

## = 1979 Gillette Cup Final =

The 1979 Gillette Cup Final was a cricket match between Somerset County Cricket Club and Northamptonshire County Cricket Club played on 8 September 1979 at Lord 's in London . It was the seventeenth final of the Gillette Cup , which had been the first English domestic knock @-@ out competition between first @-@ class sides . Northamptonshire had won the competition in 1976 ; Somerset were playing their second consecutive final , having lost to Sussex in 1978 .

After winning the toss , Northamptonshire captain Jim Watts opted to bowl first . Somerset scored 269 runs off their full allocation of 60 overs , during which West Indian batsman Viv Richards top @-@ scored for the county , totalling 117 runs . In their response , Northamptonshire lost early wickets , but a partnership of 113 between Geoff Cook and Allan Lamb kept them in the game . Six wickets from Joel Garner helped Somerset bowl their opponents out for 224 with 3 @.@ 3 overs remaining , earning the county the first trophy in their 104 @-@ year history .

## = = Background = =

Northamptonshire 's only previous Gillette Cup Final appearance had come three summers earlier when they beat Lancashire by four wickets to win the 1976 Gillette Cup , which was the club 's only silverware since becoming a first @-@ class county in 1905 . Somerset had appeared in two previous finals , losing in 1967 to Kent , and in 1978 to Sussex . In addition to losing the Gillette Cup final in 1978 , Somerset had narrowly missed out in the John Player League , and according to Vic Marks , there was " a deep determination to atone for the acute disappointments of the 1978 season . "

## = = Route to the final = =

Northamptonshire entered the competition in the second round , in which they were drawn against Surrey County Cricket Club . They won the match by six wickets , aided by a century from Geoff Cook which earned him the man of the match award . In the quarter @-@ finals , they beat Leicestershire by eight wickets , with particularly economical bowling from Sarfraz Nawaz and Richard Williams helping to limit their opponents to 180 , a total which Northamptonshire reached with 4 @.@ 2 overs to spare . Northamptonshire batted first during their semi @-@ final against Sussex , a match which they won by 37 runs . Allan Lamb and Peter Willey shared a partnership of 157 for the fourth wicket , and Willey 's economical bowling was then instrumental in restricting Sussex to 218 , for which he was named man of the match .

Like their opponents in the final , Somerset joined the tournament in the second round , facing Derbyshire . Bowling first , Somerset limited their opponents to 224 ; Joel Garner was their most economical bowler . In reply , Somerset captain and opening batsman Brian Rose remained not out on 88 when his side reached their winning target with 3 @.@ 5 overs remaining , having lost two wickets . Kent travelled to Taunton for the quarter @-@ final , in which Somerset chose to bat first after winning the toss . Only Graham Burgess reached a half @-@ century for Somerset against a bowling attack which included five Test players . In Kent 's reply , Garner claimed five wickets and Ian Botham three as Somerset bowled their opponents out for 60 runs . Against Middlesex in the semi @-@ final , Somerset 's bowlers were once again led by Garner , who picked up four wickets as the London @-@ based club were dismissed for 185 . Somerset won with 9 @.@ 4 overs remaining for the loss of three wickets and Peter Denning remained unbeaten on 90 .

## = = Match = =

## = = = Summary = = =

The sun was shining on the morning of the final , and Somerset 's captain Brian Rose was glad

when Northamptonshire won the toss . The conditions favoured batting first , but had Somerset won the toss they would most likely have chosen to bat second , given their success in chasing throughout the season . Northamptonshire captain Jim Watts opted to field , giving Somerset the benefit of batting first . Somerset 's opening batsmen began quickly , taking the score to 34 before Peter Denning was caught by the wicket @-@ keeper George Sharp off the bowling of Sarfraz Nawaz . His wicket in the seventh over brought in Viv Richards . Before going out to bat , Richards focussed his mind on the fact that " it wasn 't a day for daring , carefree sixes . It was a day for maturity " . Rose played a patient innings for his 41 runs , before being bowled by Watts , leaving Somerset 95 / 2 . At the other end , Richards was playing what David Foot described as " a controlled gem " . He remained at the wicket until the final over , scoring 117 runs in a chanceless innings . His boundaries were scored predominantly from straight drives and leg hits , powerfully struck . Ian Botham played aggressively when he came in at number five , scoring 27 runs off 17 deliveries , and Joel Garner played similarly when he batted towards the end of the innings , adding 24 runs to the total . Somerset batted through their full allocation of overs , finishing on 269 / 8 . Of the Northamptonshire bowlers , Watts was the most economical , conceding 34 runs off his 12 overs . Tim Lamb conceded the most , allowing 70 runs to be scored from his 12 . The wickets were shared by the bowlers ; Watts , Lamb and Griffiths took two each , while Sarfraz Nawaz and Peter Willey claimed one apiece . Towards the end of the innings , Watts broke a bone in his right hand when catching a throw from the outfield , which prevented him from participating further in the match .

The Northamptonshire reply was made more difficult when Garner trapped Wayne Larkins leg before wicket and induced Richard Williams to hit his own wicket during his opening bowling spell . Opening batsman Geoff Cook was then joined at the crease by Allan Lamb , and the pair fought back , adding 113 runs in 13 overs before Cook was run out by Roebuck . In his history of Somerset cricket , Roebuck describes this run out as vital , though he does not give himself credit , stating that " Geoff Cook ran himself out " . Marks identified the point at which Lamb was stumped by Derek Taylor as the point at which " victory was almost assured . " Jim Yardley and George Sharp added 20 and 22 runs respectively , but with their captain , Watts , unable to bat through injury , and Somerset 's West Indian fast bowler Garner in good form , Northamptonshire were bowled out for 224 . Garner added four more wickets to the two he had taken during his first spell , to finish with career @-@ best figures of six wickets for 29 runs . Garner , Botham and Keith Jennings all bowled very economically , each restricting their opponents to less than 30 runs from their bowling . Somerset won the match by 45 runs , winning the Gillette Cup , the first trophy they had won during their 104 @-@ year history .

= = = Scorecard = = =

= = Aftermath = =

Somerset were awarded £ 5 @, @ 500 for winning the competition , while Northamptonshire collected £ 2 @, @ 500 . The day after their success in the Gillette Cup Final , Somerset travelled to Nottingham , where they beat Nottinghamshire to clinch the 1979 John Player League . The Somerset captain , Brian Rose was one of two Somerset players to be named as a Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1980 , primarily for his captaincy of Somerset during the 1979 season . Also one of the five players was Joel Garner , of whom Wisden said " His part in Somerset 's double success during 1979 admits no arguments as to his potent and continuing ability to swing matches . " Northamptonshire were eliminated in the first round of the 1980 Gillette Cup , but won the 1980 Benson & Hedges Cup , defeating Essex in the final .