

College 1st XV v Rovers F.C. Oct. 1907

On the back of a photograph of Principal's House taken in the summer of 1908 seven photographs of a 1st XV rugby match against a local team called the Rovers were found. Three of these photos are badly damaged, but the four below offer a glimpse of the past. These are probably the earliest photographs of a rugby match involving KWC and may well be the earliest photographs of rugby being played on the Isle of Man. Read below what the Barrovian of February 1908 had to say about the match.



K.W.C. v. Rovers F.C. An extract from The Barrovian, February 1908.

College losing the toss, kicked off towards Hango. After a bout of kicking they were pressed back into their own twenty-five, where they remained for a good part of the first half. The first real attempt at scoring, however, was a place kick at goal by Lancaster, from a free-kick only a few yards away from the half-way line. This, however, failed, and Rovers again pressed owing chiefly to their superior weight, and up to half-time, only allowed their twenty-five to be invaded on one occasion, when Henderson, with some lucky, but by no means brilliant dribbling, brought play close to the try-line. Just previous to this a Rovers' forward had got over the line in a rush following a throw-out from touch on the line. The try, however, was not converted. Twice again Rovers looked like scoring. Once, a dangerous rush by their three-quarters was ended by a good collar by McMeekin, and on the other occasion, the whistle for half-time interrupted a scrum dangerously near the College try-line.

When play was resumed, Rovers again speedily established themselves in the College twenty-five, but for a long time they failed to put their advantage to any account. On one occasion College really looked like scoring, remaining in their opponents twenty-five for fully five minutes. Their stay was ended by a place kick at goal by Prest, when one of their men was offside. The kick was a good one, the ball passing no more than a foot below the cross-bar, but it gave Rovers the advantage of a kick from Twenty-five and they again pressed, one of their forwards during a rush, getting past the College backs, and scoring close to the touch line. The goal kick again failed and the whistle proclaimed time without further score.