

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1902

## FOOTBALL

### GLOUCESTER v. RICHMOND

In reply to several correspondents, Gloucester's try at Richmond on Saturday was obtained by G. H. Smith.

Commenting on the game, the "Times" says : "The visitors were sounder in defence than attack, their over-eagerness when pressing generally leading them to commit some infringement of the rules which led to the infliction of repeated penalties. C. Smith, the Gloucester wing three-quarter, played a good game individually, but all the visitors' three-quarters combined indifferently. Their halves, too, were weaker on the whole. Romans, at full-back, aided his side considerably by the accuracy with which he kicked into touch. The forwards on either side played with vigour and were well matched.

The "Daily Mail" remarks that the Gloucester forwards played a hard but unscientific game, and though as good as their opponents in the scrummages, lacked the cleverness of Daniell and his men in the open. At half-back they were continually breaking the rules, and were penalised quite twenty times. Richmond played the best football they have shown this season. Daniell was in great form, and once more showed that, so far as England is concerned, he is in a class by himself among the forwards. He was ably backed up by Reynolds, Stout, and Turner. Collett and Romans were the best of the Gloucester backs, and Smith and Click did good work among the forwards.

The "Daily News" says : "Richmond always carried too many guns for the City team. Their forwards were much the cleverer, and their backs played well together, with the result that they had so much the best of the game that they ought to have won by a bigger margin of points than they did.

In the first half of the game Gloucester were well beaten, but though the occasions on which they threatened any danger were very few and far between, their defence was so strong that Richmond were only able to penetrate it twice. On changing ends, Gloucester played a stronger game, but Richmond were always too good for them."

"Judex" ("Sportsman"), commenting on the infringements of the Gloucester half-backs, says : "I am quite willing to make an excuse for a half-back, in the excitement of the game, getting off-side or picking the ball up out of the scrum, but to systematically keep on doing so is contrary to the spirit of Rugby football, besides being atrocious bad luck for the side he is playing for. I feel sorry for the Gloucester team that they should have been so badly served by their halves in this respect, for their three-quarters had never a look in, and I am of opinion – had not these foul tactics been persisted in – the visitors might have, at any rate, made a better show; in fact, at one period, when the game was six points to five, they might nearly have won, but the play of their halves spoilt their chances. It is a pity that this should have been the case, for, except for this blot, there was little to choose between the Richmond and Gloucester halves. The visiting team's forwards played a hard, bustling game; they were not so well together as their rival scrummagers, but they were frequently dangerous in the open. Perhaps they were scarcely as clever as the Richmond lot in getting possession of the ball in the scrum, and, when they did, it was of little use to their side, for reasons I have stated. F. Westbury, F. Goulding, and T. Spiers were the best of the Gloucester eight. The third line got very seldom moving, but they tackled splendidly, G. F. Collett, J. Stephens, and C. Smith being particularly prominent in this department. G. Romans, at full-back, gave an excellent display, his kicking being first-class."

After the match the Gloucester team and the friends who accompanied them were entertained at dinner at Simpson's Restaurant, Strand, by Mr. Russell Rea, M.P. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Russell Rea, Mr. McLennan presided, and was supported by Mr. George Romans (captain), Mr. C. H. Dancey (treasurer), Mr. H. A. Dancey, Mr. E. Pickford, Mr. C. Niblett, etc.

During the course of the dinner a telegram was received from Mr. Rea, who was travelling to Liverpool, expressing regret that the team had not won, and wishing it better luck next time. At the conclusion Captain Romans proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Russell Rea for his thoughtful kindness, and to Mr. McLennan for presiding. This was seconded by Mr. Dancey on behalf of the Committee, and supported by Mr. E. Pickford. Mr. McLennan, in acknowledgment, said that Mr. Rea regretted very much his inability to be present. He had asked that a wire should be sent him at Rugby Station, so that he might learn the result of the match before reaching his destination at Liverpool, and he was hoping that he might be able to congratulate the club on a victory. Although success was not with them, he was sure that they had made a gallant fight, and though defeated they were not disgraced, and that this would not interfere with their enjoyment. After dinner the team spent the evening at the Tivoli, where Mr. Rea had reserved seats for them.

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