

**Rugby Football Union**  
 **THORN EMI**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**



**GLOUCESTERSHIRE**  
**V**  
**YORKSHIRE**

**Saturday 10th November 1984**

**GLOUCESTER R.F.C.**

**Kingsholm Ground,**

**Kingsholm Road, Gloucester**

**KICK OFF 2.45 p.m.**

**Cost of programme: 30p**

## THORN EMI COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

### GLoucestershire

Colours: Red Shirts and Shorts

15	P. CUE	(Bristol)	Full Backs
14	A. J. MORLEY	(Bristol)	Threequarters Right - Wing - Left
13	R. KNIBBS	(Bristol)	Right - Centre - Left
12	S. HOGG	(Bristol)	Left - Centre - Right
11	A. RICHARDS	(Gloucester)	Left - Wing - Right
10	S. BARNES	(Bristol)	Half - Backs Stand Off
9	R. HARDING (Capt.)	(Bristol)	Scrum Forwards Prop
1	M. PREEDY	(Gloucester)	Hooker
2	K. BOGIRA	(Bristol)	Prop
3	A. SHEPPARD	(Bristol)	Prop
4	J. ORWIN	(Gloucester)	Lock
5	A. BLACKMORE	(Bristol)	Lock
6	J. GADD	(Gloucester)	Blind Side
7	D. PEGLER	(Wasps)	Open Side
8	R. HESFORD	(Bristol)	No. 8

Replacements:

16	A. N. OTHER	
17	S. EVERALL	(Cheltenham)

Touch Judge: G. G. CROMWELL Gloucester Referees Soc.

### YORKSHIRE

Colours: White, Blue Shorts

15	D. NORTON (Capt.)	(Headingley)
14	M. HARRISON	(Wakefield)
13	B. BARLEY	(Wakefield)
12	J. BUCKTON	(Saracens)
11	R. UNDERWOOD	(Middlesbrough)
10	A. OLD	(Sheffield)
9	N. D. MELVILLE	(Wakefield)
1	P. HUNTSMAN	(Headingley)
2	P. LAZENBY	(Morley)
3	J. TINKER	(Harrogate)
4	M. VERHOEVEN	(Morley)
5	A. FRASER	(Headingley)
6	S. TIPPING	(Sale)
7	P. BUCKTON	(Liverpool)
8	S. PEACOCK	(Middlesborough)

Replacements:

16	P. GRAY	(Roundhay)
17	D. HERON	(Wakefield)

Touch Judge: T. J. LITCKE, Yorkshire Referees Soc.

Referee: R. PARKER North Midlands



### **Gloucestershire**

Last year's victors, Gloucestershire, pictured at the first THORN EMI County Championship Final at Twickenham.

## **DAVID FROST THE GUARDIAN**

### **A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER**

County rugby, we are often reminded, is not everyone's cup of tea, but those of us brought up in its intense loyalties, its excitements, and its humour know how much good it has done for English rugby and are deeply grateful for the support THORN EMI gives to the County Championship.

My own involvement started early when, just out of school, I was asked to play in a Cornwall trial. At the moment I received the invitation I was in Cheshire and, after spending the whole of the Friday night sitting up in a series of trains from Birkenhead to Redruth, I not surprisingly played thoroughly badly. But the experience of playing with or against such current or future internationals as Keith Scott, Bob Kennedy, Jim George, John Kendall-Carpenter, Squire Wilkins, and Vic Roberts was the stuff to fire ambition.

## THORN EMI COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

### Round Four

One of the good things about the new-style County Championship is that Counties we hadn't seen for years have already attained the status of old friends. This is certainly true of Yorkshire, who had seemed to be the perennial 'bridesmaid' of their group under the old system, and who have - quite deservedly - emerged as a thorn in the flesh of the likes of Somerset and Gloucestershire.

This is the fourth time our two Counties have run across each other in two-and-a-bit seasons, so it seems that the encounter is becoming something of a habit.

It seems inhospitable to mention that our visitors have come second in all three of our recent meetings, but it would not be prudent to read too much into that. County Championship sides can change fairly dramatically between seasons, and this is certainly true of Gloucestershire. The departure of John Fidler, and the absence of such stalwarts as Mike Rafter, Phil Blakeway and John Carr gives something of a new look to the side, while Yorkshire have been discovering new talent too.

Neither does a closer look at the recent Yorkshire record give much ground for complacency. Certainly - Gloucestershire beat them by 23 points to 6 on their last visit to Kingsholm, but I thought, and said, at the time that the scoreline didn't do the 'Tykes' justice, and that was confirmed when Gloucestershire, having gone off the boil a bit, struggled in the end to beat Middlesex by a solitary point in the Semi Final on the same ground.

While that was going on, Yorkshire and Somerset were having an almighty ding-dong at Bath, with the cider lads squeezing home with the aid of a last-gasp lock forward try, and a Horton drop goal which one observer reckoned was closer to the corner flag than to the goal posts.

Results this season also indicate a close run thing today. Gloucestershire had to try hard to beat Kent while Yorkshire were putting it across Somerset. Then, two weeks ago, Gloucestershire and Somerset drew, and Kent - according to one of their props, who doesn't play his rugby a hundred miles from here - were a shade or two unlucky not to beat Yorkshire.

A few nights ago, one well-qualified Gloucester supporter gave his opinion that today's game would be the Gloucester forwards against the Yorkshire backs, but I'm not at all sure he's right. It takes a good pack of forwards to overcome the Somerset eight, but Yorkshire managed it. Conversely, the Gloucestershire backs, even without Barnes, looked at least as good as the formidable Somerset backs at Bath.

So, it seems, we have a thoroughly intriguing game ahead of us.

Yorkshire are, of course, assured of a place in the Semi Finals, while Gloucestershire need to draw, at least, to be sure of proceeding any further. If Somerset lose at Blackheath - and they could - then the situation is clear, of course, but if Gloucestershire lose and Somerset win, then it will all come down to points difference, and Gloucestershire are not all that secure on that score.

Sorry about the mathematics. Perhaps it would be better simply to sit back and enjoy the rugby.

### Thanks to THORN-EMI

It may surprise you to know that this is the sixth season in which THORN EMI have provided the vital sponsorship. It is also the final year of the present agreement, and, the last I heard, no decision had been made about whether the arrangement is to continue for a further period. Personally, I hope it does. So much part of the game have our generous Sponsors become, that it's a bit difficult to imagine the English rose without a Thorn.

## **THORN EMI COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP**

But, whatever the eventual outcome, thanks are due to THORN EMI for six years of unstinting support. Perhaps the most practical thing most of us can do to express that thanks is to remember that Christmas isn't so far away, and when we are thinking about gifts, we might look sympathetically on such brand names as Parkinson Cowan, Main, Moffat, Tricity, Kenwood and Ferguson.

After all, they're all thoroughly British products, and in an era of high unemployment, you might think it right to support a Group that provides 72,000 jobs in Britain alone.

I make no apology for the commercial. If someone puts the hard cash, and the effort, into supporting the Great Game, that THORN EMI have, then they have a perfect right to expect a crack of the whip in return.

Some of us, whatever the official view on nebulous divisional matches, happen to think that the County Championship is important. It's arguable that there wouldn't be a County Championship, right now, without THORN EMI, and our heartfelt thanks go to them.

### **Thanks to Gloucester**

One great advantage of Gloucestershire Rugby is the presence of the Kingsholm ground. When the Auckland, New Zealand, side were here, last season, the President of their Union said to a few of us "You probably don't realise how famous your ground is. If you think about it, Kingsholm is one of the four or five most famous club grounds in the world."

Well, that's his opinion, and who am I to argue with such a luminary of the game?

Gloucestershire RFU thank Gloucester RFC for making the ground available, once again, and also for the organisation that goes into staging such a match. We're lucky to have two grounds, such as Gloucester and Bristol to play our rugby on. Not many Counties can say as much.

### **...and reciprocated**

On a similar theme, it would be remiss of me not to extend a welcome, on behalf of all of us at Gloucester RFC, to everyone else, wherever they come from.

We welcome, as always, the Bristol players in the County side, reflecting that it's a nice change to have Gloucester and Bristol players on the same pitch without seeing a re-run of the Krakatoa eruption.

We also welcome, of course, the Yorkshire players, some of whom we see regularly when their clubs visit Gloucester, while others are respected opponents only when our two Counties try conclusions.

Neither must we forget the referee and the touchjudge. The quality of the match depends to a very great extent on them, and let's face it, the powers-that-be wouldn't be very keen on us playing without them.

Most important, all us soft West Country folk welcome the supporters from 'up North'. It's interesting to recall that last season, Yorkshire brought about six times as many supporters as Middlesex did, in spite of the fact that the gentlemen from Lunnun were here for the Semi Final, and didn't have as far to travel, anyway.

I make no speculation about the reasons for that. Just in case they come again, in a week or two.

### **Notice to Gloucester RFC Members**

I hope you've got your Social Club membership cards with you. Otherwise, you'll have trouble getting into the Clubhouse, after the game.

Well - I did warn you.

PETER ARNOLD