

Reports from The Journal of the 5 matches played in the first season of GRFC.

Journal, Saturday 11 October 1873:

FOOTBALL. – A football club has recently been formed in Gloucester, and on Saturday last the season was opened with a scratch match between ten members and fifteen of the College School, which was played on the ground of the latter. The College fellows played well in the scrimmages, in which they generally had the best of it; but it is hardly expected they could prove a match for their older and more weighty opponents. Eight tries at goal were obtained for the Club, 3 by Hartley, 3 by J. P. Riddiford, 1 by W. A. Lucy, and 1 by W. A. Boughton. The Club was therefore victorious by 2 goals and 6 tries to nil. The following members played:- F. Hartley (captain), J. P. Riddiford, W. A. Lucy, E. L. Blossie, A. King, John Boughton, W. A. Boughton, J. A. Balfour, R. Ping and McKenzie. A game will be played to-day (Saturday) on the Spa Ground. Gentlemen wishing to join the Club will please communicate with the hon. sec., Mr. J. P. Riddiford, Northgate House.

[So, the first GRFC match was played on Saturday 4 October 1873; the College School ground was located very close to the site now occupied by the Kingsholm stadium; no report of the match scheduled for 11 October 1873 has been found, and it can be presumed from the report below that it was postponed until 22 October 1873.]

Journal, Saturday 25 October 1873:

FOOTBALL.- The return match with the College was played on Wednesday last on the Spa ground. The club was again victorious, having obtained 1 goal and 4 tries to nil. 2 tries were obtained by Riddiford, 1 by Hartley, 1 by H. Jewesbury, and 1 by Haines. W. A. Lucy kicked the goal. The club was represented by the following: F. Hartley (Capt.), J. P. Riddiford, W. A. Lucy, W. A. Boughton, Wilton, Haines, H. Jewesbury, J. Boughton, J. A. Balfour, Bryan, Wood, Haines, Bode, Bradstock, and F. Lane. The club played 13 to College 20. The club play against Hereford on Tuesday, the 4th proximo, on the Spa ground, when a close game is expected.

[So, this second match against the College was played on Wednesday 22 October 1873, and was the first match played by GRFC at the Spa; the report below suggests that the match scheduled for 4 November was in fact played on 1 November.]

Journal, Saturday 8 November 1873:

FOOTBALL.- A football match between the Gloucester and Hereford clubs was played on Saturday last on the Spa ground, and resulted in a draw, neither side being able to claim any decisive advantage.

[So, this third match was apparently played on Saturday 1 November.]

Journal, Saturday 22 November 1873:

FOOTBALL.- On Friday last, the Gloucester Football Club played a friendly match with Frampton on the ground of the latter, which ended in a draw much in favour of Gloucester, by 3 tries to nil. It has been decided that Fridays in future will be practice days. On Wednesday next the Club plays against Cirencester, when a close game is expected.

[So this fourth match was played on Friday 21 November 1873.]

Journal, Saturday 29 November 1873:

FOOTBALL.- On Wednesday last the Cirencester Football Club came to Gloucester to play a friendly match, being represented by fifteen men, against fourteen of the home team, which ended in a draw. The ball was set in motion at three o'clock, Gloucester "kicking off," and a very well fought game was played. The ground was very wet and slippery, but notwithstanding this drawback, some good runs were made by both sides. The Cirencester men were very much the superior as regards weight, and on that account had the advantage in the scrimmages. For Gloucester – Barrow, W. A. Boughton, W. A. Lucy, and for Cirencester, Brown (capt.), Sewell and Whitty played well. The following played for Gloucester: F. Hartley (capt.), W. A. Lucy (half-backs), Bradstock (three quarters back), Macdonald and Barrow (backs), W. A. Boughton, J. P. Riddiford, E. L. Blossie, Bode, E. Clarke, Lane, J. Boughton, Bosley, and Cook.

[So, this game was played on Wednesday 26 November 1873.]