

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

MARCH 15, 1902

## FOOTBALL AND ATHLETICS

Gloucester had quite a field day on Saturday, when they met and defeated Northampton on the Kingsholm Ground by 27 points to nothing. Although the homesters were the better team, their display did not give entire satisfaction. The forwards were beaten time after time in heeling the ball out of the scrums, and this is a defect they will have to remedy to-day (Saturday) if they intend to defeat Bristol.

Their weakness in heeling the ball out to G. Hall, Goddard did not have the opportunity of setting the third line in motion as they would have liked. The latter, nevertheless, played a good game, but they did not combine together so well as is their usual wont. The forwards performed exceptionally well in the loose, but lacked control of the ball in the scrums. The three-quarters gave a capital display, while Romans was always safe at back, and displayed judgment in finding touch, and his kicking was good length.

Given fine weather, there should be a large crowd at Kingsholm to-day to witness the great fight for supremacy between Gloucester and Bristol, and a good game should ensue from the meeting. Bristol evidently chuckle to themselves as to their ability to vanquish the citizens; on the other hand, Gloucester hope to avenge the defeat inflicted upon them earlier in the season, by a dropped goal to nil, on the County Ground.

If Gloucester can hold their own in the forward division, the superiority of the backs will be most manifest. the Bristol critics are evidently preparing for a reverse, as they say that Bristol will not be at full strength. Thus they are paving the way for a defeat, and they will no doubt make this the keynote for criticism after the match.

If proof were needed as to the evident desire of the carping critics of Bristol to engender a bitter feeling between the two sections of the County Union, it is to be found in the following lines : –

"The Gloucester people are now happy that they will have the Durham Match on April 5, that being the date the Northerners have selected for the fixture. The feeling in the South is still very sore on the question. If Gloucester could have commanded as big a gate as Bristol, then something might have been said as to the former's claim; but after Gloucester's experience of International matches, the less said about it the better. If Bristol had not made the finances of the county in a satisfactory condition by the Devon match, little would have been heard of the wishes of the North for the final of the championship."

Comment is needless, except to say that Bristol cannot swallow the bitter jaundice pill of Gloucester being chosen as the venue for the match.

## GLOUCESTER FOOTBALL CLUB

### MARCH.

15	Gloucester	v.	Bristol ; at Gloucester
22	Gloucester	v.	Coventry ; at Coventry
28	Gloucester	v.	London Welsh ; at Gloucester
29	Gloucester	v.	Treherbert ; at Gloucester

### APRIL.

1	Gloucester	v.	Plymouth ; at Plymouth
5	Gloucester	v.	Cheltenham ; at Gloucester
12	Gloucester	v.	Swansea ; at Gloucester
19	Gloucester	v.	Penarth ; at Penarth