

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

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FOOTBALL NOTES

Hurrah! Gloucester has won another match, and at the same time have had their revenge on Cheltenham, who a few weeks ago defeated the 'Cestrians at the Garden Town, over which there was a good deal of crowing. But after Saturday's defeat one may very well say "Poor old Cheltenham!"

Gloucester were a superior team all round. Romans made a few mistakes, but he tackled well, and, to the delight of all present, showed all his old form in place-kicking. In fact this was his very best game of the season, and I sincerely hope that now he has thoroughly recovered himself he will not go back again. He has been very shaky for a long time; in fact, until the last few matches he has given anything but a flattering display at full back. On Saturday, however, he was A1.

At threequarters Cheltenham were a bit smarter in handling, but before they could do anything – if we except Fry's try, which was an exceedingly good one and the result of a fine bit of combination, in which Champain was very prominent – the Gloucester forwards were on top of them. The Gloucester threequarters played better than usual, but might have done better even than they did. At half Williams and Gent were again in splendid form, and their display quite outshone that of the opposing halves, of whom Goddard was the pick. Forward in the first half the teams seemed pretty evenly matched, but after changing ends Gloucester showed great superiority.

Gloucester scored first by G. H. Smith, but the try seemed a bit doubtful, the ball being passed forward, but then, referees cannot see everything. And this was a very exciting match! Romans, amidst a deafening cheer, added the extra points. I should add that Goulding was off the field repairing a damaged nose when this success was achieved.

The teams went at it again with renewed energy, and with the wind behind Cheltenham attacked now and again very strongly, and when Fry scored as the result of clever work on the part of Cotterell and Champain, the several hundred Cheltonians let us know that they were present. We had a little further evidence of this when Daunter kicked a splendid goal. The score at the interval was one goal all – and everyone was delighted with the game, which though contested with vigour and a keenness one expects when local rivals are engaged, yet the players kept their heads.

Crossing over, everybody anticipated seeing a rare struggle for superiority. Gloucester pressed for a time, and Daunter was unlucky enough to have one of his kicks charged down in his own twenty-five, with the result that Harrison got a somewhat lucky try, which Romans improved upon.

This mistake on the part of the visitor's back took a lot of steam out of his colleagues, and he went "off it" himself, but soon recovered. The Gloucester forwards were now playing a magnificent game, controlling the scrums and heeling out in rare style, thus giving Gent and Williams many opportunities of shining. Cheltenham were now a beaten team, especially forward, and Williams dashing through notched a third try – a grand effort, Romans just failing to cross the bar; the attempt was, however, a very good one.

Stephens from an opening made by Gent, ran in with the fourth try, and Romans kicked his third goal of the match. From a splendid cross kick by Vears, Harrison scored again, the last three tries being got in about ten minutes. Another goal resulted, and Williams had hard lines in having another try disallowed for off-side tactics.

Gloucester thus won handsomely by four goals one try to one goal, which affords of little or no excuse for Cheltenham's defeat. I understand that the gate reached over £85 – a record sum for the year.