

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1913

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL.

THREE POINTS' WIN FOR THE CITY.

(By P.M.C.)

The first meeting of the season between these teams took place at the County Ground, Bristol, and promised an interesting contest.

Bristol, with so many changes in their ranks, have experienced a bad time, and of the sixteen engagements decided prior to this afternoon's game only five were won, there being ten defeats recorded and one drawn game.

With the advent of the New Year the Committee introduced some young blood into their team, and it was hoped this bold policy would be attended with satisfactory results.

A very creditable show was made against Devon Albion last week, and with a stronger fifteen out to-day Gloucester were not by any means expecting to have matters all their own way.

Gloucester were well represented.

The teams were : –

GLOUCESTER.	POSITIONS.	BRISTOL.
C. Cook	Backs.	E. Osborne
A. Hudson (capt.)	Three-Quarter	A. E. Gregory
A. Lewis	Backs	H. E. Shewring
L. Hamblin	"	T. R. Brown
W. Washbourne	"	H. Hare
W. Dix	Half-Backs	A. Hall
W. Wilkes	"	T. C. Tottle
G. Halford	Forwards	E. Kibbey
G. Vears	"	W. West
W. Johns	"	R. Meyer
A. Saunders	"	W. Bryant
S. Millard	"	W. Allen
E. Nash	"	H. Veater
N. Hayes	"	E. Crew
A. Cook	"	W. Bradshaw

Referee : Mr. P. J. Parkes (Midlands)

THE GAME.

The ground was very soft and only a poor gate was present when Bradshaw started for Bristol, a scrum being called at the centre. Wilkes punted well down, but Osborne safely returned. Hall, who was working the scrum for Bristol, opened out cleverly, and the Bristol three-quarters made a lot of ground. Further clever work by the Bristol three-quarters took the ball well up, and Gregory showing fine pace looked like getting a try, but Hamblin ran back and saved by kicking into touch in goal.

The Bristol forwards were getting the ball in the scrum, and Hall opened out again, Shewring being prominent. The Gloucester forwards replied with a telling rush, Johns leading, and the Bristol 25 was the scene of operations.

Wilkes opened out nicely, but gave an awkward pass. From a penalty on the Bristol 25 Cook had a shot for goal, but it went wide, and Bristol cleared.

A fine burst by the Gloucester forwards, with Hayes and Nash in the van, carried the ball over the line, but Osborne touched down just in time. Strenuous forward play followed, Bristol gradually working into the Gloucester territory. Clever work by Hamblin cleared, but then Hall set Gregory going, and the latter punting over Cook's head it looked all over a score, but the ball went into touch.

Then from right under the Bristol goal Alec Lewis received, and, passing to Hudson, the captain, in spite of the heavy ground, went away at top speed and, outpacing and beating the opposition, scored a grand try in the corner. It was a magnificent effort, which called forth loud cheers. Cook failed at goal.

Gloucester pressed immediately after this, and some fine work was put in by the forwards. Hall was penalised for not putting in fairly, but very little ground was gained. Gloucester, however, kept the game in the Bristol 25, and a fine kick by Cook served them well. Mistakes in handling were quite excusable, but the forwards made up for this by some grand footwork, Halford shining with two capital efforts.

Gloucester worked right down to the Bristol line, but a free to the homesters brought relief. Gloucester were quickly back in the home 25 again. Hall, however, was right on top of Dix, and the little Gloucester half had difficulty in getting the ball away.

The visitors, however, maintained a hot attack until the Bristol forwards got right away. A fine open movement by the Bristol outsides took the game right from half-way to the Gloucester line, but Hudson and Lewis just managed to avert a score. Just before half-time Shewring was well away, but the referee ruled the ball forward. The crowd was disappointed.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 try
Bristol Nil

On resuming the Bristol forwards went away with a terrific rush and carried the game into the 'Cestrians 25, but Dix, cleverly tricking Hall, set Washbourne going, and the wing man went away well, but was bored into touch. Bristol went away again well after this, but wonderful fielding by Lewis stopped a dangerous rush.

Bristol were awarded a free on the Gloucester 25 line, but the forwards got in front of the kicker, so that the home men lost ground. Hall set Shewring going, and the veteran passed to Hare, who, however, seeing he could not get through punted, and Cook cleared easily, although pressed. Alec Lewis then went away on his own with a lovely dribble right from the Gloucester 25 to the Bristol line, but Osborne effected a grand save and robbed Gloucester of what looked like a certainty.

The game was now in the Bristol 25, the Gloucester forwards putting in some really fine footwork. Bristol, however, cleared, chiefly owing to a long kick by Hare, which went over the line to touch-in-goal.

On the dropout several hot scrums followed in neutral territory before Dix and Washbourne dribbled right away. Gregory got back and saved, but a minute later Wilkes was nearly over after smart work by Dix and Washbourne. Gloucester pressed hard for a time, but Tottle relieved with a touch-finder, and centre play followed.

A free to Bristol gained a nice slice of ground. The home three-quarters then had a fine chance, but Gregory missed his pass. Bristol, however, were well on the attack now, and giving Gloucester a very anxious time, and a score very nearly came off in the corner.

A loose punt by Wilkes sent the ball to Osborne, who, however, misfielded, and Washbourne, dashing up, dribbled well into the Bristol 25, where, however, Shewring fell on the ball and saved a very dangerous situation.

Centre play followed, but the Bristol forwards gradually worked down into the visitors' quarter again. Hamblin, who had been playing excellent football, found touch well, and play settled in neutral territory once more, both sets of forwards working desperately hard.

Dix worked the blind side, but Washbourne failed to take his pass. Bristol then went away again in great style, and the line had a narrow escape, but Wilkes, picking up in a melee, punted out cleverly and saved the situation.

Just before the end the Gloucester men had two very near shaves from scoring. Hudson dribbled clear once and kicked across, Lewis nearly doing the trick, and in the last minute Shewring only robbed Washbourne of a certain try by kicking dead.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 try (3 points)
Bristol Nil

REMARKS.

In spite of the horrible state of the ground it was a good game to watch, there never being a minute's dullness throughout.

"Ifs" and "buts" never won football matches, but I am on perfectly safe ground in saying that if the ground had been dry the Gloucester backs would have turned their opportunities to better account.

The handling naturally was faulty, but in the circumstances quite blameless. The Gloucester centres played a grand defensive game, while for Bristol "Tart" Hall was the best man on the field, his collaring saving the Bristol line on more than one occasion. The Gloucester forwards played a sterling game, every man giving of his best.

GLOUCESTER A v. BRISTOL A.

BRISTOLIANS' RECORD SMASHED.

The undefeated Bristol Seconds appeared at Kingsholm in opposition to a strong Gloucester A team. The kick-off was originally fixed for 2.45, but the visitors did not leave Bristol till 2 o'clock, so that the start was considerably delayed.

There was a good crowd present when the teams lined out as follows: –

Gloucester A. – F. W. Hayward; F. Webb, Trevor Powell, F. Bloxsome, and E. Bowen; J. Humphries and W. Sysum; Parham, F. Pegler, J. Harris, Bryant, W. Dovey, Rudman, F. Yates, and C. Mumford.

Bristol A. – Evans; Hill, Bray, Davies, and Feltham; W. N. Wookey and Wring; Edwards, Carey, Bryant, Holmes, Clarke, Fisher, Barnett, and Merchant.

Gloucester started and quickly assumed the offensive, but were sent back by Evans with a good punt. The Bristol forwards came away with a dribble, but Hayward found touch nicely, and ensuing play was contested at mid-field.

Here a Gloucesterian punted high, and the opposing full back failing to obtain, the Seconds transferred the game to the Bristol 25. By good footwork Gloucester maintained this position, but by judicious touch-kicking Bristol worked out of danger. Eventually the visitors attacked, but Sysum gaining possession of the ball ran half the length of the field before being overhauled.

Bristol tried passing, but the attempt proved a failure. For off-side at the scrum Gloucester were penalised, but the kick, in a favourable position, proved a failure. Bowen was next prominent with a clever run and cross-kick, but the forwards knocked on, and a good movement was spoiled.

The visitors were now on the attack and forced a minor, but from the resultant drop-out the forwards rushed out of danger. The Bristol full back later fumbled, and Harris snapping up the ball ran strongly until tackled, when he passed. Webb obtained possession, and cleverly beating the opposition ran right round under the posts. Hayward goaled.

With five points against them the unbeaten Bristolians played up strongly, and were nearly over, but Hayward cleared splendidly. Webb was again prominent with a fine dribble down touch, carrying the game well into the visitors' quarters.

Still keeping up the pressure, the Seconds' forwards dribbled the ball right over their opponents' line, but the final kick was a little too hard, and nothing resulted. Bristol worked out of danger, but the Gloucester forwards, who were putting up a splendid fight, again assumed the aggressive, although the defence could not be pierced.

Bristol now tried passing, but a dangerous movement was spoiled by the bad final transfer. The visitors' full back stopped a good Gloucester rush in fine style, sending to touch well past the centre. The Bristol three's got on the move, but Bowen effected a good tackle, and ensuing play, of a scrambling nature, was fought out in front of the home goal.

Bowen, with a brilliant run, completely changed the venue of operations, and but for Webb failing to accept a long throw from a forward a score might have been registered. A minute later Bowen again did some smart work, and half-time arrived with play right on the Bristol line.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A 1 goal
Bristol A Nil

Immediately after the restart a Bristol three-quarter broke away, and running finely, gave Hayward the dummy and looked all over a scorer. He was, however, overhauled, and Bowen punted out of danger.

Bristol were now attacking, but the home defence was safe, and by the aid of a forward rush the game was transferred to mid-field, where a Bristolian relieved under difficulties.

Ensuing exchanges were fought out in the visitors' 25, until their forwards, with the ball at their feet, went right away to Hayward, who effected a clearance. The ball was next punted to the Bristol full-back, but his return was charged down, and although he made efforts to retrieve the mistake Harris proved too fast and dribbled over the line with a splendid try. Hayward kicked a good goal.

The visitors played their hardest after this second reverse, but the Seconds were too good, and again came to their opponents' line, Harris nearly notching another. Still maintaining the pressure Gloucester several times had hard lines, but the greasy state of the ground prevented the ball being handled with any certainty.

Bristol attacked, only to be sent back again, and some strenuous and exciting play was witnessed between the two packs. From a line-out Yates marked, but Hayward failed at the kick. The Seconds now attacked hotly, and Bloxsome obtaining he threw across to Bowen, who with a desperate effort crossed in the corner. Hayward failed to improve.

On the restart the Seconds again assumed the aggressive, and quickly worked into their opponents' territory. Almost immediately two Bristol players fumbled with the ball on their own line and Webb dashing up notched another. Hayward failed to convert.

Sticking gamely to their work Bristol worked to the Gloucester 25, but they were unable to make much impression on the defence, Hayward getting in some useful touch-finders. The home forwards then took up the running, and with Harris and Pegler leading rushed nearly the length of the field, being pulled up right on the line by a Bristolian getting injured. He was carried off the field.

On the restart the ball came to Hayward, who with a clear field dropped a neat goal. The end soon afterwards came.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 3 goals (1d) 2 tries (20 pts.)
Bristol A Nil

REMARKS.

The unbeaten Bristol combination suffered the same fate at Kingsholm to-day as many other record-holders have done before them. Their defeat by such a large margin was not quite expected, as two or three prominent homesters cried off at the last moment, and their places had to be taken by substitutes. However, it remains that after a hard, gruelling and strenuously contested game the homesters proved victorious to the tune of 20 points to nil.

The game was fought out mainly between the two packs, the greasy state of the ground and ball preventing anything like accurate handling. There was not much in it in the tight, but in the loose the Seconds were overwhelmingly superior, and repeatedly Bristol's lines were in jeopardy as the result of dashing forward work. That the score was not higher was solely due to their full-back, who saved time after time in daring and effective fashion. Harris stood out as the best forward on the home side – indeed, on the field – his play in the loose and close following up being special features of the game.

The rest of the pack were all thoroughly sound, and it would be invidious to distinguish between them. Bowen, Bloxsome, and Webb, of the outsides, were the pick in the order named. Hayward did many good things at back, being both safe in defence and kicking a good length with accuracy.

All the tries scored were the result of sound work, and the Seconds can be congratulated upon a really meritorious performance.