

GLOUCESTER v. FLAMINGOES

FEBRUARY 1876

A full transcript of an article from the “Gloucester Journal”, Saturday February 19th 1876.

On Saturday last this, the great match of the season, so far as Gloucester is concerned, was played on the Spa Ground, and resulted in a decisive victory for Gloucester by one goal and two tries to nothing.ore touching on the match itself, we would congratulate the teams on the “Bona Fide” friendly rivalry that marked the play throughout, instead of the unseemly wrangling that so often mars a o-football match.

From “kick-off” to “no side” there was no dispute of any sort, and a more pleasant match has seldom been played. As to the match, the home team having won the toss and chosen to play with the sun at their backs, the Flamingo Captain kicked off at 2.45 punctually.

The ground was so slippery that falls were the order of the day, and any display of running powers by the backs or half-backs was out of the question.

Boughton himself (who had made himself conspicuous throughout) alone seemed able to keep on his feet, and after some sharp play on both sides, he secured a try for the home team. The place kick was entrusted to Brown, who apparently was not in luck, for the ball, though well-directed, struck the cross-bar full in the centre and rebounded.

After varying success and a good run by the Londoners by A.C.Hartley, the leather was driven down to the Gloucester goal and in dangerous proximity for a short time. Cheered on, by one of their Captain’s invigorating “view halloes” [sic], the Gloucester men pulled themselves together, and carrying themselves through scrimmages, in which their greater weight told (as it did throughout the game) once more besieged the enemy’s quarters, and with so much effect that Molineux soon obtained the next try, the kick at goal again being unsuccessful.

After half time, and after change of goals, the foreigners, though they played very pluckily, had both the ground and the weight against them, and the game was entirely in favour of their opponents. Just before time was called, Brown gained his laurels and the home team a goal, through a splendid kick from a try credited to Stephens.

For the Flamingoes, the Hartley brothers, Pine, Whalley, Shaw and Rowsell did good service, and for Gloucester, in addition to those already named, we may particularly mention Weston and Dewey, but all played well.

It is only fair to mention that in consequence of the threatening state of the weather, and from other unavoidable causes, only eleven men actually came from London. Through the courtesy of three gentlemen, however, who volunteered their services to the Flamingo Captain, fourteen played on each side.

There was a very large attendance of spectators, both inside the inclosure [sic] and around the ground. The ladies mustered in full force on the pavilion, where seats had been arranged for them.

The two teams later sat down to a well-served dinner at the Ram Hotel, where in graceful terms the Gloucester Captain thanked the plucky Londoners for coming so far, and expressed a hope that the match would be made an annual one – a sentiment that was greatly applauded by all present.

We should add that Messrs W.A.Lucy and R.P.Sumner acted as umpires to the great satisfaction of both sides.

The following were the players:

Flamingoes:

A.C.Hartley (captain) and N.Rowsell (backs)

A..Maclean (three-quarter back)

F.M.Shaw and W.V.Graham (half backs)

A.Pine, F.W.Hartley, L.T.Whalley, A.Rogers, J.Maclean, H.V.Welch, Jessop,

A.Payne and R.Clements.

Gloucester:

F.Hartley (captain) and W.Boughton (half-backs)

J.Brown and H.L.Cooks (backs)

W.G.Bosley (three quarter back)

H.Jewesbury, W.G.Weston, F Molineux, A.E.Villar, S.Lane, Dewey,

H.G.Berry, F. Bennet and F.Stephens.
