

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

NOVEMBER 9, 1901

FOOTBALL

RUGBY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

SOUTH-WESTERN GROUP

CORNWALL v. GLOUCESTERSHIRE

This, the first game in the South-Western Group, was played at Camborne on Saturday last. It was Cornwall's only home engagement in the series, and it was rendered more than usually interesting by the fact that last season the Cornishmen, by beating Somerset, won the first game they have ever been credited with in the competition, that two seasons ago they only lost against Gloucestershire on the same ground by a goal to a try, and that the Gloucestershire side on this occasion was entirely composed of players from the Gloucester City and Bristol Clubs.

Originally the whole of the Gloucester City backs – halves, three-quarters, and full back – were chosen, as well as four of their forwards. At the last moment, however, the two Bristol halves came in. Cornwall had two changes in the third line from their best side, and suffered accordingly.

Gloucestershire started the game in ideal weather, and before 4,000 people. They had the wind behind them, and were the first to attack, but superior forward play drove them back.

As events proved, the Cornishmen beat the visitors handsomely forward, out-scrummaging them, and getting much the better of the argument in the loose play, where Rodds, Lawry, Booth, and Martin, shone.

The line-out provided the only equal feature of the forward play. As a result, the home halves, though playing a somewhat old-fashioned game, and clinging to the ball far too long for effective attack, always had the better of the Bristol pair.

In the third line, though, there was a strong balance in favour of the visitors, despite the fact that an unusual number of the knocks-on interfered with their movements. Early in the game Stephens and Clutterbuck were both at fault in this respect, and lost good chances, but on the one occasion when the handling went smoothly, "Whacker" Smith rather tamely beat the back, and scored an unimproved try far out.

Cornwall's attack was largely confined to forward sorties, and these the defence ably dealt with. At the interval, the score was a try to nil in the visitors favour.

The second half was more emphatically in favour of Cornwall, as far as the run of play went, but the efforts to score were clumsy, and easily coped with by the defence. Romans was in splendid form, and by his kicks to touch did much to check the fierce rushes of the home forwards.

Conday and Thomas made good individual efforts without success. From one penalty taken at the touch line, and near the centre, Conday only missed a goal by a foot.

The Gloucestershire backs brought off several short passing rounds, and at last, one series, started by Foster and Needs, ended in Smith rounding the back and scoring a try, which Romans could not improve on.

Ten minutes from the close, Conday took a penalty at half-way, and following up a high kick, which Stephens and Clutterbuck muffed, scored a good try in the corner. The place kick was a failure.

Cornwall pressed to the close, but could not equalise, and Gloucestershire won a tight forward game by two tries to one try.

The Gloucestershire team was : – G. Romans (Gloucester) (back), G. Clutterbuck, A. Stephens, J. Cook, and H. Smith (Gloucester) (three-quarter backs), Needs and A. Foster (Bristol) (half-backs), Wilcox, Claridge, Sweet, and Parker (Bristol), C. Hall, J. Lewis, C. Miller, and Westbury (Gloucester) (forwards).

JC