

**Rugby Football Union**



**THORN EMI**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**

**FINAL**  
**GLOUCESTERSHIRE**  
**v**  
**YORKSHIRE**

**Saturday 29th January 1983**

**BRISTOL F.C.**  
**MEMORIAL GROUND, FILTON AVENUE,**  
**HORFIELD, BRISTOL BS7 0AQ**  
**KICK OFF 2.30p.m.**

Cost of programme:  
30p





# THORN EMI COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

## FINAL

### GLOUCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

1982 - 83

Gloucestershire have always been keenly involved in the County Championship and it is perhaps its successful record which has led to the strong traditional interest of players and supporters which exists today.

This season we are more than ever delighted to be contesting the Final in what is the first year of the new style County Championship played for the THORN EMI Trophy. It hardly seems that sixteen weeks have passed since we began our fixtures with a game against Yorkshire at the Headingley ground in Leeds.

Few persons would then forecast that we would meet again in the Final.

Now the evidence of both sides progress through to this stage, indicates that given reasonable weather conditions, we can expect a highly entertaining game.

We welcome Yorkshire today as a team which plays attractive rugby. They entertained us with exceptional hospitality, in October, and we trust that they thoroughly enjoy their visit to Bristol.

J. E. Taylor, President:

All Rugby followers especially those in the North will be sorry to hear of the passing of the Lancashire RFU President R. H. Wiseman Esq. who had been in poor health for some time. A kindly gentleman who died in office, and the game is the poorer for the loss of men like this.

Bukta playing kit supplied to Yorkshire RFU by courtesy of Jack Lees Sports, George Street, Halifax.

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## Finally, it's the final!

It seems as though people have been discussing what was known as "The Future of the County Championship" for half a lifetime. Committees considered, pundits pronounced, the Press pontificated. And, it went on and on...

At last, the decisions were made, and here we are, on the day that it was really all about. The crunch day. The day when the two best sides in the game's premier competition, saving only the International Championship itself, are to decide which of them can call themselves Champions for the next twelve months.

With all the discussion and controversy it wasn't to be expected that the eventual solution would please everyone, but it is most sincerely to be hoped that the demonstrable stature of the new County Championship will, in the end, convince those clubs who have seen fit to opt out that this is a competition which they really should be involved in. After all, the International squad system makes it more difficult for aspiring newcomers to gain recognition, and the Championship provides a great 'shop window' for them to display their skills in a class side, against class opposition.

If you doubt that last point, take a look at the Yorkshire backs on display today. They're young, they're clever, and they're quick, but how many of them would have caught the eye so quickly, without the Championship?

# THORN EMI COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Colours: Red, White Shorts

- 15 P. CUE (Bristol)
- 14 J. CARR (Bristol)
- 13 S. HOGG (Bristol)
- 12 R. KNIBBS (Bristol)
- 11 A. J. MORLEY (Bristol)
- 10 D. SORRELL (Bristol)
- 9 R. HARDING (Bristol)
- 1 M. PREEDY (Gloucester)
- 2 K. BOGIRA (Bristol)
- 3 A. SHEPPARD (Bristol)
- 4 S. BOYLE (Gloucester)
- 5 J. FIDLER (Gloucester)
- 6 J. GADD (Gloucester)
- 7 M. RAFTER (Bristol) Capt.
- 8 R. HESFORD (Bristol)

### Replacements

- 16 C. PRICE (Lydney)
- 17 T. DAVIS (Stroud)
- 18 N. PRICE (Gloucester)
- 19 K. WHITE (Gloucester)
- 20 G. A. SARGENT (Lydney)
- 21 N. POMPHREY (Bristol)

Touch Judge: R. PARKER North Midlands

## YORKSHIRE

Colours: White

- 15 D. NORTON (Headingley)
- 14 M. HARRISON (Wakefield)
- 13 B. BARLEY (Wakefield)
- 12 S. TOWNEND (Wakefield)
- 11 R. UNDERWOOD (Middlesbrough)
- 10 A. OLD (Sheffield) Capt.
- 9 N. D. MELVILLE (Wakefield)
- 1 P. HUNTSMAN (Headingley)
- 2 P. LAZENBY (Morley)
- 3 J. TINKER (Harrogate)
- 4 P. M. LOCKYER (Blackheath)
- 5 R. WALTERS (Huddersfield)
- 6 P. BUCKTON (Liverpool)
- 7 P. WINTERBOTTOM (Headingley)
- 8 J. ELLISON (Headingley)

### Replacements

- 16 P. J. SQUIRES (Harrogate)
- 17 H. JARZYNA (Morley)
- 18 A. MASON (Roundhay)
- 19 A. MACHILL (Headingley)
- 20 T. C. SINCLAIR (Headingley)
- 21 S. R. TIPPING (Roundhay)

Touch Judge: J. THEEDON Devon

Full Backs  
Threequarters  
Right - Wing - Left  
Right - Centre - Left  
Left - Centre - Right  
Left - Wing - Right  
Half - Backs  
Stand Off  
Scrum  
Forwards  
Prop  
Hooker  
Prop  
Lock  
Lock  
Blind Side  
Open Side  
No. 8

Referee: R. C. QUITTENTON Sussex/London



## THORN EMI COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Perhaps our respected opposition, today, will forgive us for saying that it seems entirely appropriate that Gloucestershire, who have fought out more Finals than any other side, have come through in the new system, and that our partial dominance has not just been a quirk of the previous arrangements.

We're certainly glad to be there - and there's absolutely no doubt that Yorkshire feel the same way. All we need now is a game to match the quality of the occasion. And an absence of fog, of course.

### Yorkshire

I suppose that it was in 1981 that people began to realise that Yorkshire had a team to be reckoned with, coming third in a very tough group which included famous teams such as Uttley's Northumberland and Beaumont's Lancashire. History since then is too recent to need repeating, but they certainly gave the Champion Lancashire a lesson or two, subsequently. But you musn't get the idea that the Yorkshire revival is a modern phenomenon. Indeed, they were Champions as long ago as 1889, and held the title for the five successive years from 1891 to 1896. To put that into perspective, Gloucestershire didn't reach a Final until 1902, when we lost to Durham, and didn't win a title until 1910. The victims? Would you believe, Yorkshire?

The following year, 1911, Devon were the Champions, with Yorkshire again falling at the last hurdle. Nine years later, today's two Counties met again in the Final, providing a game which started Gloucestershire off on a string of three successive Championships. In 1926, Yorkshire won the title for the sixth time, by beating Hampshire, and showed the same discourtesy to Cornwall two years later. There was an interregnum after that though, and the 'Tykes' had to wait until 1953 for their next Championship, beating East Midlands by 11 points to 3. In the meanwhile, Gloucestershire had won four more titles, and had appeared in three other Finals besides. Yorkshire lost a Final to Devon in 1957, and another to a great Warwickshire side in 1963, since when they haven't made it to this stage of the Competition. Exactly 20 years ago, so there's another coincidence for you. In short, there haven't been many periods when Yorkshire haven't been on the scene, or thereabouts. So we can honestly say that we have two genuine, died-in-the-wool Championship-fighting teams on view today. And quite right too.

### Thanks to THORN EMI

If ever anyone deserved a good show today its THORN EMI, who have been generous and loyal sponsors for the County Championship for quite some years now. We realise that it's a business proposition, but it's undeniable that you'll find a great number of people with real affection and respect for the game among the THORN EMI Party here today. Whether that had a bearing on the original decision to sponsor the Championship, or whether we have educated them isn't certain, but either way, the gratitude of all English rugby men is due to them, and our sincere thanks are duly, and cheerfully, offered.

### Dai Walter

There is one man who should have been here today, and isn't. It would have given Dai Walter tremendous pleasure to be able to be part of this great rugby occasion, and, indeed, it won't seem so much like a Gloucestershire Final without him. Any man who can hold down the demanding string of County RFU jobs which he did, for upwards of a quarter of a century has to be something special, as indeed Dai was. A good player, a fine administrator, and a genuinely gentle man - the game can ill afford to lose his like. If there is a Great Rugby Club in the Sky, I'll bet Dai will be running a coach trip to Bristol, today.

Our sympathy to his family and friends, who were legion. It was a privilege to know him, and we will all be very lucky if we see his like again.

PETER ARNOLD