


THE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION
FOR THE
THORN EMI TROPHY
PRESENTED BY
THORN EMI plc

Rugby Football Union
 **THORN EMI**
CHAMPIONSHIP
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
v
SOMERSET

Saturday 16th November 1985
CHELTENHAM R.F.C.

Prince of Wales Stadium, Pittville,
Cheltenham

KICK OFF 3.00 p.m.

Cost of Programme: 30p

THORN EMI COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

EVER HAD THE FEELING YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE?

Not on the Ground, of course, but I'll come to that later. The Point I'm making is that Gloucestershire v. Somerset matches have been such a feature of County Rugby over the past few seasons, that it puts one in mind of Soccer's Rangers v. Celtic match.

And this, in spite of the fact, that the old Divisions had temporarily gone by the board, and so it was pure merit which got the sides together so regularly, and at such late stages of the Competition. Which goes to show how strong the South West Division had become, in the face of competition from such Counties as Lancashire and Northumberland.

No one here needs reminding of the proud record of Somerset in the Championship - they were runners-up as long ago as 1935, when they lost to Lancashire at Bath.

But the game which most of us remember was the Final at Twickenham in 1984. It was a golden day, when everything went right, including the weather. The result was a surprising 36 - 18 win for Gloucestershire. I say, 'surprising' because, although hot thumbscrews wouldn't have wrung the admission from me at the time, we didn't start as favourites, and in the event, the margin between the two sides wasn't as great as the scoreline suggests.

For reasons everyone knows, only two players survive from that triumphant Gloucestershire side. One is Phil Cue, and the other is Simon Hogg, and Somerset will be very well aware that Simon scored one of Gloucestershire's six tries that day.

Games between Gloucestershire and Somerset have always been a feature of West Country Rugby. In fact, I think I'm right in saying that Somerset were the last County to beat Gloucestershire in the old Divisional system, before the short-lived national arrangements were instituted At Bath, as I recall.

A lot of beer has passed over the bridgework since then, and perhaps you may feel, as I do, that not all the changes have been for the better. It is, however, nice to resume Somerset fixtures as part of our own private, West Country scene. Whatever some may say, County Rugby is alive and well as long as Gloucestershire meets Somerset, somewhere along the way.

So the lads from the Cider County are heartily welcome. We can't imagine life without them.

THANKS TO CHELTENHAM

One of the problems of writing bits for two programmes only a week apart, is the necessity to avoid repeating oneself. I make no apology, however, for reiterating what I said at Lydney last week: it is nice to be visiting Clubs and Grounds where the County Championship hasn't been seen for yonks.

In fact, it can be said, without fear of contradiction, that this is the first Championship match ever to be played at the pleasant Prince of Wales Stadium, simply because it hasn't been around all that long.

The home club has of course. Even if Cheltenham's worth isn't always adequately reflected in their results, the Club itself is highly respected over a much wider area than Gloucestershire - witness the fixture list.

As I said before, there always was more to Gloucestershire Rugby than Gloucester and Bristol, and one thing about the new circumstances is that we are now forced to prove just that.

Many of us have fond memories of the old Cheltenham ground, and there is no reason to suppose that the hospitality will be any less heartfelt, just because the Club has been transferred to a new Council house, so to speak.

Our thanks to Cheltenham for their hospitality and their organisation. It's nice to be here.

THORN EMI COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

GLOUCESTERSHIRE (S) 23

Colours: White

	15	P. CUE (Bristol)	
t	14	C. HOWARD (Loughborough College)	
.	13	S. HOGG (Bristol)	
.	12	L. JONES (Matson)	
t	11	T. BICK (Berry Hill)	
d	10	B. RUSSELL (Gordon League)	
.	9	W. HALL (Coney Hill)	
.	1	G. SARGENT Capt. (Gloucester)	
.	2	S. EVERALL (Cheltenham)	
.	3	R. PICKETT (Berry Hill)	
t	4	M. SKUSE (Bristol)	
.	5	P. MILES (Bristol)	
t	6	K. RUCK (Berry Hill)	
.	7	I. SEYMOUR (Berry Hill)	
.	8	J. PRICE (Coney Hill)	

Replacements:
 16 K. DUNN (Lydney)
 17 P. HOWELL (Lydney)

Touch Judge:
 A. J. ROBERTS (Gloucester Society)

THORN EMI COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

SOMERSET (D) 10

Colours: Black, Red, & White Narrow Hoops

	15	M. WESTCOTT (Keynsham)	
.	14	J. LANE (Bristol)	
.	13	A. THOMAS (Bath)	
.	12	A. REES (Avonmouth)	
.	11	A. RUDD (Old Redcliffians)	
.	10	N. EDMONDS (Bridgwater & Albion)	
.	9	C. STANLEY (Bath)	
.	1	C. LILLEY (Bath)	
.	2	J. DEANE (Bath)	
.	3	A. HARRIS (Bridgwater & Albion)	
.	4	D. BARRY (Old Redcliffians)	
.	5	R. KILMOUR (Bridgwater & Albion)	
.	6	K. WITHEY (Bath)	
.	7	M. REECE (Taunton)	
.	8	S. JONES Capt. (Combe Down)	

Replacements:
 16 P. SMITH (Combe Down)
 17 J. ROLLINS (Gordano)

Touch Judge:
 R. SUMMERS (Somerset Referees Society)

Full Backs
 Threequarters
 Right - W/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:
 F. A. HOWARD (Liverpool Referees Society)