

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1912

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. NORTHAMPTON.

WEAK GLOUCESTER TEAM SUCCESSFUL.

MOBBS INJURED.

Following their heavy defeat at Newport on Saturday, Northampton appeared at Kingsholm on Monday afternoon for their annual match with Gloucester.

The City were seriously weakened at three-quarter, only one of the regular line (L. Hamblin) being available.

Hudson, Washbourne, and Lewis (who renewed an old injury to his wrist) were all disabled in the game with Cinderford on Saturday.

The vacancies were filled by players from the A team – Webb, J. Hamblin, and Bloxsome. Hayes also dropped out of the City team.

Northampton had the assistance of R. C. Birch, the Welsh International forward.

There was only a moderate gate, when the teams took the field as follows : –

GLOUCESTER	POSITIONS	NORTHAMPTON
C. Cook	Backs.	W. Horne
F. Bloxsome	Three-Quarter	J. Gillam
L. Hamblin	Backs	E. R. Mobbs
W. Sysum	"	A. Green
F. Webb	"	E. C. Cook
W. Dix	Half-Backs	A. Earl
W. Hall	"	H. Robinson
W. Johns	Forwards	T. Collins
W. Dovey	"	T. Collier
G. Vears	"	E. W. White
J. Meadows	"	J. Birch
F. Pegler	"	F. Muddiman
S. Smart	"	W. Welch
S. Millard	"	H. Pettitt
H. Berry	"	L. Dudbridge

Referee : Mr. J. Milburn (Bristol).

THE GAME.

Northampton started and there was an exchange of kicks ending in play settling in the home half. Heeling well, Northampton opened out, but the passing broke down, and Gloucester dribbled beyond the centre. The visitors were again in possession a minute later, but Mobbs was stopped. From the next movement, however, the ball was handled smartly, and Cook well beat his namesake and scored a fine try within five minutes of the start. The place kick failed.

Gloucester restarted and centre play followed. The Gloucester forwards made headway from a couple of line-outs, but Mobbs, with a mighty punt, transferred the game to the other end, where Cook made a mark.

Birch fielded to the kick and started a passing bout, Mobbs and Gillam beating the defence. Gloucester, so far, had been clean out of the hunt, and they were again severely pressed.

Hall relieved, and Cook, from a penalty, put his side to mid-field. Northampton quickly worked back, and there was a spell of even play. Gloucester heeled once, but Hamblin fumbled and Cook (Northampton) dribbled away some 20 yards before being checked. A fine rush by Smart, Berry, and Dovey took play to the Northampton half, where some keen exchanges were witnessed.

Northampton were quicker heeling than the home men, and their backs passed prettily, but Bloxsome earned applause with a fine tackle of Mobbs. Johns led the home forwards in a good rush, and later Hall and Sysum, with good kicks, gained a footing in the Northampton 25 for the first time.

For off-side Northampton were penalised, and Hamblin took a shot for goal, but a good kick went inside of the post[*sic*], a minor resulting. On the drop out the visitors were again penalised, but Birch recovered the ground with a smart effort.

A mark to Hall under difficulties saw C. Cook find touch some 30 yards down the field. Here Johns, Berry, and Meadows shone in a good effort, but the latter was tackled by Mobbs, and threw forward. Northampton kicked out, and then the Gloucester backs displayed pretty passing. Webb tried hard to clear, but Mobbs got across and effected a smothering tackle.

Hall was later penalised for throwing the ball into touch when collared, but the kick availed little, as Johns, Meadows, and Dovey recovered with a spirited loose rush.

By the aid of an outside movement Northampton got away, Cook cross-kicking. Sysum, however, gathered and found touch cleverly.

Immediately after Birt opened out from the loose, and Mobbs was off, only to be legged by Bloxsome. From the next scrum Earl was allowed to get clear, and Cook brought off a fine run, but stumbled and fell when attempting to cut inside.

Gloucester cleared through Hall and Dix, and later Bloxsome and Sysum further improved. Gloucester were pulled up through Sysum knocking on, but Webb, from a pass by Dix, made a fine effort to beat the defence. Gloucester were in a good position now, but lost it through off-side play. Gloucester missed another opening through faulty handling, Hall recovering beautifully.

The City were now doing better and getting the ball. There was a nice series of exchanges, but the tackling was too good. However, Hall a minute later put in a short punt instead of passing, which took the visitors clean off their guard. The ball bounced inside, and Sysum gathering shook off Mobbs and scored a good try. Hamblin failed at the place, and the sides were level.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 try
Northampton	1 try

Vears resumed, and a visitor failing to take, the City forwards were on him, but Cook gathered neatly and punted out to Bloxsome, who returned to Earl to mark. C. Cook sent back well, and a brilliant burst by the City front caused Northampton to defend.

Dix feeding Hall, the latter put in an overhead kick towards the posts, where a visitor secured and touched down with several home men on top of him. Mobbs had not turned out this half, and Birch played three-quarter. Gloucester lost a good slice of ground for getting off-side, and then followed some scrambling play near midfield. Berry was prominent with a good dash from a line-out, and Webb next cross-kicked with good judgment, but a knock-on was given with several Gloucester players well placed.

Northampton worked out of danger, only to see Johns put them on the defensive again with a fine individual effort. Dix soon afterwards failed in an attempt to drop a goal, and this was succeeded by Webb being tackled outside after a capital dash.

A kick across by Cook was fielded by Gillam in front of the posts, and he came through well until tackled by Hamblin, who was knocked out. He was able to resume, and Dix at once set him on the move. The centre timed a good pass to Webb, who went for the line in grand style, but fell a victim to Horne.

On the other wing Bloxsome made a praiseworthy effort to cross but was pushed to touch ten yards from the line. Gloucester still kept up a spirited attack, the forwards doing grand work. Bloxsome made a good effort to break through the centre, but he was brought down.

Still, the City persevered, and following a miskick by a visitor the ball went over the line, and Johns was credited with a try. Hamblin's place-kick failed.

Northampton dropped out, and Cook knocking on, a scrum was formed in the home half. Here the visitors heeled smartly, and Birch brought off a strong dash and pass to Gillam. The wing man went hard for the line, but Cook smothered him with a good tackle. The effort led to a sharp attack on the Gloucester line, Sysum eventually relieving.

Back Northampton came, and Gloucester had a narrow escape from a line-out. A five-yards scrum followed, and Hall receiving he ran behind his line and punted out in clever fashion. Hall was immediately after conspicuous with a fine sprint down touch, but had no room to beat Horne and was tackled and sent to touch.

Gloucester opened out from the next scrum, but Sysum had his kick charged down. Hall, however, was handy, and though partly collared got in a clever left kick to touch.

From this point the home backs got away with a pretty movement, and Hamblin had hard lines in falling when there was a splendid chance. Northampton punted out of danger, but the home forwards wheeling, Dix picked up and brought off a neat run and pass to Meadows. The latter made a sharp dash for the line and apparently got over, but only a minor was given.

Gloucester got the ball out again immediately after the drop-out, but the tackling was sound. Hamblin from a line-out broke clean down the centre of the field. There appeared to be a good opening, but his pass to Bloxsome was fumbled. After this Northampton gained a footing in the home half, where a mistake by Bloxsome looked dangerous. The situation, however, was saved, and the end soon afterwards arrived.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 tries (6 points)
Northampton 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

It was a capital game to watch, both sides making play very open. Gloucester's start was anything but encouraging, for the forwards were badly beaten for possession in the scrums, and the Northampton backs – a fast and clever set – were continually on the go.

The City found their game towards the interval, and in the second half they held a decided advantage. It must not be forgotten, however, that Northampton lacked the valuable services of Mobbs after the change of ends, the old International having twisted his knee.

Johns, Smart, Berry, and Meadows were the pick of the home front rank, their dashing play in the open being very noticeable. Dix and Hall worked well together, though Earl proved himself a very smart scrum worker. The A teamers in the Gloucester line all performed creditably, Webb and Sysum doing useful work. In pace, however, the advantage rested with the visitors, Cook and Gillam being extremely fast on the respective wings.

Birch was a tower of strength to Northampton, both as forward and three-quarter, and White was nippy out of the scrum.

It was a good, clean game, and well contested.

JC