

Rugby Football Union



THORN EMI

CHAMPIONSHIP

SURREY

V

3-22

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Saturday 8th October 1983

LONDON IRISH R.F.C.

The Avenue, Sunbury on Thames

KICK OFF 3.00 p.m.

Cost of programme: 30p



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It gives us great pleasure to welcome Gloucestershire, reigning County Champions, for the opening round of the 1983/4 County Championship. We are pleased too that the game is to be televised and will be featured in tomorrow's BBC Rugby Special.

Last season saw the start of the new style of county championship played in 4 divisions with "2 up and 2 down" promotion and relegation. Whilst not without its critics, particularly in the Midlands where senior clubs object to releasing players for representative matches, the new championship produced some splendid rugby and eliminated the mismatches and runaway victories of the "unstreamed" format of previous years.

On 27 November 1982, the county semi-finals took place between, yes you've guessed it, Gloucestershire and Surrey, and also between Yorkshire and Middlesex. In a fog affected game at Bristol, Gloucestershire ran out narrow but deserved winners over Surrey by 19 points to 16 and then went on to beat Yorkshire in the final.

Gloucestershire are no doubt hoping and possibly even expecting to take a step today towards yet another championship victory but they would do well to remember that Surrey's only outright win in the championship final (we shared the championship with Durham in 1967 after 2 drawn games) was over Gloucestershire at Kingsholm in 1971. Do you think Nigel Starmer-Smith will mention this during his commentary, since he was there, at scrum-half for Surrey?

Anyway, we extend the warmest of welcomes to Iltyd Pearce, President of Gloucestershire, and his party and we look forward to a splendid game.

Dudley Wood

Surrey would like to thank Brian O'Regan for generously donating the match ball for today's game.



MASTER OF THE BREWERS ART
SINCE 1666

WOULD LIKE TO WISH
SURREY COUNTY R.F.U.
EVERY SUCCESS
IN SEASON 1983/84

THORN EMI CHAMPIONSHIP

SURREY Red and White (3) 3	Referee : K. Mott (Notts., Lincs. and Derby)	GLOUCESTERSHIRE White 10 22
15 P. O'Donnell <i>London Irish</i>	FULL BACK	S. Hogg <i>Bristol</i>
14 R. Sainter <i>Rosslyn Park</i>	WING	A. Morley <i>Bristol</i>
13 M. Davidson <i>London Irish</i>	CENTRE	R. Knibbs <i>Bristol</i>
12 A. Watkinson <i>London Irish</i>	CENTRE	R. Mogg <i>Gloucester</i>
11 D. Walsh <i>London Irish</i>	WING	N. Price <i>Gloucester</i>
10 N. Preston <i>Richmond (Capt.)</i>	OUTSIDE HALF	C. Pryce <i>Lydney</i>
9 B. Murphy <i>London Irish</i>	SCRUM HALF	R. Harding <i>Bristol</i>
1 T. Hanessey <i>London Irish</i>	PROP	M. Preedy <i>Gloucester</i>
2 P. Sidi <i>Harlequins</i>	HOOKER	S. Mills <i>Gloucester</i>
3 S. Henderson <i>Rosslyn Park</i>	PROP	P. Blakeway <i>Gloucester</i>
4 P. Ackford <i>Metropolitan Police</i>	LOCK	J. Orwin <i>Gloucester</i>
5 A. McHarg <i>London Scottish</i>	LOCK	J. Fidler <i>Gloucester</i>
6 F. Emeruwa <i>Wasps</i>	FLANKER	J. Gadd <i>Gloucester</i>
7 T. Allchurch <i>Rosslyn Park</i>	FLANKER	M. Rafter <i>Bristol (Capt.)</i>
8 S. McKinney <i>London Irish</i>	No. 8	R. Hesford <i>Bristol</i>
Replacements:	Touch Judges:	Replacements:
16. N. Anderson (<i>Rosslyn Park</i>)	J.C. Little (<i>London Society</i>)	16. P. Howell (<i>Lydney</i>)
17. A. Newbury (<i>London Irish</i>)	J. Cannon (<i>Gloucester Society</i>)	17. D. Palmer (<i>Bristol</i>)

1 pa
 1 pa
 1 dg. 1 pa try
 sent off
 second half