

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

DECEMBER 20, 1902

FOOTBALL AND SPORT

On Monday, some 3,000 persons were present on the Kingsholm Ground, the attraction being Cambridge University, who on Saturday must have accomplished a smart performance to have drawn with Oxford. Certainly the Light Blues have a very useful lot of forwards. They are a very heavy and well-built eight, who know how to make the best use of their weight. These teams have only met once before – last year – when the 'Cestrians gained a magnificent victory of 4 tries to a penalty goal.

Gloucester put a strong team in the field, the only change from the fifteen that beat Bridgwater being Rooke for Collett, who was absent through indisposition. Cambridge had three changes from the Saturday team – A. J. R. Roberts, Bedell-Sievrigh, the younger, and Waters standing down, and their respective places being filled by Scougall, Hartley (Blackheath), and Drysdale. It was a beautifully fine day, though the turf was rather greasy on the surface.

A strong breeze was blowing across the ground from the Dean's Walk end and the sun shining brightly when Cambridge, having been successful in the spin of the coin, set the Citizens to defend the Worcester street goal. From the commencement it was seen that the struggle would be a very severe one. Play was chiefly confined to the forwards, who all played a very hard game. At the interval there was no score.

The Gloucester pack up to now had had quite as much of the play as their opponents, and had certainly done well to keep the Cantabs out. Resuming, they were soon on the aggressive, and it was only the superior back play of the 'Varsity men that prevented a score.

Gloucester had the Cantabs in their own quarters, when Scougall took advantage of a little loose play, and picking up the ball he succeeded in getting over before a Gloucester man could get alongside of him. Considering that he had to negotiate more than half the length of the field, the score must be considered a somewhat lucky one.

Gloucester, however, were not to be beaten, some tricky play on the part of Stephens and Whacker Smith ending in the latter going over right under the posts, and a mighty cheer went up when Romans steered the oval through the legitimate aperture. Thus Gloucester won one of the hardest and most exciting games seen for a long time by 5 points to 3.

The honours of the game certainly rest with the Gloucester forwards, whose play was equal to that shown in the City's palmy days. Little or no combination was shown by the three-quarters, who on both sides were very smart in defensive work. The Cambridge halves were the better pair, but there was nothing between the full backs. It was a remarkably close game. The "gate" realised £40.

The teams were : –

Gloucester : G. Romans, back; L. Smith, J. Stephens, F. Rooke, and C. Smith, three-quarter backs; L. Morgan and F. Keys, half-backs; A. H. Click, F. Goulding, A. Peglar, A. Hawker, F. Westbury, F. Oswell, A. Purton, and Bert Parham, forwards.

Cambridge University : S. Horsley, back; C. E. Pumphrey, A. H. McNeill, H. J. Scougall, and J. R. Walkey, three-quarter backs; J. S. Pringle and H. Mainprice, half-backs; D. R. Bedell-Sievrigh (captain), B. C. Hartley, T. A. Gibson, N. Spicer, A. F. Roberts, O. J. Newbold, T. Drysdale, and W. T. Cave, forwards.

Referee : Mr. W. Bowen (Cardiff).