

First Match at Kingsholm - Gloucester v. Burton.

(This report immediately followed the report of the opening of the ground.)

The company then walked to the centre of the field, and almost immediately the Burton men put in an appearance, and were greeted with loud applause. Upon taking up their position in a group their photographs were taken, after which the ball was placed down, and, amidst loud and continuous shouts of applause, Mr. T. Robinson kicked off. The ball did not go beyond the opposing forwards, and play settled down in the centre. A. Collins headed a dribble to the 25, and the full back's kick being stopped the game settled dangerously near the visitor's line. Hughes kicked well, and it appeared as if the back gave a touch-down, which brought forth loud cheers. It proved, however, that the ball was made dead outside the line. Several attempts at passing between the Gloucester backs took place, but they proved fruitless. However, a try resulted within five minutes of the start, Henshaw kicking over the line, and Ball following up and scoring a good try. Jackson had no difficulty in kicking a goal.

Some of the Burton forwards were off-side when the ball was kicked off, and from the scrum which took place George handed the ball to Jackson, who passed to Taylor, and the latter showing his great speed, kicked well, followed up, and necessitated Ward kicking dead. Following the kick-out, Jackson showed a splendid piece of dodging, but was eventually collared by Greenwell. Marsden relieved the pressure by kicking into touch at the half-way, but the Gloucester forwards worked it back to inside the 25. Here Powell secured possession, but being surrounded passed to Bagwell, who scored in the corner. Hughes made a poor attempt at goal.

Gloucester kept up the pressure, and another minor resulted from good forward play by Healing. Shortly afterwards George took the ball from a scrum close to the goal-line, and running round scored under the posts. Jackson again converted. On kicking off, Frank Evershed tried the ruse of a short kick, and in the result play was carried to the Gloucester 25. Here Gorton did a good dribble, and the Burton backs tried some passing, Marsden making an attempt to drop a goal. The first minor was then secured by Burton, Hughes touching down.

Following the kick out the Gloucester forwards did some good passing, and took the ball into the visitors' territory, A. Collins and J. Williams being conspicuous for good passes. Smith, however, by a big kick, sent the ball into touch past the Gloucester 25. It was not destined to remain here long, forward play taking the ball to the centre, and Powell still further improving the position by kicking at an angle across the ground into touch well up the line. The same player almost immediately afterwards scored in the corner after a clever run. Hughes again failed, but the Gloucester back, a moment or two later, evoked loud applause by a grand drop for goal from outside the 25. The ball only dropped short by a few yards. After an interchange of kicks the ball settled in the Gloucester half. Hughes, when hard pressed by the two Eversheds and A.

Gorton near the line, made one of the grandest saves ever seen. He wriggled through his opponents in fine style, and kicked the ball to a safe distance.

Half-time was shortly after called, play being at the centre, with the score :- Gloucester, 2 goals, 2 tries, 2 minors (14 points); Burton, nil.

On change of ends Jackson returned Evershed's kick-off to the centre, and a scrum was here formed. The Gloucester forwards breaking through carried the play into Burton's territory, Healing being noticeable for a good dribble. Ward kicking out, Jackson received the ball, and made a splendid drop for goal from between the quarter and centre flags. The ball went a little to the side of the goal. Following the kick-out, Lowe did a good run, getting by the line of three-quarters, but being eventually tackled by Hughes, Jackson and Powell. George and Cromwell next showed up well, and aided by a miss by the Burton back carried the ball to the visitors' line. Here a scrum was formed, and when the ball came out George and an opponent fell on it. The Burton man had the best of it, however, and a touch only resulted. In the following play Page evoked considerable enthusiasm, by a pretty and well-judged dribble, being well seconded by George and C. Williams. As the result of the second the ball went over the line, and Ward, being accompanied by Page and another Gloucester forward, executed a clever save by lifting the ball dead with the top of his toe.

The game was shortly afterwards stopped for some minutes near the 25 whilst Jackson struggled into a new jersey, the crowd getting much amusement from his contortions. When play was resumed Jackson Bagwell and Jackson did a piece of splendid passing, Powell showing tremendous speed. He was, however, stopped near the corner. Continuing to press one or two opportunities presented themselves, but the passing went wrong.

Gloucester won by 2 goals, 4 tries and several minors (18 points) to 2 minors.

Touch judges, T.G. Smith and T.E. Lovel. Referee, G. Rowland Hill.