

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1913

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL

FAST OPEN GAME AT KINGSHOLM

BRISTOL WELL BEATEN

GLOUCESTER FORWARDS DO WELL

Ideal conditions prevailed for the first meeting of the season between these old and keen rivals at Kingsholm, and there was a splendid crowd of spectators. The revival of Bristol this year added interest to the match, for though the visitors lost a fortnight ago to Abertillery, the fine performances put up against Newport and Cardiff stamped the side as a really good one. Gloucester, too, had been in the limelight with victories over the Harlequins and Swansea.

There were several players new to these annual fixtures, viz., the Brothers Wookey, Friend, O'Connor, and Kerry (Bristol), and Webb, Baker, Lawson, and Parham (Gloucester). Last season A. Hall figured in the Bristol ranks. Gloucester won at the County Ground last year by a try to nil, and in the return match at Kingsholm the City were leading by 3 tries to nil when the game was abandoned owing to a terrific storm of rain.

Gloucester fielded full strength but the visitors came short of Bradshaw, Meyer, and F. Feltham, forward. The new stand on the sixpenny side was opened for the first time, and was fairly well patronised. The teams took the field ten minutes late due to the late arrival of the visitors.

Teams : –

| GLOUCESTER | POSITIONS | BRISTOL |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| C. Cook | Backs. | W. R. Johnston |
| F. Webb | Three-Quarter | C. Kingston |
| A. Lewis | Backs | T. H. Brown |
| L. Hamblin | " | A. C. Clark |
| W. Washbourn | " | H. Feltham |
| J. Baker | Half-Backs | H. Wookey |
| A. Hall | " | W. Wookey |
| G. Halford (capt.) | Forwards | A. E. Crew (capt.) |
| S. Smart | " | W. G. Bryant |
| N. Hayes | " | J. E. Friend |
| J. F. Lawson | " | A. J. Kerry |
| S. Millard | " | W. Baker |
| W. Parham | " | W. Allen |
| A. Cook | " | J. O'Connor |
| J. Meadows | " | E. Kibbey |

Referee : Mr. Wheeler (Midland Counties).

THE GAME.

Gloucester won the toss, and Crew started the ball rolling from the Dean's Walk goal, a flying kick sending the ball to touch at the centre. Gloucester heeled from the first scrum, but the passing was too slow to make any ground. Webb, however, got in a useful punt up the field, Johnston marking in the face of Hamblin, who had followed up. Attempts on the part of Bristol to play the loose head were stopped by the referee, this being the first time we had seen anything of this silly game at Kingsholm this season.

The City forwards heeling, Baker fed Hall, who had his kick charged down, leaving the ball free to the Bristol forwards. The leather was kicked down to Cook, who got in a clever clearance kick to touch. Bristol were next in evidence with a neat passing bout, the ball going out to Kingston, who tried hard to clear Washbourn, but was pushed to touch.

The home team were pressed in their 25 when Lewis broke through splendidly but passed when he should have continued his run, for he was clear of the opposition. Hamblin was next conspicuous with a similar effort, and later Lewis and Webb combined in an effort which led to the Bristol end being visited. Subsequent play, however, was scrambling, and there were several mistakes in handling.

A penalty to Bristol saw Johnston find touch in the home quarter, but Gloucester recovered through Cook. In some loose play the home backs opened out, and Webb cross-kicked cleverly, running up and putting his forwards on side. The referee, however, penalised Gloucester, greatly to the surprise of the home spectators. From the subsequent scrum H. Wookey broke away on the short side of the scrum, and fed Feltham, who ran and punted, Cook making a mark. The City custodian, however, made a poor kick to touch.

It was through the instrumentality of Hall that Gloucester changed the venue, the Forester getting in a powerful punt, which sent the ball to touch near the centre. Smart made headway with a useful effort, but so far play had been too keen to allow of much in the way of attractive football.

Gloucester at length got the ball away, but the passing broke down, and no ground was gained. Then came some clever passing and reverse passing by the Brothers Wookey and Feltham, ending in Bristol gaining a footing inside the home half. Here the visitors were penalised, but Cook's kick went to Clark in the open field, and running round the Bristol left centre ran and passed to Brown. The latter burst through splendidly and yielded to Kingston, who tried hard to cut inside Washbourn and Cook, but failed. It was a capital effort, and cheered by the crowd.

Gloucester effected a clearance through Hall, but later Lewis was collared in trying to break through, and losing the ball the City were in danger. The situation was saved, and Gloucester in turn took up the running.

Just inside the home half Baker picked up and started passing, and there were several sharp exchanges. Hamblin came back into the centre of the field and kept the movement going, but it was checked in time. Palpable off-side by three Bristol forwards gave Gloucester a penalty, but C. Cook's shot for goal was short and wide.

Gloucester kept up the aggressive and Halford broke away finely. He passed to Lawson who, however, was brought down from behind. The ball, however, was soon in the open again, and there appeared to be a splendid opening on the left wing. Kingston, however, was too much for Washbourn, the latter being thrown to touch.

The home team, however, attacked vigorously, and Lawson, with a strong effort, gave his side a good position. From the ensuing scrum the ball came out from Baker, and Lewis cutting inside ran on and passed to Washbourn, who darted over in the corner amidst cheering. C. Cook failed at goal.

Bristol dropped out, and were at once forced on the defence again. The forwards heeling well, Baker opened out, and the backs handled well. Lewis and Hamblin both shone with good runs, but the tackling was a bit too good. Gloucester, however, persevered, and Lewis, from a pass by Hall, secured a fine opening for Webb, who doubled Johnston beautifully and scored in a good position. The goal kick was a feeble effort.

Leading by six points, Gloucester resumed in fine style, and another good run by Lewis severely tested the Bristol defence. Hamblin and Washbourn, however, were bored too near touch to do anything, and the visitors escaped. Gloucester kept up the pressure to the interval, but there was no more scoring.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 2 tries
Bristol Nil

Halford re-started, and Cook knocking on from Johnston's return a scrum followed in the Gloucester half. Bristol were immediately penalised for off-side, but some Gloucester players got in front of the kicker and the ball was ordered back. Breaking away on the blind side, Baker passed to Washbourn, but the wing man failed to take, and Kingston picking up punted over the line for a minor.

On the drop-out the Gloucester backs showed up with some neat passing, Webb finally sending to touch on the Bristol 25. From this point Hall kicked across, and Lewis dodging Clark transferred to Hamblin, who had Washbourn on his left. The centre, however, doubled inside and cross-kicked, Feltham saving cleverly.

Gloucester were doing all the pressing, but the City backs were not making the most of their chances, Hamblin twice holding on too long. It was a mistake by a home player that led to Bristol gaining more favourable quarters, but off-side by a visitor lost the ground gained. Gathering in some loose play Baker made a clever opening for Washbourn, who dashed away, but was tackled from behind by Kingston and another. The effort took Gloucester well inside the Bristol half, but a couple of long driving kicks to touch enabled Bristol to get out of danger.

There was a slight stoppage owing to an injury to a player, and on resuming Baker, who was doing much better to-day, broke away nicely and sent to Hall. The outside half gained a few yards and passed to Webb, but the transfer was ruled forward.

Subsequent play was close, but Gloucester eventually opened out through Halford. Little ground was gained, but later a Gloucester forward kicked through, and Smart following up forced Johnston to kick almost straight to touch at the 25 line. From a scrum Baker passed out, and there was a perfect bit of combination. Hamblin did his part well, but tried to do too much, and was collared on the line. The ball rolled away and Kingston gathering ran to the quarter mark before being pushed out of play.

Bristol were well beaten on the run of the game, and operations were confined to the visitors' half. From some faulty handling Webb recovered and got in a punt, the ball striking an opponent and putting the Gloucester forwards on side. Halford received, and feinting to pass made a nice opening for Hayes, who shook off Johnston and ran home behind the posts. From the easy place C. Cook failed to add the extra points.

Gloucester played up with great resolution on the restart, and they were soon on the attack again. From a pretty piece of play Webb ran well and punted ahead, the ball going over the line. Racing hard the Gloucester man got up and apparently touched down for a fair try, but the referee disallowed it for a knock on in goal.

Try as they would Bristol could not ease the pressure on their lines, and twice in quick succession they were very lucky in escaping scores against them. Lucky fly-kicking eventually gave Bristol breathing space, and mistakes in handling gave them further ground. The visitors, however, were well held, and never looked like causing trouble.

Baker was showing form far in advance of what he did at Pontypool and Cheltenham, and it was a smart effort by him that sent Washbourn away. The Gloucester right-winger beat Kingston cleverly, but fell a victim to a tackle by another. Later Baker dribbled through and Halford taking the ball on was just beaten for a try by an opponent kicking dead. Gloucester had all the play to the finish, and were unlucky in not adding to their score.

RESULT :

Gloucester 3 tries (9 points)
Bristol Nil

REMARKS

Bristol were a well-beaten side to-day, and there was nothing in the form displayed to suggest they were a combination above the ordinary. The absence of three good forwards no doubt made a difference in the front, for it was here the visitors shaped so indifferently.

The start was promising enough, but once the Gloucester pack got a hang of the game they gave their opponents no rest. Outpointed in the scrums, Bristol were equally out of it in the open, the home forwards at times doing splendidly. Halford was generally at the head, and the City captain must have confounded some of those who formed the impression at Cheltenham that he was lacking in leadership.

Halford, Hayes and Meadows were particularly good in the lines-out, the latter exhibiting more judgment when he got the ball than on some previous occasions. Smart, as usual, was always prominent in following up, and Lawson did some clever work when in possession of the ball. Millard, Parham, and Cook were hard workers and the whole pack gave distinct satisfaction all round.

I was disappointed with the Bristol forwards. There was no outstanding player, and the men as a rule were too prone to lying about off-side. The packing, too, was poor, and after the first ten minutes they were badly beaten in getting possession.

Realising that his position in the County team was at stake, Baker came out to-day with his best display of the season. That slowness in gathering the ball at the scrum and faulty service, so palpable at Pontypool and Cheltenham, and which was often fatal to his side, gave place to a sharpening up all round, and he displayed initiative that had previously been entirely lacking. The result was apparent in the improved display of the backs, who, despite some fumbling of the ball, contributed many sparkling bits of combination. If Baker could always reproduce this form there would be little to complain about; the strange thing is that he has taken so long to find it. Hall accomplished much good work, both in attack and defence, and he opened out to either wing with capital judgment.

The efforts of the Gloucester three-quarters should have led to more tangible reward, but things went awkwardly once or twice when the defence was beaten, and Hamblin was again inclined to attempt too much. I thought he might have served Washbourn twice at least with every chance of a score.

Lewis showed us clearly that his form for the County on Wednesday was all wrong. He played best in the first half, his quickness in seizing upon an opening, clever running, and judgment being prominent features. Webb was seen to advantage on the left wing, and was too smart for Feltham. He fairly had Johnston beaten when he scored his try, the International missing the youngster altogether.

Webb had hard lines in losing another try in the second half. From the Press seats the score appeared perfectly legitimate, but at the close of the match the referee explained there was a knock-on in goal, hence his disallowance of the point. Washbourn and Kingston had a merry duel, and neither was able to move much from one another. Kingston did one smart run in the first half, but his chances were too limited to give him much of a show.

The Bristol half-backs had to make practically their own work. H. Wookey was a decided offender of the off-side rule, and his tactics cost his side a number of penalties. His brother now and again displayed nippiness, but they were up against a pair too clever for them in Baker and Hall.

The three-quarters were conspicuous for some good tackling, but they did little in attack. Brown broke through once in good style, and behind a winning set of forwards he might be dangerous, for he has pace and dash. He was certainly better than his colleague Clark.

Johnston saved Bristol a couple of tries by his daring, but the International was not at his best, and Cook, on the day, held his own well.

Scorers for Gloucester – Webb, Washbourn, and Hayes : C. Cook failed at goal.

Next week : Devon at Kingsholm; Gloucester at Clifton.

GLOUCESTER A. v. BRISTOL A.

CITY SECONDS' FIRST DEFEAT

At Bristol.

Bristol started well and, following loose play Davies gathered and scored in the corner. The place kick failed.

Gloucester retaliated, and came near scoring once or twice, but Bristol relieved the pressure, and Philpott, although twice tackled, broke away and scored a good try, which Hare failed to convert.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Bristol A 2 tries
Gloucester A Nil

In the second half Bristol were pulled up for off-side when in a scoring position, but subsequently Gloucester took control of the game. Bloxsome was collared close in, and just after Hayward was only held up in the nick of time. Gloucester were awarded a free kick, but Hayward failed to land a goal, and the end came.

RESULT :

Bristol A 2 tries (6 points)
Gloucester A Nil