

Rugby Football Union



THORN EMI

CHAMPIONSHIP

FINAL

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

V

SOMERSET

TWICKENHAM RUGBY FOOTBALL GROUND

SATURDAY 31ST MARCH 1984

KICK OFF 3.00 P.M.

Cost of programme: 40p



A MESSAGE FROM THE SPONSOR

Our warmest congratulations to Gloucestershire and to Somerset on reaching the Final of the 1983-84 THORN EMI Championship. Always a special occasion in the Rugby Union Calendar, today's Final is especially notable — Twickenham's magnificent setting providing a prestigious backcloth for this all-West Country tussle.

Significantly, but for the Championship's new format — now in its second season — these two neighbours and advocates of the County game could not both have reached the Final. And as there is nothing like a local 'derby' to inspire that little extra in competitive urgency on the field and generate fiercely partisan yet good-natured atmosphere among the supporters, all the elements exist for a very memorable event.

For Gloucestershire — the current holders of the THORN EMI Trophy — reaching the Final has become something of a regular event. Yet Mike Rafter's team will be determined to hold on to the title they won at Bristol last year against the spirited Yorkshire side.

Even so, while giving no quarter to sentiment we feel that even they will be delighted at the fairytale success this season of Somerset — participating in their first county Final for 38 years.

As sponsors of the competition, we wish both teams every good wish and their supporters an enjoyable and memorable day.

This is the fifth Final of the THORN EMI Championship. The past four have been played to capacity crowds around the country. Indeed, the increasing demand for tickets was one reason why the RFU decided to make Twickenham the 'home' for this important Rugby Union occasion this season.

We continue to hope, of course, that you will reciprocate our support by considering the THORN EMI brands and services shown elsewhere in this programme in *your* permanent home when choosing television receivers and video recorders (whether you buy or rent), cookers, fridges, washing machines, food mixers, records, pre-recorded video tapes, central heating and lighting products — as well as many other non-consumer requirements.

I would like to thank THORN EMI for their continued support of the County Championship, for without this help the present Competition would be extremely difficult to stage. This premier Competition in the RFU calendar continues to give great pleasure and satisfaction to players and spectators alike. It provides a stepping stone and valuable experience to many players in their progress up the rugby ladder and last season produced a great Final at Bristol, an occasion to remember!!

May I wish that all who take part enjoy the games and that good rugby is the result.

C. R. Jacobs
President
Rugby Football Union

SOMERSET'S FINAL SAY

A recital of Gloucestershire's feats in the various forms of the County Championship, presently sponsored by THORN EMI, stirs many emotions, not least a swell of pride among the partisans, grudging admiration from those who are not. National recognition for Gloucestershire's players, though, has been rarely better than sketchy, a state of affairs that makes no sense to the devoted. The county's insistence upon team-work, the application of cohesive unit skills, could explain to an extent the apparent neglect.

Today Gloucestershire contest their 12th Final since 1970. Overall they have won the title 14 times, five of those victories having been since 1972. Only three times in the past 14 years have Gloucestershire not been involved in the Final – and then they contested the semi-finals in those seasons. So that Gloucestershire's players should not have had a greater influence upon England's fortunes in the last decade does not represent food for thought for the devoted – it is a gargantuan feast.

Somerset, to whom I have happily paid a membership fee for more than 20 years (page 15, lower right-hand column, county handbook 83-84, refers . . .), possess no such golden record of past playing achievements. They (We!) did win the title in 1923, scraping through 8pts – 6 against Leicestershire – Peter Wheeler must have still been with Old Brockleians then – and 16 years later lost in the Final to Warwickshire (8pts – 3) at Weston-super-Mare. There was a semi-final place in 1952 – and defeat by Lancashire.

Ken Griffin, one of those extraordinary games players who could succeed with a modicum of preparation and usually declared that another pint was the best training of all, for years afterwards was adamant that he had the winning of the match against Lancashire but, instead, presented the scoring pass to the opposition. As Ken's memory, like his play, was never strong on consistency but aglow with brilliance, it should be recorded that Somerset did not have one of their better days because they were 19 points down fairly rapidly.

That Somerset team of 32 years ago, many of whom will be present today, should jog a score of pleasant memories, nostalgic recollections of days when the County Championship was a competition that did properly represent a worthwhile playing link between club and country for aspiring internationals. There was a big man with a slightly wonky knee called Alec Lewis in the backrow, who subsequently became an England chairman of selectors and was the manager the day South Africa were beaten at Ellis Park, Johannesburg, in 1972.

Somerset's scrum-half 32 years ago was Ben Tuttiett, later to become the county's man on the RFU, though I remember him best as a commanding figure, on and off the field, for Clifton in the days the Club (Yes, the Club) played at Eastfield Road in Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol's gin-and-tonic district. Come to think of it, Alan Morley,


Gloucestershire's wing, who has scored the odd try or 300 for Bristol, lives round the corner from Eastfield Road, which is now a housing estate. I digress . . . as usual.

Others in that 1952 Somerset team included Dick Moule, equally adept in later seasons as centre of flanker, Keith Smith, a powerful wing who was even more lethal when he caught the ball, John Scott, a ball-handling forward who could play front or backrow and score tries in both positions, Bert Bastable, that stalwart from Bridgwater, John Dingle, of Bath, Jack Holt, a goal-kicking fullback from Bristol and Imperial, and John Sainsbury – a demon schoolboy cricketer, I recollect, in Bristol in the latter years of the war.


Yet though many of the 1952 side will be at Twickenham today to applaud Bath in their Somerset kit (with apologies to Peter Stiff and Gareth Williams), the most honoured of the county's guests will be the six surviving members, led by Freddie Goddard, their captain, of the team that last represented Somerset in the Final. Freddie has travelled from his Harrogate home, county tie at the high port, and joining him from the team of 1939 are S. W. Collett, D. L. Roberts, G. A. White, F. W. Williams, W. F. Gray. Welcome, Gentlemen!

John Mason
(The Daily Telegraph)

**THE BIG CINEMA SCREEN
SCORES EVERYTIME**



Wherever you are you're never far from an ABC cinema

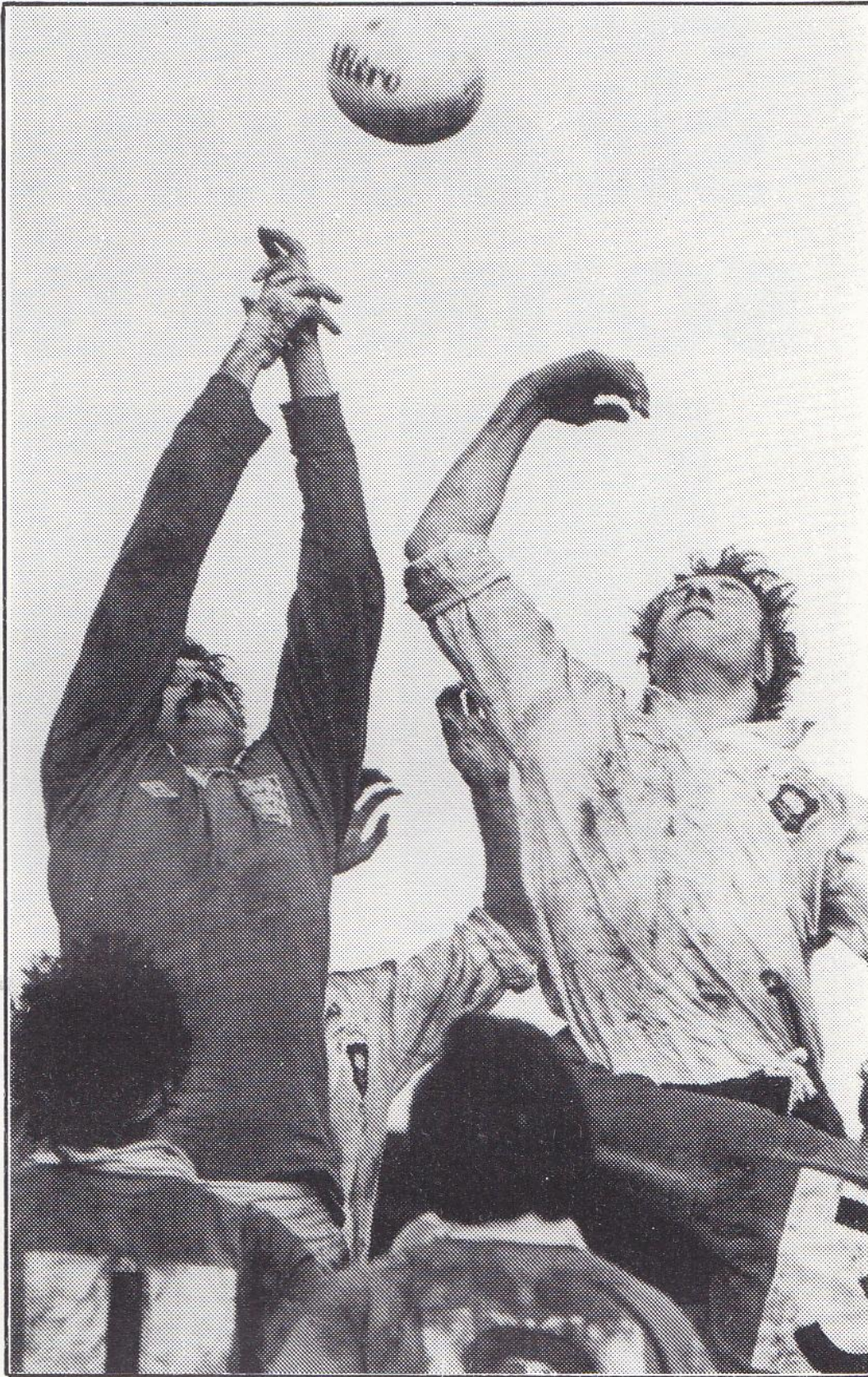
 **THORN EMI CINEMAS LTD.**



Gloucestershire's Steve Boyle breaks away with the ball



Gloucestershire Captain Mike Rafter proudly holds the THORN EMI Trophy with team-mate Bob Hesford (left), who is wearing his souvenir Yorkshire shirt, celebrating after the match



Gloucestershire forward John Fidler challenges Yorkshire's Ray Walters in the line-out



Gloucestershire's John Gadd moves past a tackle from Yorkshire hooker Phil Lazenby as Richard Harding (left) and Bob Hesford move up in support



Gloucestershire scrum half Richard Harding gathers the ball and passes out to full back Phil Cue with Yorkshire's Peter Winterbottom in pursuit

The view from the Woodstock Arms *

by Peter Arnold

"Ar!" quoth the home brew drinker at the end of the bar, "It's a private fight, thic 'un!"

The speaker was a good Kingsholm regular, as indeed is the entire male population of the Woodstock Arms, even if it does include a naturalised Geordie and a Welshman on probation.

We all nodded, sagely, knowing precisely what he meant. If ever there were a County Rugby equivalent of Cricket's Yorkshire v. Lancashire match, it's Gloucestershire v. Somerset, and the reasons go back a long way.

Under the old County Championship system, Somerset were the last side to beat Gloucestershire in the South West Group, in one of those seasons when Gloucestershire had to struggle to proceed beyond that stage, by the odd decimal point, and then waltzed to the Final without, apparently raising a sweat.

For decades, everyone West of Stow-on-the-Wold maintained that theirs was the toughest group, and today's born-again tribal feast does something to justify that contention. After all, they do say that cream rises to the top....

And there is certainly some cream on view today. The Somerset people can – and no doubt will – speak for themselves, but it's worth pointing out that there were seven Gloucestershire players, and two replacements, playing right here in the England Trial, with no room for Messrs. Morley, Mogg, Harding and Boyle – who himself, at the time of writing, can only make the replacement bench, today.

Yet only one player (Phil Blakeway) out of that whole galaxy, played for England, this season and indeed, is the only man out in the middle today, from either side, who represented England against Wales.

One of the good things about the present THORN EMI County Championship system is that no one gets an easy ride. Gloucestershire put it across Surrey, struggled to beat Northumberland, and won two cracking games against Yorkshire and Middlesex. It would be arguable to state that, if anyone can beat Gloucestershire, it's likely to be Somerset, and isn't that what a Final is all about?

The eventual result apart, today's game bristles with interesting confrontations. Can Mogg stop Trick? Can Trick stop Mogg?

How will Barnes compare with Horton? Or Knibbs with Palmer? But perhaps the whole thing will be decided up front, where all the forwards know each other so well. The Bath pack came badly unstuck at Kingsholm, this season, but more than held their own at Bath. The back row battle, full of genuine class players (even without Mike Teague), may prove to be decisive.

Which brings me to the man who I have deliberately left until last – the remarkable Mike Rafter.

Speaking as a good Gloucester man, I make no bones about saying that Bristol, Gloucestershire, and for that matter, England, never had a better servant than the old 'Grafter'. Though he can't have many more seasons to go, he's heartily respected, both on the field and off it. He'll knock over anything that moves, and is a great man for getting his side to put in just that little extra effort which wins County Finals.

All of us up here from Gloucestershire would love to see him walking up the steps to receive the trophy after the game, whether we're from Bristol, Gloucester, Lydney, Stroud, Cheltenham or wherever. And we'd love to see his Bristol colleague Alan Morley at his shoulder when he does it.

However, there are 80 minutes of top-class English Rugby to see before that, and whoever wins, we all hope that the game establishes the THORN-EMI County Championships as the premier competition in the country, and that those clubs who have not chosen to become involved – as I think, misguidedly – will be persuaded to change their minds about it.

It may be a 'private fight', but the implications are much wider for the good of English Rugby Football.

Let's, as they say, lay back and enjoy it.

** If you're in Gloucester, don't bother looking for the Woodstock Arms. It exists, alright, but it's precise location comes under the heading of 'Classified Information'.*

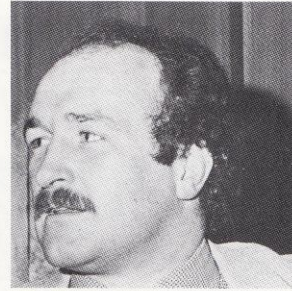
**GLOUCESTERSHIRE KIT FOR TODAY'S THORN EMI COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL
KINDLY PRESENTED BY "MANSFIELD" JOHN MANSFIELD LTD, LANGARRON, ROSS-ON-WYE.**

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Players selected for today's match

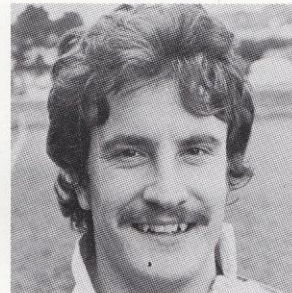
M. RAFTER (Bristol) Captain

Flanker. Age 31, height 5ft. 10in., weight 13st. 7lbs. Born in Bristol and educated at St. Brendan's College and St. Luke's College, Exeter. Mike has played seventeen times for England. Last season Mike captained Bristol in the John Player Cup and Gloucestershire in the THORN EMI County Championship. Forty-five appearances for the county. It is Mike's birthday today. He is a Sports Clothing Representative.



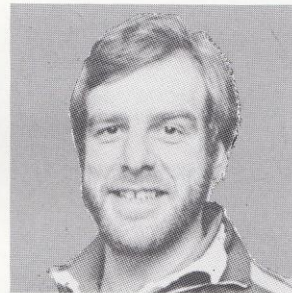
P. CUE (Bristol)

Full-back. Age 28, height 5ft. 9in., weight 11st. 10lbs. Born in Bristol and educated at Patchway High School. First played for Bristol in 1977 season. Played for England Under 23 versus France. Fifteen championship appearances. He is a Sales Representative.



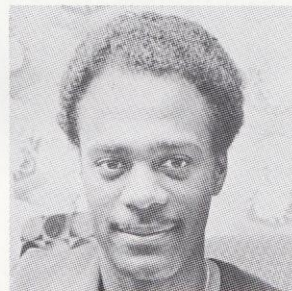
A. MORLEY (Bristol)

Wing/Centre. Age 33, height 5ft. 10in., weight 13st. 2lb. Born in Bristol and educated at Colston School. Has played for British Lions, and has seven caps for England. Alan has played against all the major rugby playing nations. Holds world record for tries scored in first class rugby. Sixty-eight championship appearances. He is an Estate Agent.



R. KNIBBS (Bristol)

Centre. Age 19, height 6ft. 2in., weight 12st. 7lb. Born in Bristol and educated at Whitfield School. Ralph has made a rapid rise through Colts rugby to the Senior side and County. He represented his country at Under 23 level, touring Rumania. Nine championship appearances. A student.



S. HOGG (Bristol)

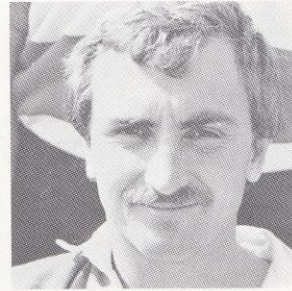
Centre/Fly-half/Full-back. Age 23, height 5ft. 11in., weight 14st. 6lbs. Simon was born in Essex but moved early to Bristol where he attended Bristol Grammar School. This was followed by a teaching course at St. Luke's College. Has played for U.A.U. and English Students. Six championship appearances. He is a teacher.



Photographs – courtesy of "The Citizen", Gloucester and "Evening Post", Bristol.

R. MOGG (Gloucester)

Centre/Wing. Age 28, height 5ft. 11in., weight 13 stone. Born in Gloucester and educated at Haverly School. Richard has represented England at 'B', Under 23 and Colts levels. 36 championship appearances. He works for Severn-Trent Water Board.



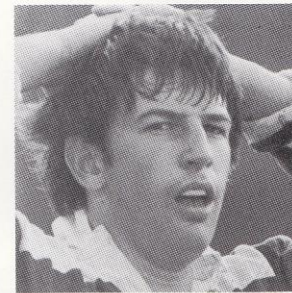
S. BARNES (Bristol)

Fly-half. Age 21, height 5ft. 7in., 11st. 7lb. Born in Essex but educated at Basseleg School, Newport and Oxford University. Stuart has played for England Under 23 and Student level; he has also been a replacement for the full national side this year. Championship appearances - 3. He is a student.



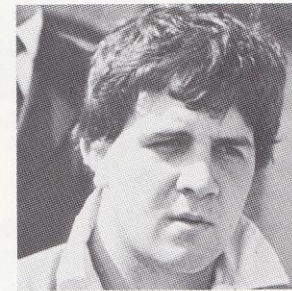
R. HARDING (Bristol)

Scrum half. Age 27, height 5ft. 6in., weight 12 stone. Educated at Millfield and Cambridge University. Richard has represented England at 'B' and Under 23 level. Like his half-back partner, he has also been replacement for the full national side. Richard represented Somerset while at Millfield. Championship appearances - 23. He is an Estate Agent.



M. PREEDY (Gloucester)

Prop. Age 23, height 5ft. 11in., weight 16st. 5lbs. Born in Gloucester and educated at Hucclecote School. Malcolm has been a member of the Under 23 squad. He spent the close season in New Zealand to improve his techniques. Championship appearances - 14. He works for the family building firm.



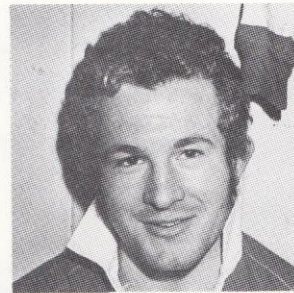
S. MILLS (Gloucester)

Hooker. Age 33, height 5ft. 10½in., weight 14st. 7lbs. Born in Cirencester and educated at Cirencester Grammar School and North Gloucestershire Technical College. Steve has played three times for England, twice against Argentina and once against Wales. Former captain of Gloucester with 22 championship appearances. He works as a computer programmer.



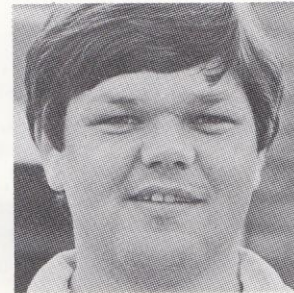
P. J. BLAKEWAY (Gloucester)

Prop. Age 33, height 5ft. 10in., weight 16st. 7lbs. Born in Cheltenham, educated at Sherborne Park School. Phil started his international career against Japan at Under 23 level. He has since gained 13 caps at Senior level and selection for a Lions' tour to Africa. Thirteen championship appearances. He is a fruit wholesaler.



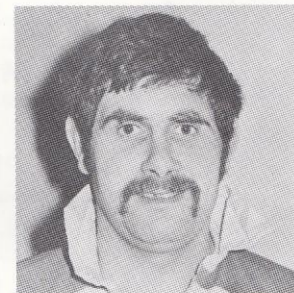
J. ORWIN (Gloucester)

Lock. Age 30, height 6ft. 4in., weight 17st. 7lbs. Born in Bradford, Yorkshire, educated at Buttershaw School, John has played for the Combined Services sides against most of the major touring countries. Thirteen championship appearances. Member of the RAF based at Brize Norton.



J. FIDLER (Gloucester)

Lock. Age 35, height 6ft. 6in., weight 17st. 7lbs. Born in Gloucestershire and educated at Cheltenham Grammar School. John has made two full international appearances for England. Today he makes a record ninth appearance in the final for Gloucestershire. John has played 36 games for the County. He is a policeman.



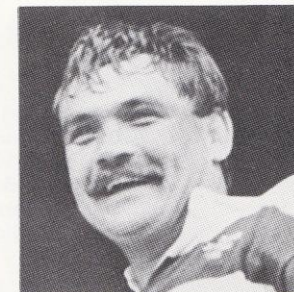
J. GADD (Gloucester)

Flanker. Age 24, height 6ft. 2in., weight 14st. 7lbs. Born in New Zealand but moved early to Gloucestershire. Educated at Newent Comprehensive School, John has played for England at 'B' and Under 23 level, touring the USA, Canada and Fiji. He has made nine championship appearances. He is an electronics engineer.



R. HESFORD (Bristol)

No. 8. Age 29, height 6ft. 4in., weight 16 stone. Born in Blackpool, educated at Arnold School and Durham University. Bob has played five times for England. He has appeared in 29 championship games. He is a teacher.



GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Touch Judge: J. A. F. Trigg (Middlesex/London Society)

White Jerseys, White Shorts

15. **P. G. CUE**
Bristol
14. † **A. J. MORLEY** 2 try
Bristol
13. **R. A. KNIBBS** 1 try
Bristol
12. **S. T. HOGG** 1 try
Bristol
11. **R. R. MOGG**
Gloucester
10. **S. BARNES** 1 try 2 pen 2 conv
Bristol
9. **R. M. HARDING** 1 try
Bristol
1. **M. PREEDY**
Gloucester
2. † **S. G. F. MILLS**
Gloucester
3. † **P. J. BLAKEWAY**
Gloucester
4. **J. ORWIN**
Gloucester
5. † **J. H. FIDLER**
Gloucester
6. **J. D. G. GADD**
Gloucester
7. † **M. RAFTER (captain)**
Bristol
8. † **R. HESFORD**
Bristol

Replacements: 16. K. White (Gloucester);
17. T. Davis (Stroud);
18. M. C. Teague (Gloucester);
19. D. P. Sorrell (Bristol);
20. G. A. F. Sargent (Gloucester);
21. S. B. Boyle (Gloucester).



FULLBACK

THREE QUARTERS
RIGHT WING

CENTRE

CENTRE

LEFT WING

HALFBACKS

STAND-OFF

SCRUM-HALF

FORWARDS

PROP

HOOKE

PROP

LOCK

LOCK

FLANKER

FLANKER

No. 8

† International

Referee:

F. A. HOWARD
(Lancashire/Liverpool Society)

KICK-OFF 3.00 p.m.

SOMERSET

Touch Judge: R. C. Quittenton (Sussex/London Society)

Crimson, White & Black Hoops, Black Shorts

15. **C. S. RALSTON**
Bath
14. † **D. M. TRICK** 1 try 15 N Hopkins (W&S)
Bath
13. **J. PALMER** 4 pen
Bath
12. **A. REES** 1 try
Bath
11. **P. SIMMONS**
Bath
10. † **J. P. HORTON (captain)**
Bath
9. **C. STANLEY**
Bath
1. **C. LILLEY**
Bath
2. **G. BESS**
Bath
3. **R. LEE**
Bath
4. **P. J. STIFF**
Bristol
5. † **R. F. HAKIN**
Bath
6. † **J. P. HALL**
Bath
7. **R. A. SPURRELL** 1 try 2 P Turner (Bath)
Bath
8. † **P. D. SIMPSON**
Bath

Replacements: 16. N. Hopkins (Weston-Super-Mare);
17. K. Prosser (Bath);
18. P. Norris (Bridgwater);
19. S. Bagg (Weston-Super-Mare);
20. N. Redman (Bath);
21. P. Turner (Bath).