

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1913

FOOTBALL.

RUGBY.

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM.

CITY'S DISAPPOINTING SHOW.

FORWARDS OFF COLOUR.

NARROW WIN FOR GLOUCESTER.

(By W.B.)

The City team paid their first visit of the season to Cheltenham, and the match being favoured with fine weather a goodly crowd assembled on the Recreation Ground.

In the two matches played at Kingsholm, Gloucester won by 14 points to nil, and 25 points to 4 respectively, but in the second game Cheltenham only fielded a weak team.

Gloucester were strongly represented to-day, but an experiment was made in the back division, Alec Lewis and Wilkes changing places.

Cheltenham had to find a substitute for Rudge at centre, the Forester assisting his old club (Bream), whilst Vick was missing from the forwards.

The teams lined out five minutes late as follows : –

GLOUCESTER.	POSITIONS.	CHELTENHAM.
C. Cook	Backs.	H. Davey
W. Washbourne	Three-Quarter	H. Hughes
L. Hamblin	Backs	A. Cherrington
W. Wilkes	"	A. Bendall
E. Bowen	"	Owen James
W. Dix	Half-Backs	J. Baker
A. Lewis	"	S. Young
G. Halford	Forwards	L. H. Peckover
S. Millard	"	C. Bennett
A. Cook	"	H. Wixey
W. Johns	"	F. T. Wixey
G. Vears	"	F. J. Hopkins
S. Smart	"	A. Dodwell
N. Hayes	"	A. F. Burnell
A. Saunders	"	J. Cresswell

Referee : Mr. W. T. Pearce (President, County Union).

THE GAME.

The gate was the best of the season. Cheltenham lost the toss, and Peckover kicked off, the return going to touch inside the City half. Opening play was rather quiet, but at length Johns broke away, and his colleagues supporting him, Davy was forced to kick to touch near his own 25.

From a long line-out the ball became loose, and Dix and Lewis colliding in going for the ball, Cheltenham kicked clear and sent past Cook. There was a race for the ball, but a Gloucester man got back and touched down. Dix was laid out as the result of the collision, but soon came round and was able to resume.

The drop-out was charged down, but the ball rebounded over the heads of the Cheltenham forwards, and Saunders kicked ahead, Bendall saving. Gloucester heeled from a subsequent scrum, and Lewis tried hard to break through, but was safely held.

A good rush by the Town forwards changed the venue, but a well-judged punt to touch by Dix sent play back to the centre.

Lewis failing to gather a pass from Dix, the ball rolled away, but Hamblin was in attendance and cleared to Bennett. The Gloucester forwards were off-side, and lost some 20 yards as a result. A long line-out saw Wilkes take the ball through and send across, but Bowen spoilt a good opening by kicking out.

Cheltenham improved their position by the aid of Baker and Young, and then came a smart bit of work by Hamblin, who made a clever opening for Bowen. The right winger dashed away in good style and put in a short punt, but the situation was saved.

Palpable off-side by Hopkins gave Gloucester a penalty, but Cook's shot for goal was a long way out, and Davy cleared effectively.

Play was in the Town half, when Bendall got in a long punt down the field. Cook had to run back to gather, and in attempting to cut two men he was collared, and placed his side in an awkward position. Cheltenham attacking desperately, the City had an anxious time, but a penalty gained relief. Hughes, fielding in the open, ran across and attempted a drop at goal, but it was a poor effort.

Cheltenham, however, were having the better of the exchanges, and a passing bout looked promising. Hughes, however, was well tackled by Washbourn. A splendid combined rush by the City forwards brought Gloucester out of danger, and Dix further improved matters with a clever effort. An interception by Hughes saw the Cheltonian punt strongly to Cook, who fielded and returned, but failed to find touch.

The Town tried a dash through, but it was foiled, and Halford started a movement to the other end. A wide pass was sent out to Wilkes, and Bowen was served, but a forward pass was given.

Gloucester tried to open out, but with Hopkins and H. Wixey winging the passing was smothered. For legs up in the scrum Cheltenham were penalised, and C. Cook with a nice kick landed a goal amidst the cheers of the Gloucester spectators.

A couple of minutes after the restart Gloucester added to their lead with a very fine try. Dix opened out well inside the Gloucester half, and the ball passed through the hands of Lewis, Wilkes, and Hamblin to Washbourn. The latter raced away, and timing a sweet pass to Hamblin, who had come up on his left, the centre raced over with a great try. C. Cook added the extra points.

Cheltenham restarted, and the Town early on were awarded a penalty, Davy finding touch with a splendid kick. A pretty bout of passing by the Cheltenham backs was stopped by Hughes, the Town sprinter being completely smothered. Immediately after Cook conceded a minor from a fruitless drop at goal by Hughes.

On the resumption penalties fell to either side, but Cheltenham were doing well, especially forward. The game, however, was rather scrambling.

Heeling by the Cheltenham forwards saw Young feed Bendall, and the centre kicked through near the line. The Cheltonian was obstructed by a couple of Gloucester players, and the referee promptly gave a penalty try – a proper decision. Davy failed at goal.

To the interval Cheltenham attacked and came near scoring following a mistake by Wilkes.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	2 goals (1 p)
Cheltenham	1 try

Halford restarted for Gloucester, the reply finding touch past the centre. The Town forwards carried a scrum, but they were well stopped. Dix and Washbourn worked the short side of the scrum prettily, and later Dix, Lewis, and Hamblin got away, only to be pulled up by a forward transfer.

Wilkes next picked up in the loose and fed Bowen, but the latter had not sufficient room to do anything, and he was bored to touch. Baker replied with a fine individual effort, and Cheltenham had a good opening, but it was not accepted.

Dix, with a clever dribble, took play right down to Davy, who saved nicely, but Gloucester had recovered a nice attacking position. Young punted out splendidly, and the Gloucester forwards being off-side when Cook returned, a good slice of ground was given away by the City.

Johns and Dix, with good work, regained the territory, but a possible chance of scoring was lost through over-running the ball. Back Cheltenham came with dashing forward work, and on the 25 line Gloucester were penalised. Hughes took a drop for goal and with a splendid kick from a difficult angle landed a goal.

Only two points now separated the teams, and the players resumed with desperate abandon. Cheltenham, with bustling forward work, became dangerous, but the City got a penalty which enabled them to reach the centre.

The Town rushed back, and play hovered inside the Gloucester half. Dix led the visitors down, and Hughes being at fault, Gloucester obtained a better position.

The game was keen and exciting, but neither side was able to do much in the way of opening out. There was a temporary delay owing to Vears being knocked out, but the Gloucesterian soon came round.

Subsequent play showed no improvement, being a continued succession of scrums and lines-out. And so the game continued dull, uninteresting, and devoid of a solitary feature.

Just before the end Gloucester had a passing movement, but nothing resulted.

RESULT :

Gloucester	2 goals (1p) (8 points)
Cheltenham	1 goal (p) 1 try (p) (6 pts)

REMARKS.

Gloucester's display to-day was a downright disappointment, and if the team had been beaten no one could have complained. The chief fault lay with the forwards, who were badly beaten in the scrum, and apart from some good individual work by Johns and Saunders, were generally off colour.

Cheltenham's bustling tactics, with Hopkins and H. Wixey always hanging on the fringe of the scrum, put the visitors off their game entirely, and I rarely remember the City pack so ineffective as a unit. The one bright incident in the game was the try scored by Gloucester, chief credit going to Hamblin and Washbourn, who worked out the movement perfectly.

With the City front out of it as regard getting the ball, the backs were only occasionally employed. The game was not a fair test for the new experiment, but I cannot say I altogether liked Alec Lewis at outside half. His understanding with Dix was not happy, and several passes were allowed to go astray. Dix and Baker played on one another with great keenness, and honours were fairly even taking the play throughout.

Young was very nippy at stand off half for Cheltenham, and kicked and saved well. The back play, as a whole, however, was of a moderate standard, there being little combination.

The Cheltenham men had heaps more of the ball, and with more enterprise might easily have won the game for their side. Hughes several times was sent away, but kicked when faced by an opponent.

Hamblin and Washbourn were the more useful of the City threes. The full back play of C. Cook and Davy was good.

Cheltenham were delighted with the close fight they made, and for this result they had largely to thank their forwards, of whom Peckover, Bennett, and Dodwell were the more serviceable.

Hopkins was perhaps the most noticeable, but he was a notable shirker of the hard work, and ought to have been penalised several times for off-side play.

GLOUCESTER A v. CHEPSTOW ST. MARY'S.

GOOD WIN FOR THE SECONDS.

VISITING BACK INJURED.

The Seconds were at home to Chepstow St. Mary on Kingsholm, on Saturday, this being the return fixture.

At Chepstow Gloucester won by 7 points to nil, but since then Chepstow had met and defeated a strong Monmouth team, including several of the Newport 1st XV., and a good game was anticipated.

There was only one change in the Gloucester side, F. Pegler standing down owing to an attack of neuralgia.

It was surprising that after the wonderful performance put up by the "Reserves" last Saturday there was only a small gate.

The teams were : –

Gloucester A. – F. W. Hayward; F. Bloxsome, W. Sysum, T. Powell, and F. Webb; C. Cummings and J. Humphries; W. Dovey, J. Bryant, J. Harris, C. Mumford, Lewis, Parham, Osborne, and Russell.

Chepstow. – L. Marmont; A. Matthews, L. Powell, W. Priest, and T. Hobbs; I. Priest and C. Harris; F. Puddicombe, A. Watkins, E. Wyatt, G. Dorrington, D. Jones, H. Hayward, S. Harris, and F. Lewis.

Referee : F. T. Laurance.

Chepstow started against the wind, and Gloucester were very quickly on the attack. Several scrums were formed in the Chepstow 25, and from one of these the forwards heeled nicely, and Humphries opened out. Webb received and put in a good cross kick, but the ball went astray. Chepstow, however, were unable to clear, and from a loose kick Hayward picked up and dropped a capital goal.

Gloucester were quickly back on the attack again, and after pretty exchanges between Cummings, Bloxsome, Sysum, and Webb, the latter neatly outwitted the defence and scored. Hayward failed with the kick.

Gloucester had not long to wait for another. The forwards put in a useful bit of work, and Webb punted across again. This gave Powell a chance, and gathering the ball nicely he sprinted clear and scored a good try. Hayward failed at long range although the kick was a good one.

Following the drop-out Chepstow went away well, but a nice bit of work by the Gloucester threes carried the game well beyond the centre, Bloxsome making a nice slice of ground. A penalty fell to Gloucester, and Hayward very nearly landed another goal from well outside the 25 line.

Gloucester had matters much their own way, and from a neat bit of finesse at the line out Humphries gave Harris a snip try under the posts. Hayward, however, failed at the easy shot.

Just before half-time Chepstow gradually worked down to the Gloucester 25, and from a scrum close in Ivor Priest dodged over with a try, which Matthews just failed to convert. At the call of time, however, Gloucester were attacking again.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	1 goal (d), 3 tries
Chepstow	1 try

Restarting with the wind behind them, Chepstow played up strongly, but although they forced Gloucester back onto their own line the visiting outsidies failed to make use of their chances, and were easily beaten off. Gloucester then tried handling, but the movements were not well conceived, and very little ground was made. A good forward rush, however, took the 'Cestrians to the centre, where play remained for some time.

Another fine rush by the Gloucester front, with Harris leading, carried the game well into the visitors' 25, and Powell was very nearly over in the corner. In effecting the tackle Marmont was badly injured, and unfortunately had to be carried off the field. Just after this Cummings opened out, and after a neat pass by Bloxsome, Powell received, and running very strongly from half-way, he dodged the opposition cleverly and scored a lovely try behind the posts. It was a capital effort, and Hayward added the extra points with a good kick.

A lovely opening from the scrum almost immediately followed, and Webb receiving sailed right away and scored a good try, for Hayward to goal. Not very long after Bloxsome received from a long line-out well beyond the centre, and going off at top speed he beat the full-back and scored a splendid individual try, which Hayward majorised. Chepstow played up after this, and attacked strongly, but they were not able to press home their chances, and Gloucester cleared.

RESULT :

Gloucester A	4 goals (1d) 3 tries (28 points)
Chepstow	1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

The Seconds were too good for the visitors all round, and behind the scrum the home team held a marked advantage. Powell, Webb, and Bloxsome played excellent football, and the former fully confirmed the good opinion already created.

It is a matter of great regret that Marmont was so badly hurt. He was only semi-conscious at 5.30, and it was feared he had sustained concussion of the brain.

JC