

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

JANUARY 10, 1903

FOOTBALL AND SPORT

The match between Gloucester and Coventry was of a scrambling nature, due principally to the wretched state of the ground, which had been brought about by the heavy rain during the morning. Coventry is never a big draw at Gloucester, but on Saturday the crowd was a very small one, and no wonder, seeing what a heavy thunderstorm we had in the forenoon, and with every indication of a second just as the game should have commenced.

Coventry were late in arriving, and it was nearly half an hour after the advertised time that a start was made. The visitors had a weak team, whereas the only conspicuous absentee on the Gloucester side was George Romans, who has not felt well of late, and is resting by the advice of the doctor.

Coventry started, and by the way they carried one or two scrums it looked as if we should have a tough time. But this was only a "flash in the pan," as it were, and before the game was very old it was seen that Gloucester was by far the cleverer team. The Coventry forwards packed well, but in the loose they were completely outplayed. Early on Collett had a nice opportunity of dropping a goal, but he failed. Jewell also ought to have got a try. Then a nice move on the part of the Gloucester three-quarters saw Collett left in charge, and he passing to Lewis Smith, who was nicely placed, the latter got over, but in foolishly trying to run behind the posts he was pushed over the dead ball line.

Rooke, who was playing a really smart game, then got a neat try, which Collett goaled. Collett followed up this success with getting a beautiful try after a magnificent run, but he failed with the place kick; this being the state of the game at the interval. Gloucester, however, had thrown several good openings away.

The second moiety needs very little description. The home halves, Morgan and Keys, were very smart behind the scrums, and the three-quarters, considering the state of the ground and ball, handled and combined remarkably well, their passing at times being quite a treat to witness. The Coventry line was crossed ten times – Lewis Smith went over twice, "Whacker" Smith twice, Rooke twice, J. H. Smith, Parham, Collett, and Jewell once apiece. The extra points, however, were only added in three instances, which left Gloucester victors by 36 points (3 goals 7 tries) to nil.

No one worked harder on the Gloucester side than Lewis Smith though all the three-quarters did good work. Keys and Morgan were always ahead of the Coventry pair, and, as we remarked above, Gloucester were much better forward, and had fairly run their opponents off their feet at the end. Of the visitors' three-quarters Tukes was the pick, but Orton also worked hard. Pugh, who filled Romans' place, did what little he had to do very well. Dale was very often in difficulties, but once or twice he brought off clever saves.

The teams were : –

Gloucester : F. Pugh (back), L. Smith, F. Rooke, G. F. Collett, and C. Smith (three-quarter backs), L. Morgan and F. Keys (half-backs), F. Goulding, A. H. Click, Bert Parham, G. H. Smith, A. Purton, F. Westbury, J. Jewell, and A. Hawker (forwards).

Coventry : W. J. Dale (back), H. Hutchins, T. Dusson, R. Orton, and G. H. Tuke (three-quarter backs), GH. Simons and F. Laxon (half-backs), H. All... , J. Cleverley, J. D. Kitson, Ward, W. Cleaver, F. Frapwell, W. Oldham, and Colson (forwards).

Referee : Mr. H. J. P. Wilkins (Frome).

- At Naunton Park, Cheltenham, Gloucester A defeated the Park contingent by six points to nil.