

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

JANUARY 17, 1891.

FOOTBALL.

COUNTY FOOTBALL MATCH.

The Gloucestershire county team played their first match on Thursday at the Spa, Gloucester, their opponents being a strong fifteen representing the Midland Counties. The game was originally fixed to be played at Coventry, and then at Burton, but, owing to the ground at both places being unfit, it was at the last moment decided that the fixture should be played at Gloucester. Out of the fifteen home players the local club furnished no fewer than thirteen, including A. C. Hooper, of Cambridge University.

The initial half of the game was of a most even description, the forwards being equally matched, but in the second portion the Midlanders' play fell off somewhat, as the pace appeared to have had its effect.

Page started, and it was soon apparent that the combination of the home backs was much better than that of their opponents, as after a brilliant bout of passing Jackson cleverly scored a try near the corner, which Hughes successfully converted into a major point. This was the score at half-time, although some superb play between the Midland backs almost culminated in Dr. Robertson getting over the home line, Hughes saving by conceding a minor.

The second half of the game was characterised by some magnificent cork-screw runs by Hooper, whose play throughout was somewhat sensational, as his opponents were unable to cope with him, and he had exceptionally hard lines in not scoring on several occasions. Taylor also registered a try after one of his well-known sprints, as did Bagwell, but in each case Hughes failed at the place-kicks.

Ball and George were as good as ever at half-back; they played an unselfish game throughout, whilst the forwards kept the game as open as possible, and by which means the backs had plenty of opportunities of distinguishing themselves.

For the Midland team Robertson, J. and A. Rogers, A. Rotherham, Mayne, and Lycett were the most prominent.

The home county won by one goal, two tries, and four minors to one minor.

The Gloucestershire team was : –

A. F. Hughes, back; T. Bagwell, W. Jackson, W. H. Taylor, and A. C. Hooper, three-quarter backs; W. George and S. A. Ball, half-backs; H. V. Page (captain), A. E. Healing, G. J. Witcomb, R. C. Jenkins, A. Cromwell, C. Williams, W. H. Birch, and W. Thomson, forwards.