

# THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1913

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM.

TOWN'S WEAK TEAM EASILY BEATEN.

The first of the two extra matches arranged between these clubs was played at Kingsholm on Thursday, but it attracted only a poor gate. Gloucester had a full side with the exception of C. Cook but Cheltenham were weakly represented, especially forward.

The teams were : –

GLOUCESTER. – E. Ruck; E. Bowen, A. Lewis, L. Hamblin, and A. Hudson (capt.); W. Dix and W. Wilkes; G. Halford, S. Smart, W. Johns, G. Vears, S. Millard, N. Hayes, W. Dovey, and A. Cook.

CHELTENHAM. – B. Davy; H. Hughes, H. Rudge, C. Cummings, and F. J. Hopkins; J. Webb, and A. Bendall; A. Dodwell, A. Hailing, L. Lippett, W. Gibbins, W. Smith, F. Vick, F. T. Wixey, and T. Cresswell.

Referee : Mr. J. L. Davies (Lydney).

THE GAME.

Halford kicked off, but the ball failing to go ten yards a scrum followed at the centre. Gloucester heeled, but Wilkes was collared when he received from Dix, and the Cheltenham forwards dribbled right away to the home end. The ball coming out on the Cheltenham side, Webb sent to Cummings, who dropped a clever goal within a couple of minutes of the start.

The City resumed and early on there was a bout of passing. The ball got across to Hudson, but the captain punted and nothing resulted. Hughes relieved with a good kick, but Gloucester returned to the attack with a series of exchanges. Hamblin, however, failed to take from Lewis, though he recovered and punted to touch. Webb changed the venue with a good dribble, forcing Ruck to go to touch at the centre.

From a long throw-out Hayes got away with a fine burst, but fell a victim to Davy and threw forward. From the ensuing scrum Dix got out a wide pass to Lewis, who took the ball beautifully and sent to Hamblin. The latter ran to Davy, when he yielded to Bowen, who scored in the corner. Hamblin converted with a lovely kick.

On the restart, there was some even play until Cheltenham, by forward rushes, gained a footing in the home 25. Dix gained relief with a nice touch-finder, and Hamblin with a good punt sent to midfield, where Davy was collared in possession. He was robbed of the ball, and Lewis darted away and fed Hudson, but the captain finished tamely. Cheltenham soon worked out of danger, and later Bendall, with a clever bit of footwork, took the ball to the line, where Bowen saved just in time.

On the drop-out Cheltenham confined operations to the home half for a time, but a fine try soon followed to Gloucester. Dix started a movement well inside the home quarters, and Wilkes, Hamblin, Lewis, and Hudson in turn handled. The captain gave an inside pass to Hamblin, who raced down to Davy and then returned to Hudson, who romped over the line and put the ball down in a good position. Hamblin added the extra points.

Cheltenham kicked over the line for a minor on the resumption. The drop-out was well returned, and Gloucester were forced on the defensive. A pass from Dix to Hudson saw the latter punt to Davy; but though hotly pressed the Town captain got in a fine return to touch.

Hamblin brought the game out to mid-field, where Wilkes put his backs in motion very cleverly. The passing, however, broke down. A similar result followed on the left, and then came a pretty bout which ended in Hudson being checked by Davy on the 25-line.

Gloucester were getting the ball in the scrum every time now, but the visitors put up a strong defence. Penalties fell to either side, Cheltenham benefitting and reaching the centre. Here Wilkes recovered a mistake cleverly and passed to Hudson, who cross-kicked. The City forwards got up and sent the ball over the line, and Hudson dashed up and scored. Hamblin failed to convert.

Gloucester opened up the game well on play being resumed, but failure to handle stopped some promising movements.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester .....	2 goals, 1 try
Cheltenham .....	1 goal (d)

Cheltenham resumed, and early play was of a scrambling nature. Dix at length opened up with a pretty effort, and a score seemed imminent, but Hamblin was pulled down a few yards from the line.

Gloucester lost the position by faulty play, and Cheltenham took the ball to the other end, where Hughes had a fine chance. But he kicked instead of "having a go," and the ball going over the line Bowen touched down.

Gloucester were playing very scrappy football just now, and more mistakes let Cheltenham in again. Hughes had another opening, but kicked again, and though the Town got very close they could not score.

Halford was instrumental in changing the venue, and from a smart bout of passing Bowen had a dash for the line, but he was collared. The effort led to a sharp attack on the Cheltenham line, but only a minor resulted.

Subsequent play was absolutely devoid of incident, the football being of the poorest possible description. The Gloucester forwards at length broke away, and Hughes and then Davy being collared in possession the ball got loose. Smart gathered and passed to Hudson, who put in a short punt and again secured the ball, scoring in the corner. Hamblin missed the goal points.

Gloucester continued to attack, but finish was lacking at the critical moment. Another try came, however, from a movement initiated from the scrum by Dix, Bowen being the scorer. The goal-kick by Hamblin failed.

Cheltenham worked to the home half on the drop-out, but they were quickly beaten back. Hamblin brought off a splendid run down touch and looked like scoring, but he was held up outside. Then from a kick by Ruck a Cheltenham man fumbled, and Vears, being on the alert, picked up and scored. Ruck failed at goal.

Just before the end Bowen scored again from a cross-kick by Cook, the Gloucesterian easily beating Hopkins in the race for the touch. The goal kick proved a failure.

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 2 goals, 5 tries (25 points)  
Cheltenham ..... 1 goal (d) (4 points)