

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

JANUARY 31, 1903

FOOTBALL AND SPORT

At Coventry, on Saturday, Gloucester won a hard-fought game by one goal to nil. Both clubs were strongly represented, and the meeting was regarded locally as the match of the season. Unfortunately, inclement weather prevailed and affected the attendance. Coventry kicked off against the wind and rain, and Gloucester very soon began opening out the game. The locals appeared somewhat bewildered by the rapid passing.

Before any real advantage could be gained by Gloucester, though Collett was nearly scoring, the home side paid closer attention to the man with the ball, and succeeded in breaking up the combined movements of their opponents. The Coventry forwards played in dashing style, and repeatedly got amongst the Gloucester backs, with the result that the visitors were called upon to do an unexpected amount of defensive work. Tuke and Hutchins made some good runs, whilst Frith also dodged through to the last line of the Gloucester defence. Romans, however, proved very sound at full back, and was not to be beaten, though his returns always kept inside the touch line. L. Smith made a particularly fine run, only to be brought down by Tuke. Neither side could claim any advantage at half-time.

The home side entered upon the second half in a very brisk manner, Hutchins being pulled down on the goal line, while Tuke had a try at a drop, which narrowly missed. Gloucester were quite out of their swing for some time, and looked like being beaten. After withstanding a lot of pressure, the visitors' forwards got away, and during some loose play near the Coventry "25," C. Smith picked up, and, cleverly drawing his opponents to one side, he suddenly swerved and got through. It was a decidedly brilliant individual effort, and won the match. Romans converted, and so Gloucester were credited with 5 points.

They had to work hard for the remaining ten minutes to maintain their position, and did so successfully. The game demonstrated what a brisk, determined lot of forwards could do in upsetting the best-laid plans of a dangerous set of backs.

The teams were : –

Coventry : J. Basnett (back), H. Hutchins, R. Orton, A. H. Frith, and G. H. Tuke (three-quarter backs), F. Laxon and C. P. Dusson (half-backs), H. Allum, W. H. Cleaver, F. Cleverley, F. Frapwell, J. D. Kitson, T. Pollard, G. Oldham, and B. Rotherham (forwards).

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

- Mr. G. L. Jessop has written the following letter to a Bristolian with reference to the rumours as to his qualifying for Lancashire : "In reply to your wire, I beg to state that as a seat on the Board of Directors of Kinneir Brothers, Liverpool, has been offered me, I have accepted it. This may necessitate my removal to that city. The rumour as to my intention to qualify for Lancashire may be taken for what it is worth."
- Fred Goulding, Gloucester's best forward, met with an accident on Monday which will keep him out of the team for several weeks. He was following his employment at the Wagon Works, when the handle of a hand jack struck him a violent blow over his head, inflicting a serious wound. He was treated at the Infirmary, six stitches being put in the wound. Goulding's injury is a serious matter for the city club, who to-day receive a visit from Newport.