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Transcribed by Malc King

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

BIG GAME AT KINGSHOLM

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRILLIANT WINNERS

YORKSHIRE MEN OUTCLASSED BEHIND

With the decision of the county championship final at the City Club's enclosure at Kingsholm to-day, the Rugby Union season for 1909-10, as far as the big events go, was brought to a close. The season has witnessed a remarkable recovery of England's prowess, and the success of the Rose representatives in the International tourney, after a long series of disappointments, should do much towards popularising the handling game. The county championship always engages considerable attention, and this season the competition for honours has been exceptionally keen. In the South-Western group re-plays were necessary between three of the competing counties before the leadership could be decided, and in the North, Yorkshire and Northumberland had to meet in an extra fixture ere the elect to do battle in the final was found. Yorkshire were the successful team, and the representatives of the broad-acres duly made their appearance at Gloucester to oppose the chosen of the South, viz Gloucestershire. In the early years of the championship Yorkshire were almost unbeatable, but the split which occurred in 1896 robbed the Tykes of practically all their brilliant exponents, and since then they have always been struggling against odds. This year Yorkshire got together a very useful side, especially forward, and the county won its way into the final once more by real merit.

The Gloucestershire club is one of the oldest county organisations, but it was not until 1891 that the present Union was formed. This was only the third occasion Gloucestershire had won group honours, so the county's success has not been very marked since the inauguration of the championship. In 1891 Lancashire easily stopped further progress, and when Durham opposed Gloucestershire in the final at Kingsholm in 1901 the Northerners triumphed by 9 points to 3.

In this season's competition Gloucestershire had only once sustained defeat – in the first match with Cornwall by 11 points to nil – but the county more than made amends when the teams met in the re-play at Redruth, Gloucestershire, with what was supposed to be a weak side, gaining a surprising victory on the Cornishmen's favourite ground by 4 tries (12 points) to 1 goal, 2 tries (11 points). Following this victory came the triumph over Kent at Blackheath by two tries to one, this success giving Gloucestershire entry into the final, which it was confidently hoped would be celebrated by a fitting victory. In championship matches this season Gloucestershire's record was as follows: Played 6 – won 5, lost 1; points for 77, against 47. In 1901 Gloucestershire went through the competition undefeated until the final, but only played four matches as against six this season.

Little is known in the West of the real strength of present-day Yorkshire amateur football, and the recent visit of Headingley did not help us much to form an opinion. After gaining a surprise victory over Gloucester City on Good Friday by 15 points to 8, the visitors came a sad cropper at Cheltenham the very next day, whilst a further defeat awaited the tourists at Bristol. These two reverses discounted largely the credit gained over the weak Gloucester team, and did not give one the impression that the Yorkshire club champions were a particularly strong side. Still, club football is not altogether a reliable guide to a county's capabilities, as witness Somerset's strength each year with not a single club that can be classed as front rank.

There was keen competition between Gloucester, Bristol, and Cheltenham for the venue of the great match, and the Committee's decision to play at Kingsholm caused no little disappointment at the southern end of the county. There was no doubt, however, that the Rugby interest in Gloucestershire is centred at this end, and there was the additional fact that of the fifteen players chosen to uphold the honour of the county ten came from Gloucester and Cinderford, and but for Hayward's injury the number would have been eleven. In order to accommodate the match Gloucester City scratched their match with Plymouth, the Devon club granting a monetary consideration of £15 in lieu of having to travel to Gloucester. Mr R A Roberts, the county hon secretary, had general charge of the arrangements for the match, and every provision was made for the expected large crowd. Nearly a thousand seats were provided inside the ropes, and these proved a popular attraction at 2s 6d, but the price charged for seats in the grandstand (4s) stopped a good many booking, the fee being regarded as unreasonable. Later in the week the rows at the back were reduced to 3s, but even then there was not the demand for seats one would have anticipated.

Yorkshire brought a large party from Leeds on Friday, players, officials, committee, and fiends numbering 40. Among those making the journey were Messrs S Tattersall (President), E Alderson (Vice-President), Rev R Huggard (Vice-President), Messrs H W T Garnett, Mark Newsome, J A Miller, Barron Kilner, W Greenwood, S H Wray, H C Harrap, A Tucker, T H Foster, R J Hope Butt, A E Halstead, J M Foord (Committee), and Lawrie Hickson, H Robertshaw, F White, H Hutchinson, J T Tott, A W Pullin, A Bostock, and E Platts, with Arthur Hartley (hon treasurer) and R F Oakes, the old International forward (hon secretary). The visitors made their headquarters at the Ram Hotel. Other notabilities who had signified their intention of being present at the match included Messrs T C Pring (President Rugby Union), W S Donne (Somerset), F W Thomas (Cornwall), Walter Rees (Welsh Union), E T Gurdon (Rugby Union) etc.

The Teams

Gloucestershire were fortunate in being able to place in the field the exact team selected. With one exception – Hudson for Hayward – the side was the same that defeated Kent, and the forwards (except Berry for W J Pearce, who was first reserve) was identical with the pack which played such a grand game under W Johns' leadership at Redruth in the re-play. Against Kent, at Blackheath, the Gloucestershire backs did not do justice to themselves, but Victor Eberle was out of his place on the wing, and in this game Spoons did not play to Neale as he should have done. It was hoped, however, the clever Bristol centre – who scored four times against Devon and

three against Somerset this season – would rid himself of any tendency to selfishness this afternoon and give his club-mate a fair chance. There were five Internationals in the ranks of the home county, and on paper Gloucestershire certainly possessed a great chance of landing the championship for the first time. It was generally regarded that everything rested with the forwards; if the pack could only hold their opponents and get the ball back, the rear division could be relied upon to do the necessary scoring. Yorkshire, unfortunately, were heavily handicapped by the loss of several of their best players, including the captain, Pickering (three-quarter, Duggan (half-back), and Power, King and Eddison (forwards) – all on the injured list. The visitors were hardly pressed to fill the places of such first-class men, and for the half-back position Frank Hutchinson (who played for England against Ireland and Scotland last year) was pressed into service, though he had not turned out this season. It was very rough luck on the Yorkshiremen, especially that in all the previous games only about 19 players had been called upon. Despite this handicap the Northerners were not despondent, and their popular Hon Secretary (Mr R F Oakes), in the course of a conversation before the match, said “We shall make you go all the way.”

The following were the teams:

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

YORKSHIRE

BACKS

*W R Johnston (Bristol)

T W L Strother (Harrogate O B)

THREE-QUARTER BACKS

*A Hudson (Gloucester)

J L Fisher (Hull & E R)

V F Eberle (Clifton)

F W Hinings (Headingley)

J A Spoors (Bristol)

W R Brown (Headingley)

M E Neale (Bristol)

K Duncan (Otley)

HALF-BACKS

*D R Gent (capt) (Gloucester)

H Willey (Sheffield)

J Stephens (Gloucester)

*F Hutchinson (Headingley)

FORWARDS

*W Johns (Gloucester)

A H McIlwaine (Hull & E R)

*H Berry (Gloucester)

A Clarke (Skipton)

D Hollands (Gloucester)

H A Motley (Headingley)

G Holford (Gloucester)

F Trentham(Otley)

J Wright (Cinderford)

D Hellewell (Shipley)

G Bowkett (Cinderford)

E Gaille (Headingley)

A Redding (Cinderford)

N Ellis (Otley)

H Uzzell (Newport)

Rev A Thompson (Headingley)

* Internationals

Referee: Mr T Schofield (Welsh Union)

Touch-judges: Mr S Tattersall (Yorkshire) and Mr C E Brown (Gloucester)

The weather turned out gloriously fine, and the ground, thanks to the attention of Dyke, the groundsman, was in capital condition. The gates were opened at 2 o'clock, and soon the enclosure began to fill, there being every prospect of a big attendance. During the wait for the kick-off Mr F Rowland's augmented band discoursed a pleasing selection of music. By 3.30 the ground was well filled, though there were some vacant chairs inside the ropes on the shilling side.

The Game

Punctually to time the Yorkshire team, clad in white jerseys with the rose on the breast, entered the field, followed immediately by Gent and the rest of the Gloucestershire team. The visitors won the toss, and Johns started for Gloucestershire from the Dean's Walk goal. The ball only reached the ten yards mark, and Berry in trying to gather the bouncing ball knocked on, a scrum following. The Tykes heeled first, but no ground was gained. Gloucestershire made a few yards with a sharp rush, but Thompson intercepting a pass got back to mid-field. Here a wild pass out by Gent was snapped up by Fisher, but the Yorkshire captain did not travel far, being nicely upset by Spoons. More erratic passing by Gloucester lost ground but Spoons, receiving from Stephens, punted down, and following up prevented a return. A good kick by Hudson made further headway, and play was in the Yorkshire half. Here Stephens recovered after partly fumbling, and threw out wide to Spoons, who cut through beautifully to the full-back. Eberle was well up, and receiving a nice transfer the Cliftonian had no difficulty in scoring easily. Johnston converted. Gloucestershire were five points up in about as many minutes. Yorkshire resumed, and from the restart Stephens marked. A strong rush by Hinings gave the Tykes a position in the home half, but Gloucestershire soon came, and a fine kick by Spoons went to the open field, Hudson raced up and tackled Strother in possession, and Yorkshire were severely pressed. Bowkett, picking up in the loose, tried to get away, but was collared. Johns next came into prominence, and Hollands, with a lovely punt, found touch ten yards from the Yorkshire line. Some fierce play followed in the visitors' 25, the Yorkshire forwards doing good work. At length Gent got the ball away cleverly, and Stephens and Spoons, handling in turn, Neale was sent going down the right wing. The Bristolian tried hard to swerve past Strother, but just failed. Scrums followed close to the Yorkshire line, but the visitors eased the pressure by some sharp footwork. Some useful kicks put the home county back, but Neale, failing to take from Gent, spoiled a likely opening. A penalty against Gloucester enabled Yorkshire to gain the centre, but Hollands led a rush back, and Strother was again pulled down directly he received. Yorkshire were concentrating their efforts on loose forward work, but twice they were cleverly checked in succession by Gent. Then Stephens

being collared, the ball was snapped up by Thompson, who passed to a colleague, but Neale saved by turning the ball to touch. Hutchinson, with a strong dash from a scrum, tried hard to beat the defence, but he was tackled by Johnston, and failing to play the ball the visitors were penalised. Johnston, with some grand kicks, brought operations to mid-field, where Spoons, with a flying kick, sent to Strother. The latter smartly got the ball to touch, but Gloucestershire, not to be denied, reached the 25. Here Yorkshire heeled, but Gent got between Willey and Hutchinson, and with a capital effort only just missed scoring. Yorkshire came away with a good effort to Johnston, who was heartily applauded for a kick over his head under pressure. Then Gent and Stephens opened out, and Spoons and Eberle handled. They passed to Hudson, who had come up on the inside, but the City captain could not clear Strother. Gloucestershire lost a fine position through some fumbling between Spoons, Neale and Johnston, and play was taken top the home 25. Here a penalty against Willey for off-side allowed Gloucestershire to get out of a dangerous situation. Johns hereabouts broke away with a grand burst and pass to Hudson, but the ball went wide of the wing man. Johns was again conspicuous with a sharp run and pass to Bowkett, but the Cinderfordian was upset, and could not get rid of the ball. A long kick down to Johnston was knocked-on by the home custodian, and Yorkshire had a scrum on the Gloucester line. The home team quickly cleared, and a hot game was fought out at the centre. Gent and Stephens opened out nicely for Neale, but the right wing, finding he could not beat the opposition, kicked to touch. A grand rush by the Gloucester forwards, Johns, Berry, Wright and Holford being to the fore, caused Yorkshire trouble. Then came a fine bit of combination, in which all the Gloucester backs, with the exception of Neale, took part. Hudson, the last to receive, had three men round him in the corner, but cleverly evading his opponents, he slipped over the line and scored a splendid try, which Johnston converted. Yorkshire resumed, and at once the home county got in a splendid attack. Neale ran finely down touch and passed inside, but the defence proved superior. From a long line-out close in Fisher secured and punted to Hudson, who took the ball well, and dodging an opponent passed to Bowkett. The latter returned cleverly, but Hudson was too near touch and was pushed over the line. A penalty gained relief for Yorkshire, and soon afterwards half-time was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE

Gloucestershire.....2 goals

Yorkshire.....Nil

Yorkshire restarted, Hollands replying nicely to touch beyond the centre. The visitors tried a sharp throw out, but it did not come off. Then from the next line Uzzell gathered and broke through in splendid style, causing what looked like a nice opening. Unfortunately his pass was intercepted by Hinings and a promising movement was stopped. Some clever kicking by Johnston was heartily applauded by the crowd, but some good work by the Yorkshire forwards gave the visitors a slight advantage. Wright and Hollands came under notice for some fine tackling, and vigorous play followed at mid-field. For the first time in the match the Yorkshire backs tried passing, but the ball only went straight across the field. A useful effort by Hudson gave Gloucester a position beyond the centre, and then came a brilliant break through by Eberle. The Cliftonian on getting near the full-back passed out wide to Hudson, but the latter, though taking the ball beautifully with one hand, had the

misfortune to stumble and fall to the ground. From the next scrum Stephens opened out, but Neale failed to take from Spoors. Hinings did some splendid defensive work for Yorkshire in the next few minutes, and later brought off a strong run which was duly noted by the spectators. Ebele, form a sharp pass by Stephens, made a big effort to cut out an opening, but he succumbed to numbers. Then Hinings replied similarly for Yorkshire, and the visitors gained an advantage. During the next few minutes there was some terrific tackling on both sides, but the game as a spectacle had certainly fallen off. BY dint of a splendid loose rush Gloucestershire gained their opponents' quarters, but knocks on spoiled attempts at passing. However, Gloucestershire persevered, and after a good dash Stephens opened out prettily for Spoors. The Bristol centre got into his stride and cutting inside Strother raced round and behind the posts in brilliant style: Johnston added the goal points, and Gloucestershire were 15 points up. Soon after the resumption Gloucestershire were penalised for pushing in the line out, and the visitors had a shot for goal. The ball, however, was charged down, and Wright dribbled some yards before being stopped. In further loose play Uzzell, Berry and Bowkett did fine work, but Strother robbed them of the ball at the critical moment, and got in a beautiful kick to touch. Hudson quickly transferred play back to midfield, where the Gloucestershire backs, Neale and Spoors especially, indulged in some clever exchanges, which severely tested the Northerners. Good kicking changed the venue, and Yorkshire in turn set up a hot attack. They were beaten off by a nice touch kick by Stephens, and the centre was the scene of operations. Here Gent got the ball away from the Yorkshire forwards in clever style and fed Spoors. The latter beat Brown, and then yielded to Neale, who with a lovely run cleared Strother and finished up a magnificent run by scoring the fourth try. Johnston failed at goal, though the attempt was a good one. Yorkshire dropped out and following an exchange of kicks Gloucestershire gained a footing at midfield. Gent early got the ball away, and Hudson receiving from Eberle the city captain raced away easily beating Fisher, but falling a victim to a grand tackle by Strother. Two penalties to Yorkshire enabled the Tykes to ease the severe pressure which had been put upon them, but they could not get beyond the 25. The Gloucester half-backs started a passing movement in their own quarter, and Spoors made a lot of headway, but his pass went to an opponent. Then good work by Stephens fed Hudson, who ran finely and repassed to Eberle, but Yorkshire managed to prevent a score. Gloucestershire were now playing magnificent football, the backs doing almost what they liked. Twice the Yorkshire line seemed bound to fall, but something went wrong. Keeping up the attack, however, the home county were rewarded with another try before the end. Hudson, after brilliant combination, scoring in a good position for Johnston to land another goal. Yorkshire restarted, but the end was near, and Gloucestershire retired victors of a splendid game by the handsome margin of 23 points to nil.

RESULT

Gloucestershire...4 goals 1 try (23 points)

Yorkshire.....Nil

Remarks

At last the championship has come to Gloucestershire, and at the outset let us congratulate the team on a brilliant wind-up to a season full of good things. Yorkshire,

with their weakened ranks, put up a plucky fight, but on the play they were completely outclassed by a side that was altogether too fast and clever for them. It was a game strenuously fought out to the bitter end, for although Gloucestershire held such a commanding lead there was no easing off. In fact the home county surpassed themselves in the last quarter of an hour, and fortunate indeed were the Tykes that their line was not crossed two or three times more. The Northerners were fairly left at times, the pace and quickness of the home backs being altogether too much for their opponents.

The five tries scored by Gloucestershire were brilliant examples of back play, combined with individual merit on the part of the scorers. These tries put the game on a high level, but there were many other efforts which deserved reward. Yorkshire struggled hard forward and behind there were dashing individual efforts, chiefly by Hinings, who easily stood out as the finest three-quarter on the visiting side. \in Defence again and again Hinings was the saviour of his side, and no man could have worked harder to stem disaster. But one player could not hope to turn the tide. Brown made one or two good efforts, but Fisher and Duncan were out of the picture, and the captain is evidently a spent force. The Yorkshire half-backs were moderately good, but with the forwards keeping the ball tight, few opportunities came their way to open out. Willey adopted smothering tactics as far as he could, but he was up against a player far too clever for him in Gent. Hutchinson was a difficult man to check once he got off, but the ex-International did not cause a lot of trouble. In the front Yorkshire were at their strongest, but at no period could they be said to have got the upper hand of their opponents. Gaille struck one as being the best of the eight, and he did sterling work in all departments. Strother, at full back, was moderately good, and did best in tackling. He, however, was on the slow side, and both Hudson and Neale easily had the pace of him.

Of the Gloucestershire team one cannot speak in too high terms of the whole team. They entered the contest full of fight, and by superior football worthily gained championship honours for the first time. If there was one fault with the play of the home county it was a tendency to tackle too high at times – men being allowed to get through their ranks when they ought certainly to have been collared. Still in other phases the team did magnificently. The forwards were a dashing and clever eight, and in all the finer points of the game they held the whip hand. In the scrums the home pack controlled the all splendidly, and in loose footwork and line-outs there was some grand work accomplished. Individually all did well under Johns' admirable leadership. The International himself was in his best form, and Berry, Uzzell, Wright, and Bowkett were perhaps the more prominent of the others, though there was very little to choose between them.

Behind such a hard working pack Gent and Stephens combined effectively, and the captain has every reason to be proud of the achievements of the team he has so worthily led. Both in opening out and in saving and general defence Gent's display was beyond criticism, and he was clearly one of the outstanding figures on the field of play. With the Yorkshire three-quarters continually standing level with the scrum in order to smother Gloucester's passing, Stephens had to be very careful in letting the ball go, but the veteran's judgement was not often at fault. Once or twice in essaying a long pass out to the wing the ball went astray, but in adopting these tactics to beat the opposition a player must always take a certain amount of risk. Several of the tries

were the outcome of Stephens' smartness in discovering a weak point in his opponent's defence, and on the whole he performed extremely well.

At three-quarter Gloucestershire had a splendid attacking force, and the brilliant combined play of the quartette evoked continual enthusiasm among the crowd. In the centre Spoor and Eberle were all that could be desired, both men cutting out fine openings and giving their wing men plenty to do. There were a few occasions when the passing machinery broke down, but the many brilliant movements carried out made one soon forget any mistakes. All the tries were obtained by the third line, and they were scores worth going a long way to see. In Hudson and Neale Gloucestershire possess two of the finest wings in the country, and the men were at the top of their form to-day. Any doubt as to Hudson's fitness was soon dispelled, for the City captain was on his game from the start, and he played in a style reminiscent of his best International form. It was the Hudson of old we saw to-day – keen, dashing, and ever ready to make headway. Neale, on the right wing, was equally successful as his Gloucester colleague, and there is no doubt he is in the very front rank of there-quarters. Neale's form this afternoon should go a long way towards gaining him a place in the British team going to South Africa, and Spoor, too, ought to stand a good chance.

Johnston gave a superb display at full-back. Apart from one slight mistake, he was perfect in fielding, whilst his kicking was marked with fine length and judgement, even under the severest pressure.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT

By "Spectator"

Memories of the visits of the famous All Blacks and Springbok combinations were recalled to the mind by seeing the good old Kingsholm enclosure surrounded by such a crowd as assembled for this match. THE event of the Rugby season. It was the first visit of the Yorkshiremen to Gloucester, and, as a great sporting county, they were given a reception worthy of their reputation. Gloucestershire and Yorkshire are old and keen rivals in the great summer pastime, and when representatives of the two counties meet, one cannot help calling to mind the sensational one-run victory secured by the Westerners three years ago, which robbed the Yorkshiremen of the Cricket County Championship at Bristol. This was the first time the counties had ever met in football rivalry, and practically the whole interest of the Rugby world settled on the contest, which, favoured as it was with fine weather, promised to furnish a great game.

Punctually to time Mr Schofield started the men on their momentous journey amid intense excitement. For the first two or three minutes the men were evidently obsessed with the gravity of the issue, and there was plenty of raggedness, but the home county's supporters were raised to the highest pitch of exultation by the beautiful bit of combined play between Stephens and Spoor which led to Eberle going over with the first try. From the 'Cestrian's point of view it was beauty, and Strother never had a chance with Spoor and Eberle to tackle.

There was some very hot scrummaging work to follow this, but Willey was lucky more than once in escaping penalties against him for not putting the ball in straight. However, it did not matter much, as at this stage the desperate struggle in the front was going in Gloucestershire's favour. Gent distinguished himself with two characteristic bits of play, and he cut away from Willey so cleverly the second time that only a very fine tackle by Strother put an end to his gallop a yard out. Then Yorks had a slice of luck, Neale and Johnston muffing a return between them, but the Bristol wing saved matters with a touch kick and Gloucestershire cleared. Johns broke away from a line-out in great style, and passed wide out, but the ball "dapped" awkwardly, and Hudson could not gather.

Again the game favoured the men from the broad acres, Johnston unluckily knocking-on five yards out. The home forwards, however, cleared to the quarter line. In face of the home front rank Fisher quite failed to get down, and the forwards, with Uzzell, Berry and Johns in the van, carried the game right into Yorks territory.

"Positively brilliant" was the work which led to Hudson's try almost immediately after this. The ball came from the scrum with a lovely pass, and Eberle cut through, leaving the Yorkshire centres quite on his own. The Cliftonian, with a well-judged transfer, set Hudson on the move, and the latter beating his wing and the full-back with a twisting, turning run, ran round into a fine position, which Johnston improved on with a good kick. Ten points to the good and six minutes to go for half-time! Up Gloucester!

Comments on the referee's conduct of a game never do much good, but round the ropes in the interval "Spectator" heard a great many complaints, and from good judges too, on the referee's laxity with the Yorkshire halves' off-side tactics and with lying on the ball. For the first time in the game Yorkshire opened out, but Fisher never went a yard, and Hudson charged him and his kick down. Then came another great attack by Gloucester, and excitement reached fever heat as they gradually worked down to the desired position. The Yorkshire forwards, however, came with a great burst and centred play. The work in front was something terrific, the tackling being desperately keen, and no quarter was asked or given. The visitors' forwards were now playing harder than they had put it in at any period of the game, but there were up against them what is probably the stiffest proposition in the Rugby world at the present time in the shape of forwards, and they had undoubtedly met their match. The Gloucestershire men, yard by yard, forced them back, and then came Spoor's try – a triumph. He got the ball from Stephens, and with a run Z-like in character he beat Hinings, Brown and Strother and scored behind the posts amidst the greatest enthusiasm. Johnston safely improved matters, and the home county were on velvet with 15 points' lead. Two of the three Yorkshire outsides tried conclusions with Johnston at the kicking game, but he was fine.

For one brief period the Yorkshire forwards threatened, and the Rev Thompson, who had been in the van throughout, tried hard to force his way over, but Johnston was the stumbling block, and the ball getting loose Gent cleared. Going great guns again, Gloucestershire got past the centre, and then came another of those brilliant episodes which had characterised the 'Cestrians play throughout. Stephens whipped the ball out to Spoor, who cut in nicely, and Neale lying handy on the wing, got a beautiful pass and sailed away from Hinings again, and beating Strother and another visitor, put the finishing touch to a great movement by scoring wide out. Johnston's kick was a good

one, but it just failed of its object. The crowd hardly got over this when Gloucestershire again returned to the attack. The home men were at the concluding stages of a fierce contest playing right at the top of their form. They received a just reward in another fine try by Hudson. Spoons and Eberle had a hand in it, and as the result of some really great combined work by these three, Hudson got over far out and ran round behind the posts. Johnston again did the needful.

The County Championship rests with Gloucestershire after a great game. It was a great game in every sense of the word. The Gloucestershire men, every one of them, played as if they were playing for their lives, most worthily sustaining the football prestige of the dear old county, and they earned a brilliant victory which will long remain in the minds of those who were fortunate enough to see it. Fore and aft the home men won the match, the forwards staying on and beating their heavier opponents in a manner which must have flattered even the staunchest of the Gloucestershire supporters. Outside the scrum the tale was the same, and although Gent was hampered by the flagrant off-side tactics of Willey – and one of the centres offended quite as often – he got the ball out finely. One could scarcely wish to see a three-quarter play a better game. They were individually and collectively far too much for the Tykes, who in this department were, to use a not altogether euphemistic but very expressive phrase “whacked to the world”. There was not an element of luck in any one of the five tries; on the contrary they were all the outcome of really brilliant football. One word remains. Johnston, as everybody knew, went onto the field with a big reputation, and that he added to it to-day there is not a shadow of doubt. His work was a factor in a memorable match, and a splendid victory, which will rank as one of the best games ever seen in a county final. Undisguisedly partisan as the writer on this occasion to be there is not a word to be said against the Yorkshiremen. They played to their utmost but, in skill, pace, generalship, and opportunism they met their masters and paid the price. The best team won, and good luck to ‘em.

AFTER THE MATCH

Teams and Officials Dine Together

After the match a company of over 100 sat down to dinner at the New Inn Hotel, under the Chairmanship of the Mayor of Gloucester (Ald F Hannam-Clark). The teams, officials, and referee were the personal guests of his Worship, and the Yorkshire and Rugby Union Committeemen and other visitors were entertained by the Gloucestershire Rugby Union. The following was the toast list: “The King”; “Yorkshire Union and Players” (proposed by Mr C E Brown, President of the Gloucestershire Union), and responded to by Mr S T Tattersall (President) and Mr J L Fisher (captain); “Gloucestershire Union and Players” (proposed by Mr J A Miller, Yorkshire), and responded to by Mr W T Pearce (Vice-President) and Mr D R Gent (captain); “The Mayor”(proposed by Alderman Barron Kilner, Yorkshire); “English Rugby Union” (proposed by Mr J H Tratt (Gloucestershire) and responded to by Mr T C Pring (President) and Mr A Hartley (Vice-President); “The Visitors” (proposed by Mr E S Bostock-Smith, Gloucestershire’s representative on the E R U) and responded to by Messrs W Donne (Somerset), F W Thomas (Cornwall), E T Gurdon (Middlesex), G H Harnett (Kent), and Walter Rees (Welsh Union).