

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

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FOOTBALL DINNER AT GLOUCESTER.

A complimentary dinner was given at the Saracen's Head Hotel, Gloucester, on Tuesday night by Messrs. H.W. Ince and Beddoes to the Gloucester County and City teams and the officials to both clubs to celebrate Gloucestershire's excellent win over Cornwall in the South-Western Group of the Rugby County Championship. Mr. Ince presided, and was supported by members of the County Union and officials of the City club, the gathering including many old captains and players of the county, while Mr. Beddoes occupied the vice-chair.

THE CHAIRMAN, in proposing "The County Team and Internationals," commented on the County team's admirable win over Cornwall, and referred with pride to the fact that in the English team against Ireland there were no fewer than five Gloucestershire players.

Mr. D. GENT first responded, and remarked that he was very proud of being called upon to acknowledge the toast. When he heard of the county's wonderful victory at Cornwall he was astounded, not to say delighted, and he envied every one of the men who constituted the team on that occasion. By winning that game the Gloucestershire team brought great credit on the county and opened the eyes of the whole Rugby world (hear, hear). As regarded International players, the Gloucestershire men, excluding himself, of course, did well. It was not quite a luxury to play against Ireland at the best of times. The latter play a game only seen in Ireland. One of their players – Leslie Hayward – got a nasty smack, which prevented him doing himself justice. Now, a smack from an Englishman is bad enough, but a smack from an Irishman is something one could never forget (laughter). He (the speaker) was quite sure Hayward deserved his place in the team, and he hoped that he would have better luck the next time he played for the old country (hear, hear).

Mr. C. E. BROWN (president of the County Union) also responded, saying it was very kind of Messrs. Beddoes and Ince to entertain them as they had. Turning to the Cornwall match, he spoke of the difficulty experienced in getting a team to go to Redruth, and of the excellent victory their "second team" achieved. He felt confident the county could beat Kent, and he doubted not that if the team did their best they would win the County Championship. The county's success had created a good deal of enthusiasm, which was bound to have a good effect.

Mr. BOSTOCK-SMITH proposed "The Donors of the Feast." Touching on the Irish match, he spoke of the injury to Hayward, and said that player's pluck in continuing to play after being badly hurt proved that Gloucestershire players were not wanting in courage and determination. With regard to Johns, who was considered the best forward in England, one member of the English Selection Committee said that if Gloucestershire had seven more such forwards as Johns they would play them all for England. To get six members of the Gloucestershire team into the International fifteen was an exceptional honour, and showed that football in Gloucestershire was on the upward grade and going stronger than ever.

Mr. PEARCE (vice-president of the County Union) also spoke in support of the toast, which was accorded musical honours; and Messrs. INCE and BEDDOES responded.

During the evening an excellent musical programme was sustained by Messrs. D. Gent, G. Bland, G. Naish, Bert Rich, and Stanley Clarke. Mr. Douglas Hole was the accompanist.