Judge: A. P. THOMSON (Bristol Referees' Society)		Tour	ch Judge: G. P. HEWITT (London Society of Referee

THORN EMI COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

THE 'SEMI' AT THE FIRST ATTEMPT!

Let's face it - at the beginning of the season, you weren't really all that happy about Gloucestershire's chances of getting to this stage of the new THORN - EMI County Championship, now were you? Go on - admit it!

On paper, it didn't look easy. With the mighty Lancashire, even without Bill Beaumont, and the formidable and developing Yorkshire side, with Alan Old firmly in control, to face at long distances from home, and with the comparatively easier North Midlands side being the only home fixture, the odds were well and truly against us.

It always was an odd game however, and subsequent events have more than adequately refuted the pessimists.

Admittedly, the intransigence of some Midlands and other clubs on the matter of all matches being played on Saturday has distorted the picture, and it's to be hoped that wiser councils will prevail in the future. The County Championship should be England's premier competition, and anything which militates against that must be a matter to be deplored.

I'm not in the confidence of Surrey rugby circles, but I would imagine that today's visitors must be highly delighted to be here too. They've had their problems, and to have weathered the storm in their part of the world is a creditable achievement.

It certainly wouldn't do to take the Surrey challenge lightly. Most of us will remember the South-of-Thames County coming to what Peter West once described as 'the cockpit of Kingsholm' in 1971, and to the bafflement of all the pundits, well and truly putting it across Gloucestershire to the tune of 14 points to 3.

This wasn't their only moment of glory, either. Surrey won their group as early as 1891, and were Runners-up for the Championship in 1896. They were Runners-up again in 1938 and repeated the feat in 1960.

In 1967, they shared the Championship with Durham, having played a 14—14 draw at Twickenham, and a scoreless game at Hartlepool.

However, when you get to this stage, history is interesting, but very little more. We should have a good game on our hands, today, marking an auspicious start to the new-style Championship for both our great Counties.

Whoever wins is going to have to contend with Yorkshire or Middlesex in the Final, which is a daunting prospect. But today's winners must start favourites.

Now, let's get on with the game.

PETER ARNOLD