

# GLOUCESTER JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1890.

## *The Week's Sport.*

The Gloucester club achieved a big performance last Saturday at Moseley, when they defeated the local team by no less than four goals and three minors to nil.

Unfortunately neither side was fully representative, and, perhaps, Moseley had most grounds for complaint on that score, for five of their regular team, mostly forwards, were unable to render their usual assistance, while on the other hand T. B. Powell, who was picked to fill the vacancy at three-quarter in the Gloucester team, was too unwell to play, Ball was also indisposed, and their places had to be filled by Phelps, of the II. XV., and Whitcomb, the latter's place in the scrimmage being taken by A. Collins.

Granting that the home team were handicapped in the matter of absentees, the performance of the visitors was scarcely less meritorious, and points to a confirmation of the impression that was pretty generally formed after the match at Gloucester earlier in the season, to the effect that at last, after a number of years of hard, even fighting between the two clubs, the representatives of "ye proude citye" undoubtedly hold the supremacy over the Midlanders.

The ground was in splendid condition for this match, having been protected by straw, and a strong wind blew around the ground, which interfered in some degree with the kicking, often turning the ball out of its course. A good number of people were present, numbering some two thousand, a large proportion of whom had availed themselves of the excursion run by the Midland Railway Company and gone up from Gloucester, and this contingent, if they did not outnumber the supporters of the home team, were much more hearty in their demonstrations.

The field of play sloped considerably from end to end, and Brown being successful in the toss, Moseley kicked off up the hill, and Hughes, with a rattling kick, sent the leather flying over the half way, the first "scrum" being formed in the home territory. From this the forwards dribbled on, and Phelps passing to George, the ball went on to Jackson and Bagwell, who, however, by passing to Witcomb's feet, lost a certain try.

The mistake was soon rectified for, after Witcomb had made a strong run, and nearly got in, another clever round of passing gave the same player a chance, and he utilised it by scoring the first try, in a difficult position. Hughes placed... (*original document damaged; 5 or 6 words missing*) ...showing up got to the centre before he could be stopped.

A brief incursion into the visitors end was followed by a prolonged siege of the Moseley goal, which resulted, after George had narrowly missed dropping a goal, in Jackson, who took a pass at the 25 line, dodging beautifully past all his opponents and scoring behind the goal. By means of a feint to pass he completely non-plussed Oswell, who did not put a hand upon him. This time Page took the kick, and landed an easy goal.

The change of ends brought no change in the aspect of the game, which was nearly all in favour of Gloucester right up to the end. Playing up the hill their passing improved, and the forwards worked harder than ever.

The game had hardly been re-started, ere Jackson brought off another run, which in point of merit eclipsed his previous try. He dodged past fully half a dozen opponents who attempted to tackle him, but all of whom failed to touch him, until, when over the line, he fell with two men upon him. He was loudly cheered for this brilliant effort, and when Hughes, with a model kick, from a difficult angle, sent the ball high over the centre of the cross-bar, the applause was renewed with vigour.

Lean kicked away from a scrimmage, and following up well, appeared likely to score, but Hughes and Whitcomb were just in time to save, and kick out of danger.

Gloucester now pressed continuously, aided by several good runs by Bagwell, and excellent collaring by Brown and Hughes. Close upon "no-side" Bagwell, receiving a clever pass from Jackson, outwitted the Moseleyites, and finished up a pretty run behind the posts. This kick was entrusted to Page, who proved equal to the occasion, and raised the points for Gloucester to twelve.

That the visitors were superior all round was very evident. The forwards, whilst holding their opponents in the packs, heeled out to perfection, and in the loose dribbled more effectually than the Moseley "ups," one or two of whom, however, distinguished themselves by their individual efforts.

It is difficult to single out any of the Gloucester pack for special mention, as they played into the hands of their backs rather than adopting a dribbling game and monopolizing the play to themselves. The brothers Williams were prominent, as were Healing and T. Collins, but Page scarcely played up to his usual dashing form. Of the home forwards, Lean, Alcock, and F. Palethorpe were about the best.

The Gloucester halves passed splendidly, notwithstanding the activity of Dr. Robertson and Goodwin in their endeavours to checkmate the passing game of the visitors, and played well all round, though Phelps should be more particular in his attention to the "off-side" law. Goodwin appeared to better advantage than his colleague, who, however, got through a deal of hard work. Jackson deserves first mention of the Gloucester three-quarter backs, and yet we ought, perhaps, to couple Bagwell with him, whilst the captain runs them both closely. Jackson exhibited surprising dodging ability, and proved himself, if he had not done so before, not only to be thoroughly worthy of his place, but to be a great acquisition to the team.

He made no mistakes in passing, with the exception of one forward pass; he tackled safely, took his passes well, and completed a splendid all round exhibition by his brilliant running; his feints at passing being very deceiving.

Bagwell played his characteristic game, minus many of the blemishes in the passing line that often spoil it, his running being a source of anxiety to his opponents, who also had reason to entertain some misgivings when Witcomb obtained possession of the oval, his weight and dash serving him in good stead, much more so than in the County match of the previous Saturday. He, however, did not take his passes so cleanly as he might have done in the second half.

The captain, C. E. Brown, gave one more clear demonstration that he is much better fitted for the wing than the centre position. His play left little to be desired, his runs were occasionally effective, and he collared grandly. Hughes started playing in fine form, and, though he "went off" a little in the second half, on the whole his exhibition was an exceedingly good one, and compared favourably with that of Oswell, the opposite full-back. who did nothing worthy of comment. Hughes made one or two mistakes, but made up for them by occasional brilliant pieces of play.

The home three-quarters had no chance to shine, but Hasluck undoubtedly appeared to the best advantage, one or two of his runs being dashing and clever. Rogers also did some good things. A word should be added in praise of the admirable place kicking of Hughes, both his shots being difficult ones, whilst those entrusted to Page were as easy as possible.

The following were the teams : –

Gloucester. – A. F. Hughes, back; C. E. Brown (captain), T. Bagwell, W. Jackson, G. J. Witcomb, three-quarter backs; W. George and T. Phelps, half-backs; A. Cromwell, R. Jenkins, A. Collins, T. Collins, H. V. Page, J. Williams, C. Williams, and A. E. Healing, forwards.

Moseley. –J. N. Oswell, back; A. Rogers. F. Byrne, W. Hasluck, and Hillyar, three-quarter backs; C. Robertson, and H. Goodwin, half-backs; D. Nicol, F. Eagles, Alcock, F. Palethorpe, H. Wigley, E. V. Lean, T. Horton, and Ebsworth, forwards.

- The second XV. had a very easy thing in the match with Moseley II. on the Spa last Saturday. The demon influenza had been making havoc in the Moseley ranks, and two substitutes had to be found to complete the visiting team.

It was soon evident that the home team had the advantage at every point. The forwards all played up well, and the same may be said of the half-backs (Roberts and James) who fed the three-quarters most unselfishly.

Hubert George was decidedly the best of the three-quarters, and was responsible for two of the tries, the others being obtained by Gorin (2), and Watts. Dere played his usual tricky game and considerably puzzled his opponents.

The captain (T. B. Powell), who had only just got over an attack of influenza, was decidedly off colour and not at all up to his usual form.

A word of praise is due to the Moseley back who played a fine, and occasionally brilliant, game, and frequently saved his side.

The following were the teams : –

Gloucester II. – E. Smith, back; G. F. Dere, C. James, H. George, and T. B. Powell (captain), three-quarter backs; W. Roberts, and J. Watts, half-backs; E. Dangerfield, A. H. Gorin, C. W. Giles, G. Jones, A. G. Morgan, J. Mayo, E. Kilminster, and C. Williams, forwards.

Moseley II. – Mitchell, back; Mitchell, Yates, and Goodwin, three-quarter backs; Brown and Lambert, half-backs; Davenport (captain), Fowler, Rowe, Buckland, Fitt, Chatwynd, Jones (sub.), Heath, and Brazell (sub.), forwards.

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