

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1876.

FOOTBALL. — *Gloucester v. Flamingoes.* — On Saturday last this, *the* match of the season so far as the Gloucester Club is concerned, was played on the Spa Ground, and resulted in a decisive victory for Gloucester by one goal and two tries to nothing.

Before speaking of the match itself we would congratulate the teams on the *bona fide* friendly rivalry that marked the play throughout, instead of the unseemly wrangling that so often mars a football match. From "kicks off" to "no side" there was no dispute of any sort, and a more pleasant game had seldom been played.

As to the match, the home team having won the toss and chosen to play with the sun at their backs, Flamingo captain kicked off at 2.45 punctually. The ground was so slippery after the thaw that falls were the order of the day, and any display of running powers by the backs or half-backs was out of the question. Boughton (who made himself conspicuous throughout) alone seemed able to keep his feet, and after some sharp play on both sides he secured a try for the Gloucesterians. The place kicks were entrusted to Brown, who apparently was not in luck, for the ball, though well directed, struck the cross-bar full in the centre and rebounded.

After varying success and a good run for the Londoners by A. C. Hartley the leather was driven down to the Gloucester goal, and kept in dangerous proximity for a short time. Cheered on, however, by one of their captain's invigorating "view-halloes," the Gloucester men pulled themselves together, and carrying the ball through numerous scrimmages, in which their greater weight told (as it did throughout the game), once more besieged the enemy's quarters, and with so much effect that Molineux soon obtained the second try, the kick at goal being again unsuccessful.

After half-time and change of goals the journey, or want of condition, or at any rate something, seemed to tell on the foreigners, and though they played very pluckily, yet both the ground and the additional weight were against them. Just before time was called Brown gained his laurels and the home team a goal through a splendid kick from a try credited to F. Stephens.

For the Flamingoes, the Hartley brothers, Pine, Whalley, Shaw, and Rowsell did good service; and for Gloucester, in addition to those already named, we may particularly mention Weston and Dewey, but all played well.

It is only fair to say that in consequence of the threatening state of the weather, and from other unavoidable reasons, only eleven men actually came from London. Through the courtesy of three gentlemen, however, who volunteered their services to the Flamingo captain, fourteen played on each side.

There was a very large attendance of spectators both inside the enclosure and around the ground. The ladies mustered in full force on the pavilion, where seats had been arranged for them, and their presence added largely to the interest felt in the game both by the on-lookers and the players, and probably had a good deal to do with the result. The Gloucester club hope that now ladies have been inside the ground they will grace the remaining matches of the season.

The two teams afterwards sat down to a well-served dinner at the Ram Hotel, where in a neat speech the Gloucester captain thanked the plucky Londoners for coming so far, and expressed a hope that the match would be made an annual one, a wish that was greatly applauded by all present, the Flamingoes being also anxious that if possible a return match should be played in London this season.

The visitors appeared to be delighted with their reception. Only one returned to town on Saturday night, and the last batch did not leave until Tuesday.

We should add that Messrs. W. A. Lucy and R. P. Sumner acted as umpires to the great satisfaction of both sides.

The following were the players : —

Flamingoes : — A. C. Hartley (captain) and N. Rowsell (backs), A. Maclean (three-quarter back), F. M. Shaw and W. V. Graham (half backs), A. Pine, F. W. Hartley, L. T. Whalley, A. Rogers, J. Maclean, H. P. Welsh, Jessop, A. Payne, and R. Clements.

Gloucester : — F. Hartley (captain and half back), J. Brown and H. L. Cooke (backs), W. Boughton (half back), W. G. Bosley (three quarter back), H. Jewesbury, W. J. Weston, F. Molineux, A. E. Villar, S. Lane, G. J. Dewey, H. J. Berry, F. Bennett, and F. Stephens.