

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

DECEMBER 30, 1882.

FOOTBALL.

Somersetshire v. Gloucestershire. —

The annual match between these powerful Rugby Union Counties was played on Saturday, at the Spa, Gloucester. A stubbornly-contested game was expected and resulted, neither side being able to claim the victory, though the match was drawn in favour of Somerset, who scored a touch in goal and one touch-down to the opponents' *nil*, the ball never crossing the Somerset goal line.

The home county played without J. D. Miller, the well-known captain and full-back of the Clifton Club, and W. O. Moberly; while Somerset were minus the services of the brothers Penny, J. L. Templer (Cambridge University and the South of England reserve half-back), and H. Vassall (the captain of Oxford University). In consequence of the erratic running of the trains, F. Penny could not arrive in time to take his usual post of half-back, and H. G. Fuller was withdrawn from the forwards to take that place.

The choice of goals fell to the home county, and Massey kicked off against the wind. The forwards at once commenced a fast dribbling game, and playing hard on the ball, gave the opposing backs small opportunity to get away. The halves[*sic*] especially could rarely get started, though Fox more than once made ground by his dodgy running.

Before half time the ball only once crossed the Gloucester goal line, but from the maul that ensued the ball was rolled into play, and Baker, Brown, and Dewey playing up hard, carried it through the Somerset forwards and out of danger.

On changing ends Cox restarted the game, and play still continued most even. A fair catch by Hill almost in front of goal, however, looked like scoring, but Glass, to whom the kick was entrusted, missed the goal, and Gloucester touched down. A fine run by Little was negatived[*sic*] by a fine piece of play by Hill, who throughout was most conspicuous, and this player crossed the Gloucester goal line but was pushed into touch in goal. This was the last point scored, and the call of time found the ball in neutral territory.

Little and Evans behind for Gloucester, and Baker, Dewey, and Brown forward, played consistently well; while for Somerset, Glass, Hill, and Fox had most of the running, and Fuller's tackling was very deadly. All the Somerset forwards played well.

H. Fox, of Wellington, umpired for Somerset, and J. D. Miller made a most satisfactory referee.

Somerset : W. M. Massey, captain (back), R. A. Glass, H. Rutherford, and F. J. Hill (three-quarters), F. H. Fox and H. G. Fuller (halves)[*sic*], A. A. Michell, W. P. Bowyer, F. E. Hancock, G. Pruen, E. McLorg, E. L. Strong, W. A. G. Walter, H. Baker, and W. Brown (forwards).

Gloucester : H. J. Boughton (back), H. L. Evans, H. E. Taylor, G. Coates (three-quarters), H. V. Jones and F. R. Little (halves)[*sic*], G. V. Cox (captain), H. C. M. Hirst, E. Leonard, J. F. Brown, G. J. Dewey, H. B. Sloman, E. D. Trimmer, R. C. Cameron, and H. C. Baker (forwards).