

When the inhabitants of the city rose this morning rain was falling heavily, and there seemed very little prospect of there being anything but a continuously wet day. As the weather did not clear up by midday many people began to entertain doubts as to whether the long-looked-forward-to match would take place at all, and some went so far as to predict nothing else but a postponement. The elements, however, seemed to favour the football enthusiasts, for soon afterwards the rain ceased, and as a consequence numbers of people of both sexes wended their way towards Kingsholm long before the time announced for the commencement of the game. Flags were stretched across the road just above the Spread Eagle Hotel, and a similar decoration was to be found at the bottom of Kingsholm-road.

It was announced that the Burton team would arrive at the Gloucester railway station at 2.45, and would change at the hotel above mentioned. A large number of people assembled in front of the building a good hour before the time, however, for the purpose of catching a glimpse of the men with whom Gloucester footballists were to try conclusions. There were only a few hundred people on the ground when, shortly before three o'clock, a shout of applause announced the appearance of Mr. T. Robinson, M.P. Mr. Robinson was unaccompanied, but shortly afterwards, in company with another gentleman, he walked about the ground and seemed to be taking a deep interest in the surroundings.

Near the temporary grandstand stood Mr. Kilminster's band, and they played a number of selections, which relieved the tedium of waiting. The number of spectators was by this time increasing wonderfully, and by half-past three the ground was thickly lined with an enthusiastic and thoroughly representative crowd. About four o'clock a tremendous shout signified that the teams were coming down the road in the brakes provided by Mr. Symonds, and a few minutes afterwards the Gloucester team came on the scene, which, of course, was the signal for another outbreak of applause. They were met by Mr. Robinson, Mr. Vears, and Mr. Starr, and many other prominent and influential members of the Gloucester Football Club. Mr. Starr carried several footballs, one of them being a new one which had been presented to the club for the occasion by Mr. W.A. Woof.

The Gloucester team, with Messrs. T.G. Smith, and H.W. Bennett (hon. secs.), S.S. Starr (hon. treas.), H.J. Boughton, A.W. Vears, H.S. Simpson, C.E. Brown, G. Coates, W.C. Bailey, G.F. Dere, F.E. Jones, N. Phelps, J.W. Goddard, and E. Pickford (committee); and Messrs. A. Woodward, A.V. Hatton, G. Cummings, C.H. Dancey, S. Davis, T. Gurney, L.H. Priday, and F.H. Bretherton, then took up a position in front of the grandstand, and Mr. Vears addressed the company. He said he had great pleasure on behalf of the directors of the Gloucester Football Company in offering to those present the new football ground, to be used during the ensuing

season for the game of football. He then asked Mr. Robinson to open the ground.

Mr. Robinson, who met with a splendid reception, said he knew it was no time for making a speech, as they were all wanting to commence business. He was sure great thanks were due to the directors of the new ground for the public spirit they had shown in connection with the matter, and he felt quite sure that they had worked very hard to get the ground into its present state, for he remembered that only a short time ago the place was in a deplorable condition. Although much had been done, he believed there was still a great deal more to be done. He was sure that the directors would use their very best endeavours to make the ground one of the finest football grounds in the country. He welcomed the Burton team to Gloucester. (Applause.) He was sure his Gloucester friends would find in them honourable opponents. (Applause). He trusted that the Gloucester team would have a successful season, and he also wished that the best side that day might win the match. He should not detain them any longer, but proceed to kick off.