

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1913

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL.

ANOTHER WRETCHED DAY.

GAME ABANDONED AFTER THIRTY MINUTES.

CLEVER PLAY BY GLOUCESTER BACKS.

Gloucester's bad luck in the weather for home matches continued again to-day, for rain fell with brief intervals all the morning right up to the kick-off. The attendance consequently suffered considerably, and the ground was in a bad condition. Gloucester fielded a good side, Vears being the only absentee, but there were several new players in the visitors' ranks.

The teams were : —

GLOUCESTER.	POSITIONS.	BRISTOL.
C. Cook	Backs.	W. R. Johnston
E. Bowen	Three-Quarter	H. Feltham
W. Wilkes	Backs	A. C. Clarke
L. Hamblin	"	W. Pickles
W. Washbourn	"	H. Evans
W. Dix	Half-Backs	A. Hall
A. Lewis	"	T. C. Tottle
G. Halford (capt.)	Forwards	E. Kibbey
W. Dovey	"	W. West
W. Johns	"	W. Bryant
A. Saunders	"	W. Allen
S. Millard	"	H. Veater
S. Smart	"	E. Crew
N. Hayes	"	O. Connor
A. Cook	"	S. Carey

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

THE GAME.

Halford kicked off for Gloucester, and a series of exchanges left the game ten yards inside the Bristol half. It was early seen the players would have the greatest difficulty in maintaining a foothold, and mistakes in handling occurred at the outset.

Loose kicking by Bristol took play into the Gloucester half, where the City backs opened out. Hamblin, receiving from Lewis, cut through beautifully and went clean up to Johnston, but Washbourn failed to hold the pass – and excusable mistake with the prevailing conditions.

Gloucester attacked sharply on the left, and Johnston had to turn the ball to touch to save. From a scrum close in Dix broke away and passed to Washbourn, but Feltham intercepted, and racing down punted past Cook. Lewis got back and tried to clear, but he was pushed to touch a few yards from the line – a complete transformation of operations.

The Gloucester forwards soon changed the venue, and the home team secured a nice position. Heeling by the forwards saw Dix open out, and the ball getting across to Bowen, the right wing, though collared, managed to get the ball over the line in the far corner. Cook missed the goal points.

Following the drop-out, Dix was prominent with a very clever run, but his pass was knocked on by an opponent a few yards from the line. Bristol cleared with a useful rush, but Cook and Hamblin, with good kicks, kept play at the centre.

Here Dix got the ball away smartly, and Lewis feeding Hamblin, the centre burst through in grand style, and feinting to pass beat Johnston. He raced hard for the line, but Tottle pressing him from behind, Hamblin passed to Washbourn, who completed a grand movement with a nice try. No goal resulted.

Bristol dropped out, and despite the terrible conditions some exceedingly clever play was witnessed. Hamblin was to the fore again with a smart pick-up and kick to touch, and later he brought off a great tackle of Hall when the ex-Cinderfordian was going strongly.

Rushing well, the Gloucester forwards took the ball right to the line, where a visitor carried over. A scrum followed five yards outside, and Dix fed Lewis nicely, but the latter's transfer went over Hamblin's shoulder to touch.

Bristol cleared with loose rushes, but they were checked at mid-field. From some open play Bowen picked up and ran strongly, but was tackled from behind and his pass went astray.

From the subsequent scrum Dix gathered and was away on the left with Washbourn in attendance. A well-judged pass was well taken, and the City left winger raced away with only Johnston to beat. The International, however, was completely beaten with a clever side-step and Washbourn finished a fine effort by scoring in a good position. Cook failed at goal.

A terrific storm swept the ground when the game was resumed, and though the players pluckily kept on for a few minutes it was impossible to continue under such conditions, and the game was abandoned a few minutes before half-time.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 tries (9 points)

Bristol Nil

REMARKS.

In all my experience I do not remember a Gloucester match being abandoned under such circumstances, but no one questioned the referee's decision in putting an end to the game. The ground was bad enough before play started, and after the storm it was simply a swamp.

It was most unfortunate that such an abrupt termination was necessary, for in the half hour's football were some of the brightest and best bits of play we have witnessed at Kingsholm this season. The whole Gloucester team appeared to revel in the conditions, and the passing and running for the most part was well-nigh perfect. The three tries were all beautifully worked for, the visitors' defence, and especially that of Johnston, being clean beaten.

The City forwards were very quick in the scrums, and Dix opened out in clever fashion. Lewis, too, did his part well, and Hamblin was in brilliant form at centre. Washbourn and Bowen, on the respective wings, worked in thorough accord with their colleagues, the former especially being seen to advantage. Cook and Johnston both kicked well at full-back, and it was marvellous how accurately the players generally handled the wet ball.

Feltham was Bristol's most prominent three-quarter, and one effort of his, three parts the length of the ground deserved reward. At scrum half, A. Hall was not allowed much rope, and little was seen of Tottle. The forwards, while the game lasted, were outplayed, the Gloucester pack being superior in all departments.

Try-getters for Gloucester : Washbourn (2) and Bowen; Cook failed at goal.

Easter Monday ; v. Cinderford, at Kingsholm.

GLOUCESTER A v. BRISTOL A.

A DRAWN GAME.

At Bristol. The home side attacked vigorously, and Wring was held up on the line. Hayward relieved the pressure when Bristol looked dangerous, and Hamblin giving the dummy beautifully, some smart inter-passing resulted in Hudson going over with a try. No goal resulted. Bloxsome was almost over a moment later.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A 1 try (3 points)
Bristol A Nil

Play in the second half was fast and even. Percy got away and forced Gloucester to concede a minor. Bloxsome was going for the line when his side were penalised, and Hare brought relief with a good kick.

Towards the end the Bristol forwards brought off a big rush, and Edwards crossed with a try, Hare failing with the kick.

RESULT :
Gloucester A 1 try (3 points)
Bristol A 1 try (3 points)

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