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Transcribed by Malc King

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE v. SOMERSET

### COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RE-PLAY

#### FINE WIN FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The excitement of the election dwarfed somewhat the interest in this re-play Championship match at Kingsholm, but despite this fact there was a capital attendance, the weather being delightful. There were several alterations in both teams. Hudson, Johnston and Hayward being absent from the home ranks, whilst Coates, R Dibble and Gunningham were notable absentees from Somerset. The teams took the field a few minutes late as follows:-

#### GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Back – W Egerton (Gloucester)

Three-quarters – C Kingston (Bristol), V Eberle (Clifton), J Spoons (Bristol), and W J Vance (Gloucester)

Half-backs - \*D R Gent (Gloucester) captain, and J Stephens (Gloucester)

Forwards - \*W Johns, \*H Berry, D Hollands (Gloucester), A Teague, E Kilby, J Wright (Cinderford), J Nelmes and W Stinchcombe (Lydney)

#### SOMERSET

Back – E Hartell (Bath)

Three-quarters – A Kitching, J T Timmins (Bath), \*H Shewring (Bristol), and Lieutenant Wade-Gery (Bridgwater Albion)

Half-backs – A Norville (Weston) and A Hatherill (Bath)

Forwards – W H Thomas (Bath), E Cambridge (Bath), W Gibbs (Weston), P Down (Bristol), T Bailey (Bridgwater Albion), R Gilbert (Home Fleet), P Beard (Taunton), and F Dibble (Blaenavon)

Referee: Mr Jones (Bridgend)

\* International

#### THE GAME

Gloucestershire won the toss, and the visitors were deputed to start from the Worcester Street goal with the sun in their faces. A Gloucester man marked from the kick-off, and a high punt being well followed up by Johns, a return was prevented, touch eventually being found inside the Somerset half. Gloucester heeled from the first scrum, and Gent got the ball away nicely to Stephens, but Kingston held on too long and nothing resulted. A free to Gloucester gained ground, but Somerset replied nicely to touch in the home half. Teague, with a good bit of work, regained for Gloucestershire, and centre play followed. From a line-out Somersetshire made headway through Cambridge, and a pretty bout of passing took the visitors well down. Gloucestershire were being beaten in heeling, and several times the visitors got away in smart style. The tackling, however, was very sound. The home backs once handled,

but Eberle threw wildly to Vance, and nothing resulted. Good kicking was witnessed on both sides, and from a return by Egerton, Hartell was checked by Johns, and only partly replied. Some risky passing lost Gloucestershire ground, but a free to the home county saw Egerton have a shot for goal from the centre, a minor resulting. On the drop-out Somerset rushed to the home quarters, where Gent saved cleverly. Then a passing movement occurred with the Gloucestershire backs, ending in Spoor's punting down the field, and Vance forcing Wade-Gery to touch. Good kicking by Somerset was finely replied to be Gent, who gained some 30 yards with a splendid touch-finder. Grand out-of-touch play by the Somerset forwards looked ominous for the home county, but a knock-on resulted in front of the posts. Gent dribbled cleverly from a scrum, and being fouled by Hatherill the latter was penalised. Egerton punted high, and Wright preventing a return the centre was reached. Here Stephens took a low pass from Gent in wonderful style, but a knock-on ensued with Eberle well placed. Soon afterwards the Gloucester half-backs passed and re-passed smartly, and a fine opening was worked out for Eberle. Taking full advantage of his opportunity, the Cliftonian raced past the opposition and scored a lovely try. Egerton failed with the goal-kick. The visitors dropped out, and some fast and exciting play was witnessed. The Gloucester backs were again set going beautifully by Gent and Stephens, but Kingston shaped rather feebly and was collared. By good all-round work Somerset gained a footing in the home half, where Egerton recovered after apparently fumbling. Gloucestershire gained relief, but Somerset returned to the attack, and following neat combination behind, Wade-Gery received, and racing past Vance ran round and behind the posts. Hartell goaled, and gave Somerset a lead of two points. Gloucester re-started, and a keen struggle ensued. From a kick over the line by Kingston, Somerset touched down, and the same player, fielding the drop-out found touch in the visitors' 25 with a fine effort. From this point the Somerset scrummagers came away with brilliant footwork, and got well out of danger before being checked. To the interval Somerset had the better of the exchanges.

#### HALF-TIME SCORE

Somerset.....	1 goal
Gloucestershire.....	1 try

Johns re-started, and the opening stages were fought out at mid-field. For a bad foul of Stephens, Hatherill was again penalised, but a Somerset forward replied finely to the penalty. Hollands was prominent with a neat bit of play near the touch-line, and his kick being followed up, Hartell was floored in possession. At this stage Spoor's retired to repair his foot gear, and Hollands came out to three-quarter. The City player was at once conspicuous with a sharp dash, and Johns getting an opening dribbled well. Shewring, however, gathered neatly and kicked to touch. The Bristolian got the better of Egerton in some exchange kicking, and Somerset were well placed in the home half. Here Gent and Stephens opened out well, but Eberle passed badly to Kingston and ground was lost. Berry and Wright led Gloucester in a good rush, which was checked at mid-field. Gent here fed Stephens smartly, and the ball came along nicely to Spoor's, who punted. Vance raced up, but the ball bounced the wrong way for him. Still, the Gloucester forwards came up and smothered Hartell, and the visitors were hotly pressed. Inside the Somerset 25, Gent and Stephens worked out a pretty opening, and Eberle receiving he dashed through and handed to Kingston, who completed a lovely movement by scoring a try. Egerton added the goal points, and Gloucestershire regained the lead. Somerset restarted, and play settled in the

Gloucestershire half. In a desperate scramble Norville was injured, and had to retire to the touch-line, Shewring playing outside-half. Both teams renewed the struggle with increased vigour, and nothing was given away in tackling. Penalties were given against both sides in quick succession, but the ball was returned with interest each time. The Gloucestershire forwards, Berry, Johns, Wright and Teague being to the fore, brought off some brilliant dashes from the lines-out, but off-side spoiled the movements. Useful kicks by Shewring enabled Somerset to hold their own for a time, but Gloucestershire were not to be denied. Eberle tried hard to break through after gathering a kick, and next Vance, from a cross-punt by Spoons, made a grand effort to cross. He, however, got the ball down a foot outside, and a scrum was ordered five yards out. Somerset cleared from this dangerous position, Shewring kicking well. A mistake by the Somerset touch-judge gave the visitors a large slice of ground, but Gloucestershire soon recovered. Norville, who had returned some little time, did some useful work for Somerset, who, however, were not going so well all round. Gloucestershire had two or three bouts of passing, but Spoons did not give Vance much of a show, and generally kicked. Inside the Gloucester half Eberle fielded from a kick by Norville, and running round passed back inside to Kingston. The latter re-passed, and Eberle, running strongly, got the ball down in the corner for a fine try. Egerton missed the goal. Resuming play was very exciting. Gloucestershire looked to have another chance, but Vance could not keep the ball from touch. Brilliant work by the Somerset forwards took them inside the Gloucester 25, where following some loose work on the home line Gilbert was credited with a try. Hartell failed at goal. Gloucestershire dropped out, and the game continued exceptionally exciting. From an attempt at passing, Shewring and Timmins muddled it between them, and Kingston coming through kicked down the field. Hartell tried to save, but failed, and Spoons, taking the ball over the line, scored behind the posts. Egerton landed a goal. Immediately after the end came.

#### RESULT

Gloucestershire.....	2 goals, 2 tries (16 points)
Somerset.....	1 goal, 1 try (8 points)

#### SOMERSET PLAYER INJURED

Hartell, the Somerset full-back sustained a broken collar bone and other injuries in the plucky attempt he made to save Gloucestershire's final try.