

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1914

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLO'STER v. CHELTENHAM

THIRD AND FINAL MEETING

CHELTENHAM COMPLETELY OUTCLASSED

CITY'S DECISIVE WIN

The third and final meeting between these local rivals took place at Kingsholm this afternoon. The previous games were productive of close and exciting contests, the first at Cheltenham being a pointless draw, whilst the second resulted in a narrow win for Gloucester by 2 goals (1p), (8 points) to 1 goal (5 points).

The severe frost of the past two nights got well into the ground, but an inspection of the turf at noon to-day resulted in the Gloucester Emergency Committee deciding it was playable, and Cheltenham were advised accordingly. The gate receipts for this match were divided between the respective clubs.

Contrary to general anticipation A. Hall reported that he had recovered from his recent trouble as a result of the fortnight's rest, and he reappeared at half-back, whilst Alec Lewis also resumed. Saunders missed his train, and Ayliffe took the vacancy in the Gloucester pack.

Cheltenham were short of MacGregor, and Rudge also cried off.

GLOUCESTER	POSITIONS	CHELTENHAM
C. Cook	Backs.	B. Davy
W. Washbourn	Three-Quarter	T. H. Gange
A. Lewis	Backs	B. S. Bloodworth
S. Sysum	"	J. E. Brain
F. Webb	"	A. Green
A. Hall	Half-Backs	H. A. V. Maynard
J. Baker	"	G. Ryland
G. Halford (capt.)	Forwards	H. Wixey
S. Smart	"	C. Bennett
J. F. Lawson	"	F. T. Wixey
N. Hayes	"	J. Townsend
F. Ayliffe	"	F. J. Hopkins
W. Parham	"	A. F. Burnell
S. Millard	"	W. Burford
A. Cook	"	G. H. A. Watson

Referee : Mr. J. Southby (Bristol).

THE GAME

There was a good attendance when the teams fielded nearly ten minutes late. Gloucester won the toss, and Cheltenham kicked off against the sun. Opening play favoured Gloucester, C. Cook giving his side the advantage with some fine kicking. Off-side by H. Wixey in a loose rush gave Gloucester a penalty, and Davy slipping on taking the ball he was pounced upon by the City forwards on his own 25. A loose kick sent the ball across to Webb, but the wing man failed to gather, the ball rolling to touch.

Cheltenham dribbled out to near the centre, where Baker opened out from a scrum. A series of exchanges left the ball with Washbourn, who raced down nicely, but being cut off essayed a pass to Sysum. The ball, however, was captured by Bennett, who punted out to Cook. The latter took a drop for goal, but the kick was wide and Davy touched down.

The drop out saw Gloucester still on the attack, and another minor was forced. Following the drop out Halford, securing from a line out, dashed away finely and passed to Smart, but the transfer was spoiled. Clever play by C. Cook, who eluded several opposing forwards, and got in a fine kick to touch, put Gloucester on the attack, and early on Baker started his backs nicely. Hall, Webb, Lewis, Sysum, and Washbourn handled perfectly, but Davy making a dive for the wing man hurled him to touch a couple of yards from the line. The Cheltenham captain was hurt in the charge, and there was a stoppage for him to recover.

Resuming, Cheltenham broke away from the throw-out, but they were checked by Cook, who robbed his opponents of the ball and sent to touch. Gloucester lost ground through some erratic handling, but Webb recovered. Then Cheltenham heeled for the first time, and pretty passing by the backs left the ball with Gange. The County cricketer, however, was smothered by two or three City men, and though he got rid of the ball it went to touch. A flying kick by Washbourn took Gloucester back, Smart following up well but having hard lines in not keeping the ball in play.

Subsequent play was even, with the forwards showing good work. Cheltenham heeled again, but did no good, though Gloucester lost any advantage they secured through gathering off-side. From a long kick over the line, Davy conceded a touchdown, and from the drop out Lewis ran round and started passing. Sysum was given possession, and though partly tackled he shook himself free and cut inside. He then transferred to Hall, and from more passing Halford struggled over with a good try. C. Cook added the goal points with a capital kick, and Gloucester were five points up after twenty minutes' play.

Cheltenham restarted, and C. Cook receiving ran round and passed, but Baker muddled with all his backs in position. Cheltenham made a praiseworthy rush, which was effectively checked, and then came a grand combined movement, initiated by Baker, after the scrum half had been apparently baulked by Maynard. The ball came along nicely to Washbourn, who ran hard and passed inside to Sysum. The latter, however, was hauled down from behind by Gange.

Gloucester, however, were in a good attacking position, and Hall receiving from Baker brought off a strong burst through the opposition and scored a good try. C. Cook converted with another fine kick, the ball striking the upright and rebounding over the cross-bar.

On the resumption Gloucester played a delightfully open game, and the Town were kept on the *qui vive*. The City came through cleverly with a sharp attack, which was stopped, but later Baker, Hall, and Washbourn combined in a lovely bit of work which sent Hall over from the re-pass, but the referee whistled for forward transfer. The disappointment, however, was short lived, for from the next scrum Baker sent [word/words unreadable; damage to original vers.] and the latter fed Sysum who slipped through the defence and scored near the posts. Cook this time failed at goal.

Cheltenham re-started, but Gloucester simply ran away with their opponents. The forwards heeling smartly, the home backs were almost immediately on the move, and Sysum slipping Bloodworth and Gange raced down to Davy when he put Washbourn over in perfect style. No goal resulted.

From the drop out Webb received and cross-kicked, but a dangerous situation was saved by Davy. Gloucester, however, were on the attack again in the next minute. Webb gathering the ball from the ground came across to the left wing, and Hall bursting away passed to Washbourn, who dashed over in the corner with the fifth try. Cook's attempt at conversion just failed.

Gloucester had all the play to the interval, and Cheltenham's defence was severely tested. No further scoring, however, took place.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	2 goals 3 tries
Cheltenham	Nil

Halford re-started for Gloucester, and from the return the City attempted to open out, but the passing broke down. Some loose kicking by Cheltenham sent the ball down to Cook, who dodged a visitor in the coolest manner possible, and got in his kick to touch at the centre. From the next scrum Baker started Hall going, and the latter bursting through yielded to Washbourn, who cut up the field at a fine pace. Cleverly slipping Davy, the City left winger was never approached, and finished a grand effort by scoring behind the posts. Cook missed from the easy place.

Following the drop-out Lewis had to run back to gather, and getting his kick charged down Cheltenham gained a footing in the home 25. Hall soon changed the venue with a good dash and pass to Hayes, but with only Davy to beat the forward passed badly. The City, however, were away again from the next scrum, pretty passing giving Webb possession. The Gloucesterian side-stepped a couple of opponents, but was tackled by the shoulder and dragged some five yards over the line. It looked a try all right, and Gloucester brought the ball out, but only a minor was given.

Gloucester continued to give the Town a merry time, and there was only one team in it. So persistent were the attacks that Cheltenham had Hopkins and Wixey out to help the defence. From a couple of bursts by Hall Gloucester were nearly through, and later a fine forward movement, in which Hayes and Lawson shone, caused serious trouble.

Later the City were somewhat erratic in their passing, and one or two promising movements broke down. Cheltenham worked pluckily but as a combination they could make no impression. The Gloucester forwards heeled with delightful precision, and Baker never failed to make good use of his chances. From another splendid combined effort Sysum broke through, looking all over a scorer, but Davy tackled his man splendidly. Gloucester, however, were very close, and from a line-out Halford secured, and letting the ball go Hall picked up and brushing aside several would-be tacklers scored near the posts. Again Cook missed the goal points.

Cheltenham got no relief on the drop out, and in less than a couple of minutes a round of passing amongst all the backs ended in Washbourn scoring in the left corner. The place kick, the sixth in succession, failed.

One-sided as the game had been, the Town re-started with vigour, and good kicking took them into the Gloucester half. Working hard Cheltenham got very close to the line, but only a touchdown resulted.

The visitors maintained the pressure after the drop out, but Baker, Hall, Lewis and Webb broke away with a passing run which left the latter with a clear field with the exception of Davy. The Town captain, however, was not to be beaten, and effected a beautiful tackle.

From the ensuing scrum Gloucester got clear and Smart dashed away in fine style, only to be pulled down by Davy. Cheltenham were penalised at the next scrum, and Sysum taking the kick added three more points to Gloucester's score.

The City forwards did some fine loose work on the restart, Ayliffe coming into prominence, but Davy saved; and a little later Green made a mark in the face of keen opposition. In the last five minutes Cheltenham made a spurt, but their efforts to do anything in the way of scoring were very feeble.

RESULT :

Gloucester 3 goals (1p) 6 tries (31 pts.)
Cheltenham Nil

REMARKS

Thirty-one points to nil ! Prodigious ! Yet, the heavy score did not exaggerate Gloucester's superiority a little bit. It was not in one department the City excelled to-day; all round Cheltenham were beaten in pace, tactics, and cleverness, and their best friends would be forced to admit that in this game at least there was only one team in it.

Compared with the previous contests this season, Cheltenham put up a very feeble show, whilst Gloucester has not given such a perfect exhibition since Swansea were so badly beaten in play at Kingsholm last October. The Town tried all they knew to keep down the scoring – half the forwards were out helping the backs at times – but the City attacks were so quickly initiated and cleverly developed that tries were bound to come.

Cheltenham had to thank Davy for stopping several other tries. The Town captain has rarely had such a trying afternoon, but he presented a bold front to the continual attacks, and was the one player on the side that did himself credit. The three-quarters were a weak line, though Gange and Bloodworth got through a lot of tackling. The half-backs (Maynard and Ryland) were outclassed, and the forwards never approached their true form; there were too many wingers for one thing for the pack to be effective in scrum work, H. Wixey and Hopkins especially doing very little pushing.

It was very pleasing to see Gloucester in such excellent trim. The whole team worked in perfect unity, and some of the back play was as good as anything that could be wished for. I give the forwards every credit for a dashing display; the men were at their best to-day, and in all the finer points of the game they fairly lost the opposition.

Halford displayed fine leadership, for though the main efforts of the men were directed to feeding the back division, there were occasions when footwork was indulged in with complete success. In the scrums Gloucester controlled the ball almost when they liked, and there was no slackness in letting it come back.

We had indications this afternoon that quick heeling can be done, and I hope the success attained this afternoon will encourage the men to continue the good work. There was not a weak forward in the Gloucester eight to-day, but I should like to mention Halford, Lawson, Hayes, and Smart for special work.

Behind the scrum Baker and Hall gave the most effective display for some weeks. Well served by his forwards, Baker simply toyed with Maynard, and even when partly tackled he somehow managed to get the ball away. He varied his tactics with great skill, and for the most part his transfers were splendidly timed. Hall, feeling quite himself again, reached his top form, and we all know what this meant to the side. His strong dashes were a constant danger to the Town, and twice he got through the defence where no other player would have succeeded. Hall also opened out the game splendidly for his three-quarters, and a continuance of this form should bring his claims to the notice of the Rugby Union for the next International.

The Gloucester three-quarters were a happy line, and it would have taken a much stronger defence than that possessed by Cheltenham to check the scoring. Individually, Sysum deserves first notice. I have seen the Second teamer play in some half dozen games this season, but in no match could he be said to have shaped satisfactorily, and I said so. To-day Sysum came into his own, and his form reached a high standard throughout. I have never questioned his defence; that has always been sound, and it was so against Cheltenham. But he shone on this occasion in attack to a degree not previously approached, and I readily give him full credit for his performance. Quick on the move, Sysum displayed an ability to cut through and dodge that greatly enhanced his value as a centre, and what I was particularly pleased to see, he saw to it that his wing man got a chance. There was one occasion in the second half when he might have put Washbourn in again, but with the game safe he was tempted to go on his own, and fell a victim to Davy. If Sysum can maintain this form he will do quite well.

Washbourn worked nicely with the young centre, and receiving proper encouragement in the shape of a share of the ball, he scored four tries – one being a particularly fine effort. If less in the limelight, Lewis and Webb played clever football, and the line as a whole were far too smart for Cheltenham.

C. Cook played a lovely game at full-back, kicking with fine effect and seldom missing the touch-line. His display was fully in keeping with that of the rest of the team.

Scorers for Gloucester : Washbourn (4), Hall (2), Halford, and Sysum. Sysum kicked one penalty goal, and C. Cook converted two tries.

S. A. BALL COLLECTION

The collection at Kingsholm for the widow and family of the late S. A. Ball realised £13 5s.

GLOUCESTER A v. TREDWORTH HORNETS

WIN FOR THE SECONDS

Gloucester A had a fairly representative side out in the return match with Tredworth Hornets at Saintsbridge, and after a keen, hard game they proved somewhat easily victorious.

The majority of the play was contested between the two packs and although the Hornets played at times a very effective smothering game, the Seconds gained the honours in this department. The homesters, however, were very successful in stemming their rushes, and it was quite a good achievement to only have their line crossed twice.

In the first half Powell secured near his own 25 and running strongly notched a good try which Burns, however, failed to convert.

The three-quarters were rarely given any opportunity to show their powers of attack, both sides keeping the ball very tight. Marmont, with the aid of what wind there was blowing, successfully dropped at goal from inside his own half, while Burns kicked a penalty goal.

The second stage was even more keenly contested than the first, each side gaining a try.

Wotton, who played a really fine game, was responsible for Gloucester's. He gained possession of the ball, and when pressed punted over the back's head and won the race for possession. Burns goaled.

Tredworth scored through Essex, after a rush by the forwards.

RESULT :

Glo'ster A	3 goals (1d 1p) 1 try (15 pts.)
Tredworth	1 try (3 points)

JC