

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

NOVEMBER 15, 1902

FOOTBALL AND SPORT

The visit of Gloucester to Richmond on Saturday attracted a good crowd of spectators to the Athletic Ground, for the Westerners are always popular visitors to the Metropolis. When they were in London last month, they had to strike their colours to Blackheath, and the fact that Richmond beat them decisively on Saturday emphasises the fact that they are not nearly so good a side as they were last year.

Forward, Richmond had a good deal in hand. They carried the hard scrums, and were a good deal cleverer than their rivals in the loose. During the first half, at least, their backs were nearly always in possession of the ball, and they played together better than on any occasion this season.

Pavitt and T. Hancock were in excellent form at half, and there was a fine understanding between the home three-quarters, who made several distinctly good combined runs, but the Gloucester halves were disappointing.

Their weakness for picking up the ball out of the scrum resulted in their side being penalised a good many times, and, through they had much the worst of the opening half, on the few occasions that they appeared at all dangerous, they were pulled up for infringing the rules.

It was a great pity, for the Gloucester halves are equal to a much better game. From the kick-off, Richmond assumed the aggressive. Very early in the game Bailey got away, but instead of going on as he should have done, he passed to Roberts, who was smartly brought down by Stephens.

Then there was a nice passing run by the Richmond backs, the ball going right across the field before E. Hancock was forced into touch. It was a very pretty combined movement, but it gained for them little ground. After this, however, Richmond kept up the pressure, and, following some loose play in the Gloucester "twenty-five," Pavitt got the ball out to P. Hancock, and, after a passing run, in which all the three-quarters had a hand, R. Hancock raced over.

Yeld failed at the place kick, though it was taken from the most favourable position, and at half-time Richmond led by two tries to nil. After this, Gloucester showed improved form, but for all that, Richmond carried too many guns for them.

The game, however, became exciting, when early in the second half, after things had all gone against them, C. H. Smith got over for Gloucester, and Romans kicked the goal. This reduced Richmond's lead to a solitary point, but ten minutes later, after much keen play, R. Hancock ran in again for Richmond, after some good passing, but Yeld again failed at the place kick. Richmond had all the best of the game afterwards, but though they could not score again, they won by three tries (9 points) to a placed goal (5 points).

The following were the teams : –

Richmond : T. M. Body (back), R. N. Hancock, R. M. Gwynn, H. J. R. Roberts, and L. D. Bailey (three-quarter backs), H. W. Pavitt and P. S. Hancock (half-backs), J. Daniell, S. Reynolds, F. M. Stout, G. Fraser, M. E. Legett, G. G. Yeld, W. E. Vincent, and G. J. Turner (forwards).

Gloucester : G. Romans (back), L. Smith, G. F. Collett, J. Stephens, and G. Smith (three-quarter backs), B. Parham and F. Keys (half-backs), T. Spiers, E. Hawker, A. Parton, F. Oswell, C. H. Smith, A. H. Click, F. Westbury, and F. Goulding (forwards).

Referee : Mr. P. Gilliard.