

## GLOUCESTER JOURNAL

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### *The Week's Sport.*

"Club match" was the original arrangement for Saturday at the Spa, but during the week this was improved upon, and a match was arranged with Mr. H. V. Page's XV., a scratch team picked from Cheltenham College, Bristol, the Gloucester Club, etc.

The team proved to be a strong one, and it was late in the game ere the home men could register any definite point against them. During the first half they played a wonderfully plucky game, and had by no means the worst of the play; whilst in the second half, though undoubtedly beaten in the forwards, they still worked as hard and pluckily as ever, and never flagged or went to pieces in the smallest degree. The game, which was even at half time, ended in a win for the home team by two goals and a try to *nil*.

Where the Gloucester team suffered was at three-quarter, where in all, or almost all the attacking movements, they were represented by only two three-quarters, the two wing men standing idle, and practically spectators to the attempts of Bagwell and C. E. Brown to run in, the former being particularly neglectful of the wing, and Youngman was given little opportunity of allowing what he could do.

The home forwards seemed to think they had a somewhat easy task on, and did not appear to exert themselves over much, except on certain occasions, when it became necessary to clear their lines which had been invaded by a rush of visitors. On these occasions they exhibited brief flashes of their true form, and quickly transferred the scene of action from one end of the ground to the other. Ellis appeared among the most prominent, and he was often to be seen coming through the squash in fine style.

Witcomb, Cromwell, Jenkins, and O. Williams also played a good game, but it is difficult to single out any for special praise. The halves as usual played a grand game, passing to one another in the smartest possible manner, often from the very feet of the opposing forwards, whilst George put in a few dashing bits of play, and Ball's tackling was "safe as the bank."

Of the three-quarters almost enough has been said, but it may be remarked that, apart from the objection urged against their play, Bagwell and Brown took passes well, and ran strongly. Leighton did not shine, and does not seem well suited to the position of wing three-quarter, though, perhaps, were he to change places with Brown or Bagwell he would be more at home, for he is a good sound drop-kick, and would be dangerous in front of an enemy's goal. Hughes maintained his splendid form, and did a lot of good work.

We are sorry to see a tendency on the part of the team to lapse into play of an unnecessarily rough description, and it is to be hoped they are not going to so degenerate as to take up a position on the level occupied by teams whose play in this respect has been no more severely criticised than in Gloucester, and by Gloucester players.

Of the visitors, the three-quarters tackled and passed well, but could not make much impression on the defence of the home team.

The forwards played hard and well, and the halves were fairly sharp. E. Smith, at back, did not shine like Hughes, but made no big mistakes.

Teams :—

Gloucester: — A. F. Hughes, back; C. E. Brown (captain), T. Bagwell, F. S. Youngman, and W. Leighton, three-quarter backs; S. A. Ball and W. George, half-backs; E. D. Tandy, G. J. Witcomb, A. Cromwell, R. Jenkins, T. Collins, E. Ellis, C. Williams, and A. H. Brown, forwards.

Mr. H. V. Page's XV. : – E. Smith, back; Rev. J. Patterson, H. Healing, H. Greatwood, and R. W. Stoddart, three-quarter backs; P. A. Turner and T. Prain, half-backs; C. Porcher, A. E. Healing, M. H. Erskine, A. Thomson, H. Poole, H. V. Page, Trevor Powell, and H. G. Brown, forwards.

Wednesday was a red letter day in the annals of the Gloucester Football Club, for on that day they, for the first time since the formation of the club, tried conclusions with a team from the Broad Acres. The match was with Huddersfield, who of late have made great strides towards regaining the position they held ten years ago at the top of the clubs in Yorkshire, and it ended in the hollow defeat of the home team by a goal and four tries to one try.

That the visitors were superior at all points of the game was very evident. The game itself was unnecessarily rough, the forwards on both sides tackling with considerable violence, which was not at all called for, and which pointed to the conclusion they lost their temper.

At the start Huddersfield began playing a very fast and dashing game, and were not very careful in tackling their opponents, but the Gloucester players would have shown much better taste if they had kept their temper, instead of retaliating with unnecessary roughness, which led on to the disgusting exhibition which resulted in Cromwell and Walker, one of the visiting forwards, being warned off the field, and other exhibitions almost as serious, and quite as unpleasant to witness.

We are unable to see how squabbles which occurred several times arose, but we noticed George on more than one occasion resent what appeared to be some undue violence on the part of members of the other team, but after the dismissal of the two players mentioned the roughness seemed in a great measure to disappear, though the men did not appear to handle each other "in the kindest possible manner." The game seemed fraught with disaster, for before it had been in progress long Richmond had to leave, an old injury showing itself again, and he was followed by W. Schofield, who injured ribs, and J. H. Shaw, with a dislocated shoulder.

Thus when the two men had been warned off, Huddersfield were minus the services of four men and Gloucester one. Even with three men less Huddersfield more than held their own; in fact it was then that nearly all their points were scored – when two three-quarters were playing against the Gloucester quartet and doing infinitely more work than all the four.

The ground was very wet and the ball was slippery, but that did not excuse the really miserable show made by the home three-quarters. Youngman did nothing, failing when it came to a matter of pace to keep up with Dyson, having no opportunity of doing anything in the attacking line, and failing miserably when required to stop a dribble of the visitors; Bagwell did not shine as he usually does, very seldom handling the ball; Brown stopped several ugly rushes but in other respects was not conspicuous; and Healing had absolutely no chance of doing himself justice.

Hughes, at back, was all there, but not so brilliant as on some previous occasions. George played well with his feet, but could not handle the ball, being smothered by the visiting forwards; and Turner similarly situated played as good a game as could possibly be expected under the circumstances.

No half-back could do himself justice under the conditions that were prevalent on Wednesday, for the ball was greasy, as we have already said, and the ground slippery; and the home pack were thoroughly beaten, the visitors rushing them in such a manner that the halves had no chance of securing the ball, to say nothing of passing.

Heavy, strong, fast, determined, the Huddersfield forwards swept the heavy Gloucester "ups" in front of them as if they had been a lot of school-boys, and it was only on occasions when they put forth spasmodic and frantic efforts, that the home men had a "look in."

In the second half the game was more even, but then the visitors felt the absence of three of their men very much.

The visitors' forwards were beyond a doubt a fine lot of players, and to them a great deal of credit of the victory is due, but too much praise cannot be accorded to Dyson and W. England, who played the four Gloucester three-quarters themselves, and not only prevented them from doing anything at all, but succeeded in shining brilliantly themselves.

England was very safe; he never missed the ball, and ran and kicked with great skill and judgment, while Dyson used his tremendous pace to the best purpose, and had no difficulty in several times running round Youngman. These two Huddersfield players were altogether above the standard of the home backs, and completely eclipsed them, and what might have been had the crack, A. L. Brooke, been in his place, we will not venture to predict.

The halves played well, and fed England most assiduously, Archer especially being conspicuous for his good all round play. Pearson did all that was required of him fairly well, but was not so good as Hughes. The tries were scored by Dyson and Archer, two each, and France for Huddersfield, and Jenkins for Gloucester.

The following were the teams : –

Gloucester : A. F. Hughes, back; C. E. Brown (captain), T. Bagwell, F. S. Youngman, and H. Healing, three-quarter backs; W. George and P. A. Turner, half-backs; G. J. Witcomb, A. Cromwell, R. Jenkins, T. Collins, E. Ellis, C. Williams, J. Williams, and A. E. Healing, forwards.

Huddersfield : S. Pearson, back; J. Dyson, W. H. England, and F. W. Richmond, three-quarter backs; J. Kaye and H. Archer (captain), half-backs; P. Jackson, G. Mitchell, W. Schofield, O. France, F. Walker, J. Schofield, J. W. Thewlis, T. H. England, and J. H. Shaw, forwards.