

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1898

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL

The return encounter between these rivals was decided at Kingsholm this afternoon.

The previous meeting between the clubs ended in favour of Gloucester, but victory was only secured by a penalty goal.

For to-day's contest Bristol were strongly represented (Herbie Morgan, late of Swansea, being included), but the home team were not so fortunate, Percy Stout, Hipwood, Clutterbuck and G. Smith being away.

The vacancies were filled by Romans, Dovey (J. Cook was excused, as he had made arrangements to visit an invalid brother at Bristol), S. Smith, and Hughes respectively.

The absence of Hipwood and G. Smith was not of serious account, but the inability of both Percy Stout and Clutterbuck to play considerably weakened the three-quarter line.

Frank Stout had been ordered not to play, but at the last moment the International decided to turn out.

The weather was very good, some 3,000 spectators lining the ropes.

The teams took the field at 3.40, the men lining up as follows : –

GLOUCESTER	Positions	BRISTOL
G. Romans	Backs	J. Oates
W. H. Taylor (capt.)	Three-quarters	P. Hussey
W. Dovey	"	R. Hussey
F. M. Luce	"	Herbert Morgan
C. Smith	"	R. G. Parsons
A. Stephens	Half-backs	W. Needs
Car Cummings	"	F. G. Rice
C. Williams	Forwards	J. W. Jarman
C. Hall	"	H. B. Bingham
C. Rose	"	M. Courtenay
F. M. Stout	"	W. Halliwell
A. H. Click	"	J. Kislingbury
F. Goulding	"	E. Dymond
B. L. Watkins	"	T. B. Timmins
W. Hughes	"	E. Blizzard

Referee : MR. W. Bowen (Cardiff).

THE GAME

Bristol won the toss, and F. Stout started operations from the Worcester-street goal. Blizzard received, and he got in a lucky flying kick into touch near the centre. From the throw-out the home forwards got away with a fine burst, but Needs saved pluckily, and then the same player, with a useful dribble, transferred play back to mid-field. Stephens and Taylor, with useful kicks, improved matters for Gloucester, but passing between Allen[*sic*] and Needs gave the latter a chance, but Dovey spoiled the movement.

By the aid of a good forward rush Bristol became dangerous, but the attack was warded off. Cummings brought relief with a nice kick, but ensuing play hovered in the home quarter. Blizzard here received a slight injury, but the game was quickly resumed.

The Bristol forwards, carrying a scrum, worked towards the Gloucester goal, but the home pack retaliated with a brilliant wheel. From a flying kick the ball was sent down to Romans, who hesitated in getting in his kick, with the result that he was promptly hauled down. From the scrimmage which ensued Allen secured and passed to Morgan, but the ex-Swansea player missed the ball badly, and Smith kicked into touch.

The game was hotly contested, both teams working with tremendous energy. A grand burst by the Gloucester forwards looked promising, but Needs saved with a beautiful screw kick into touch. Not to be denied the home front rank got going again, but Oates fielded the ball smartly and put in a lovely punt to Romans, who replied nicely. Morgan made his mark off the kick, but for getting in front of the ball the Bristol men were called back.

Some clever play by the Gloucester forwards and Dovey enabled the home men to get inside the Bristol half, where the visitors were penalised for off-side play. Taylor took a shot for goal, but the ball was charged down, and it went into touch at the same place. Gloucester were now having a good bit the best of matters, and a kick from a mark being well followed up, Luce was almost over. Immediately after Bristol touched down.

On the re-start, some exchange kicking was witnessed, the end of which was that Parsons failed to gather. Taylor was right up, and had a glorious opening, but Parsons snatched the ball from under his nose, and thus saved a certain score against his side.

By dint of hard work Bristol reached the centre, where Percy Hussey secured out of some loose play. The Bristolian kicked over the goal line, and though Romans was severely pressed the Gloucester custodian secured the ball very cleverly and managed to touch down. The home team dropped out, and the ball being well returned play settled in the Gloucester end.

Several tight scrums followed, but neither side could gain much advantage. Cummings, sneaking away from a scrum, put in a well-judged punt into touch, a performance which Dovey repeated a little later. A clever movement, initiated by Blizzard from a line-out, gave Bristol a good opening, but the defence was too strong to penetrate.

For a moment or two the visitors were dangerous, but Dovey brought relief with a splendid flying kick to Oates, whose reply was well returned by Frank Stout. Cummings getting possession from a scrum, tried hard to make an opening, but Luce could not get clear. A clever bit of play by R. Hussey gave the home backs some anxiety, but Halliwell was collared immediately he was given possession.

Frank Stout was next prominent by heading a splendid rush down the field, and this effort, and a good punt by Taylor, led to Gloucester attacking strongly. For the next few minutes the home team had all the play, and Bristol were sorely pressed.

The home forwards carried several scrums in fine style, Stout getting clear from one burst away, but he was hauled down about a dozen yards outside. The International, however, managed to let the ball go, and out of a scramble the ball was taken over the line and Watkins credited with a try, amidst great enthusiasm. Taylor converted, at which further success the cheering was renewed. Bristol re-started, but soon afterwards the interval arrived.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 goal
Bristol	Nil

Jarman restarted, but Gloucester immediately went with a grand rush, which placed the visitors' lines in great danger. Bingham brought slight relief, but the home men were not to be put off, and Smith, with a fine dash down the touch-line, almost got over. Bristol rushed out a few yards, but the ball getting amongst the home backs the visitors were forced to defend again. Needs, with a tricky punt, was the means of getting his side out of danger, and the county half a little later further improved matters for his side.

Subsequently, out of some loose play, the Bristol forwards got almost a clear field, but bungling lost the opportunity, and the ball getting amongst the Gloucester forwards, Goulding raced over after some clever exchanges, but he was ruled back. From the scrum which ensued the ball went nicely across to Luce, who made off beautifully. The Old Cheltonian gave a good pass to Dovey, but the latter could not clear his opponents.

Ensuing play was very fast and fairly even, being mainly contested at the centre. Kislingbury, receiving from a punt by Taylor, essayed a return, but the ball only went across the ground. Taylor and Smith raced for possession, but the two Gloucester men cannoned, and both were laid out. A delay was caused in consequence, but the players were able to resume.

Immediately on the re-start a kick by Taylor was well followed up, and P. Hussey only getting in a feeble kick, Stephens had a glorious chance of scoring. The Gloucesterian, however, failed to field, and the ball went into touch – a very lucky let off for Bristol.

From the throw-out Bristol gained an advantage, and rushing down the field at a good rate Romans had to kick into touch. Bristol worked hard to improve their position, but they were beaten off, and play was carried to the centre. Here Blizzard and Allen were knocked out in quick succession, but the delays were very brief.

Goulding was prominent with a couple of grand bursts from lines-out on resuming, which gave Bristol cause for anxiety. A forward transfer spoiled one very pretty opening. Gloucester were now having all the game, and a splendid dribble, headed by Frank Stout, took the ball right to the Bristol line. Here Williams tried to pick up but failed, and another chance of scoring was lost. After this further let-off Bristol played up splendidly, Jarman showing up with some fine footwork. Frank Stout replied with a magnificent individual dribble, which looked likely to end in a score, but Oates saved at the critical moment.

Immediately after the Bristol forwards were conspicuous with a combined forward rush, which Cummings and Romans only partially checked, with the result that Bristol got very dangerous. The effort led to a sharp attack on the home line, and the visitors appeared likely to get through, but Hall and then Luce saved in succession by splendid tackles.

The Gloucester forwards several times got away nicely, Stout and Click showing up with individual efforts, but Oates proved a great stumbling block in each instance. Towards the end play favoured Bristol, who struggled hard to effect a score. The home team, however, were equal to all emergencies. Just before the finish C. Hall was injured, and he had to retire. Only a couple of minutes remained for play, and during this brief period nothing of note occurred.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal (5 points)
Bristol Nil

GLOUCESTER A v. BRISTOL A.

The reserve teams of Gloucester and Bristol met at the County Ground, Bristol, in splendid football weather, and before a fair attendance. Gloucester started, and the first event was a splendid run by Marsh. Even play ensued, and Gloucester pressed a little after, but Griffiths was once collared with the ball.

After good play, Gloucester scored by Manley, but the kick failed. Next Gell got off, and the game was in the Gloucester half until the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 1 try
Bristol A Nil

[Nothing further reported.]