

**TOSHIBA County Championship
Semi-Final 1989-90**

CORNWALL v MIDDLESEX

Saturday, 3rd March 1990

K.O. : 2.30 p.m. at Redruth RFC



CORNWALL RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Patron: H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., K.T.

President and RFU Representative:

W.J. Bishop, J.P.

Hon. Secretary: Dr. C.V. Phillips

Hon. Treasurer: R.J. Plummer

Hon. Asst. Secretaries: J.M. Reynolds and G.D. Williams

Hon. Asst. Treasurer: J.W. Reece

Hon. Team Secretary: A. Kemp

Selectors:

C.R. Johns (Chairman), D. Chatterton, C.J. Durant,

D. Palmer and D. Thomas (Coach)

MIDDLESEX RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

President: M.J. Christie

Representatives to the Rugby Football Union:

P.G. Yarranton and M.J. Christie

Hon. Secretary: G. Catermole

Hon. Treasurer: A.T. White

TODAY'S MATCH BALLS BY GILBERTS of RUGBY



CORNWALL

* International

(Colours : Black & Gold)

- (15) C. ALCOCK (Camborne, Combined Services & Royal Navy) Captain
- (14) B. TREVASKIS (Falmouth & Bath)
- (13) A. MEAD (D & C Police, British Police)
- (12) S. ROGERS (Camborne)
- (11) D. WEEKS (Camborne)
-
- (10) G. CHAMPION (D & C Police, British Police)
- (9) D. RULE (Camborne)
-
- (1) J. MAY (Redruth)
- (2) * G. DAWE (Bath & Launceston)
- (3) R. KEAST (Redruth)
- (4) M. HAAG (Bath & St. Ives)
- (5) A. REED (Plymouth Albion)
- (6) J. POLGLASE (Camborne)
- (7) A. BICK (Lydney & Penzance & Newlyn)
- (8) G. WILLIAMS (Redruth)

Replacements:

- (16) J. WILLIS (Redruth)
- (17) K. THOMAS (Redruth)
- (18) B. ANDREW (Camborne)
- (19) A. ELLERY (Richmond, Army, Combined Services)
- (20) A. COOK (Redruth)
- (21) P. THOMASON (Redruth)

Touch Judge: A.M.W. Reay (Gloucestershire RS)



MIDDLESEX

* International

(Colours : Navy Blue and White)

- Full Back
- Threequarters
- Right - 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:

E.F. Morrison
(RFU)

- (15) S. ROBINSON (Saracens)

- (11) M. WEDDERBURN (Harlequins)
- (12) A. THOMPSON (Harlequins)
- (13) R. LOZOWSKI * (Wasps)
- (14) S. SMITH * (Wasps)

- (10) M. FLETCHER (Harlequins)
- (9) F. STEADMAN (Saracens) Captain

- (1) G. HOLMES (Wasps)
- (2) J. McFARLANE (Saracens)
- (3) R. WILLIAMS * (London Welsh)
- (4) L. ADAMSON (Saracens)
- (5) S. DEAR (Rosslyn Park)
- (6) M. RIGBY (Wasps)
- (7) D. PEGLER (Wasps)
- (8) C. SHEASBY (Harlequins)

Replacements:

- (16) D. JEFFREY (Met. Police)
- (17) R. JENKINS (Met. Police)
- (18) B. MULLUN (London Irish)
- (19) J. JOHNSTONE (Bath)
- (20) M. HOBLEY (Coventry)
- (21) J. FOWLER (Richmond)

Touch Judge:

The C.R.F.U. acknowledges the recent provision of U21 team tracksuits by:-

DH BUSINESS SERVICES LIMITED

THE PROFESSIONAL



LITHO PRINTERS

For all types of business stationery and advertising brochures
Technical literature our speciality

Photo-typesetting and Xerox while-you-wait service from supplied copy.

TREU ROAD CAMBORNE CORNWALL CAMBORNE 719277

CORNWALL VICE-PRESIDENTS

Supporters are invited to apply to become Vice-Presidents of the CRFU. Please contact the Hon. Asst. Treasurer.

CORNWALL RFU 200 CLUB

This club has been running for several years, but there are now several places available for new members. The cost of membership is £10 per year, paid in four instalments of £2.50 and membership will give you the chance to win prizes. Each month three prizes of £10; 6 monthly one prize of £50. The Hon. Assistant Treasurer of the Union would be pleased to enrol new members, please contact him today. (J.W. Reece, St. Austell 73007)

CRFU Centenary Books and New CRFU Pin Badges

are available from the Hon. Secretary:

Centenary Books £3.00 (reduced from £3.95)
CRFU Pin Badges £1.00 (Rugby ball shape)

CORNWALL v MIDDLESEX

By Dick Benson-Gyles - Rugby Correspondent of the Evening Herald

So, it's even-stevens, won two, lost two. Will the fifth meeting in 82 years between the black-and-golds and the Navy-blue-and-whites at the Semi-Final stage go Cornwall's way?

Cornwall have met Middlesex on four occasions in the County Championship Semi-Finals -1908, 1928, 1955 and 1987.

That long ago first encounter, of course, presaged a red-letter day in the history of Cornish rugby; the only year they have won the Championship. They beat Middlesex 19-3 at Redruth and went on to defeat Durham in the Final, also at Redruth, 17-3.

Twenty-seven years on, the black-and-golds won again. This time, at Richmond, it was a much closer affair with Cornwall edging home 5-3. In the final Cornwall went down 12-8 to Yorkshire at Bradford.

An even bigger gap separates the twenties clash with the next Semi-Final with the Home County - 32 years. And now the men from Middlesex triumphed and prevented a Cornish hat-trick (although it is unlikely anyone even realised a hat-trick was on, bearing in mind the span of time involved!)

It was at Redruth and Cornwall lost 10-3, despite fielding a star-studded side. The Cornish were led by John Kendall-Carpenter (an England Captain and currently Chairman of the Looming Rugby World Cup) and boasted in their talented ranks the legendary Bonzo Johns. Bonzo, still the most capped Cornwall player of all time (88) and now Chairman of Selectors, played that day in the second row. And then there were the England Internationals - Vic Roberts (Penryn) on the flank, Roger Hosen (Penryn, Northampton and Bristol), and John Williams (Penzance & Newlyn) in the centre.

It was a good side all right and might have won but for a superb and almost unstoppable try created by the Middlesex halfbacks J.E. Williams and D.G.S. Baker.

But the black-and-golds fought superbly against a XV containing no less than nine internationals. Cornwall's solitary score was a penalty from fullback Harold Stevens. 15,000 avid supporters watched the battle unfold.

Bonzo Johns remembers: "They were a great side and they had Peter Yarranton and Woodward. They relied on skill and we on guts. Of course they played a better class of rugby each week than we did". Has anything changed!?

We move on 32 years now to that marvellous match at the Stoop just three years ago in 1987 when Cornwall so nearly pulled it off. They lost 20-18 in a game full of heroism and heartbreak.

Only a moment of relaxation early in the second half and the performance of Middlesex flyhalf Mark Fletcher - who is playing again today - thwarted the black and-golds. He scored 16 points with two tries, two penalties and a conversion.

Cornwall played with such fire and finesse that the Duchy supporters chaired skipper Grant Champion - who too plays today - off the field to tumultuous applause. You would have thought Cornwall had won. Middlesex were impressed by these men from the far west, most of whom they had never heard of. The memory obviously still burns brightly, because they have brought down a side further stiffened from their most recent outing by the inclusion of two more internationals in centre Rob Lozowski and wing Simon Smith.

On that March day in 1987 it was a stalemate 3-3, a penalty apiece, at the interval. Then a superb try and conversion by Champion, following a Fletcher penalty, edged Cornwall ahead 9-6. Middlesex then pulled away to 20-12 but it wasn't over yet. Wing Jon Bowden burst over in the corner and Champion - who bagged a total of 14 points - coolly lofted an imperious touchline conversion. There were just two points in it and the suspense was only ended by the final whistle.

Afterwards at least four of the Cornwall side were in tears in the changing-rooms and an emotional Champion said: "I'm just so proud of everyone. Every single one gave 100 per cent and the support was fantastic. When Fletcher got that try a lot of sides would have given in but we had a thousand supporters here and 200,000 listening on the radio".

And today, at the Recreation Ground, it will be the same story, because for Cornwall - players, Trelawny's Army, exiles, one and all - the County Championship is the only national showcase available to display their rugby wares - commitment, teamwork, fire, flair and not inconsiderable skill.



Service, style & attention to detail

* 50 Beds - all en suite * Sauna, Solarium, Sunlounge

* Swimming pool * Unrivalled sea views

* Direct access to beach * Superb restaurant

* FUNCTIONS * WEDDINGS

* BANQUETS * TRADE SHOWS

We are pleased to support the Cornwall R.F.U.
and proud to supply the team shirts.

AA ★★★RAC

**PORTHMINSTER
HOTEL**

ST. IVES, CORNWALL TR26 2BN

Tel: (0736) 795221