

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1919

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. NEW ZEALAND

COLONIALS WIN FAST AND EXCITING GAME

PENALTY GOAL DECIDES THE ISSUE

One of the most attractive fixtures arranged by the Gloucester Club this season was decided at Kingsholm to-day when the City received a visit from the New Zealanders.

The Colonials have been able to run two first-class fifteens, and this afternoon the Service side was engaged with Australia in the Empire Tournament, whilst which is known as the "B" team appeared at the Gloucester Club's enclosure. The latter fifteen was practically identical with the combination that defeated the Royal Air Force earlier in the week in a friendly, and also disposed of the Canadians in the League.

Gloucester turned out as selected, Hudson, about whom there was some doubt, being given permission to play by the Royal Naval Depot, who were due to play Cross Keys. A new centre was tried in W. Stone (Bream), and T. Miller (late 3rd Gloucesters) appeared at full back vice Marmont. The afternoon turned out fine, though cold, and there was a good attendance of spectators.

Teams : —

Gloucester. — T. Miller; C. F. Webb, L. Hamblin, W. Stone, and A. Hudson; A. Hall and W. Dix; G. Halford, N. Hayes, A. Redding, J. Reynolds, L. Robbins, W. Davies, W. F. Ward, and L. Taylor.

New Zealand. – H. Capper; E. Ryan, E. Watson, G. Owles, R. Roberts; G. Yardley, D. Sandman; F. Arnold, M. Cain, S. Standen, E. Naylor, J. Douglas, P. Allen, A. West, and A. Bruce.

Referee. – Mr. A. Brown (Gloucestershire Society of Referees).

Holford started for Gloucester, but Hudson missed the return, though he recovered and got in a flying kick up the field, the ball eventually going to touch at mid-field. From the first scrum Gloucester heeled, and Dix, Hall and Hudson handled, the latter punting high, but a return was effected to touch. Gloucester continued to heel splendidly, and Dix and Hall showed perfect combination at half-back. The ball, too, was smartly handled behind, but the tackling was good. Once the opposing third line was beaten, but Hamblin could not retain possession.

A loose rush by the Colonial forwards presaged disaster, but at the critical moment the ball was turned to touch. Then the Gloucester front got away with a fine burst, and the situation was relieved. So far the New Zealanders had confined their efforts to loose rushing, but at length the backs opened out, only to see Webb intercept, though he failed to retain possession of the ball.

Gloucester gained a nice slice of ground by keen following up and forcing a visitor to kick straight to touch. From the subsequent scrum Dix fed Hall nicely, and the latter beat several opponents in fine style, but a high pass was taken by an opponent, who sent to touch.

The New Zealanders by clever cross-kicking gained a footing in the home half, but Hall, Dix and Hamblin changed the venue, the latter being collared just as he was getting away nicely. Smart play in the open by Hall, Reynolds and Webb led to the latter effecting a nice cross-kick but a Colonial marked cleverly.

Webb returned to touch, and from this point Hall showed up with another strong burst clean through the opposition. He dropped the ball amongst the oncoming forwards, and it was kicked past Capper and over the line, a minor being conceded.

Big kicking by the Colonials on resuming took them to the Gloucester end, and from a punt over the line Gloucester touched down. From the drop-out the Gloucester forwards, headed by Halford, broke clean away with a magnificent burst, and they were not checked until close to the visitors' line.

Some exciting work followed, Gloucester working hard to effect a score. Dix, getting possession from a scrum, sent to Hall, but with a possible opening the latter missed the pass, and the Colonials securing dribbled right down to beyond the centre, where Miller brought off a capital save. Hamblin was prominent shortly afterwards with a useful effort and transfer, but the next pass was wild and the movement broke down.

Up to this point Gloucester had had by far the better of the game, and with a bit of luck would have scored. Even play followed for a brief period, and then the New Zealanders tried to open out. Watson punted high to Miller, but the latter returned finely, and an opponent missing the ball it went to touch. Working well together, Gloucester still continued to hold the upper hand.

Hamblin failed with a good kick from a penalty, but the score came to Gloucester shortly afterwards after some very exciting play. Intercepting an opponent's pass in the visitors' 25, Hudson raced to the line when he passed to Halford, who, however, was at once upset and the ball got loose. A Colonial picked up and raced back, but his pass went astray, and Hamblin, gathering beautifully, ran down and scored wide out amidst great cheering. Hamblin failed with the goal kick.

On the restart play was kept up at a fine pace. Gloucester opened out at every opportunity, and the backs shaped exceedingly well. Webb, from a pass by Hall, kicked across, but a visitor saved. Subsequently the New Zealanders attacked, and, following a loose dribble, Arnold followed up finely, and, gathering the ball on the bounce, went near the line and scored with an opponent on his back. Roberts missed the goal points.

The game on the drop-out favoured the Colonials, and a mis-kick by Stone did not help matters. Hudson, however, came to the rescue and with a well-judged touch-finder transferred play to the centre. The Colonials, however, soon got on the attack again, and following a sharp run by one of their backs, Cain crossed in the corner. The place-kick failed.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
New Zealand 2 tries
Gloucester 1 try

Resuming, the Colonials quickly worked their way to the Gloucester 25, but Dix, Hall, Hamblin and Hudson came away with a pretty combined effort which brought play up to the centre.

Miller was later seen to distinct advantage with some fine touch-kicking, which gave Gloucester an advantage, and Dix further improved matters with a short dribble. From a loose kick Hall fielded, and the three-quarters handling smartly a possible scoring chance presented itself, but Hamblin was legged in time.

A long punt-out by Capper from a good attempt at a dropped goal by Webb eased the pressure for the visitors, and they in turn set up an attack, but only a touchdown resulted, Webb being laid out in dropping on the ball, and having to leave the field.

Robbins was brought out of the pack to three-quarter; but with a man short Gloucester showed up finely. Hamblin, receiving a pass from Hall, cut through nicely, but he held on too long and was collared from behind. Still, Gloucester improved their position, but they subsequently allowed a visitor to dribble clear, and only faulty handling lost a score.

The City forwards continued to heel well, but the passing broke down at the critical moment. The good work, however, was continued, and the crowd had something to shout about a little later. Well inside the home half Dix opened out; the ball in turn was handled by all the backs.

Hudson was the last to receive, and the Old International putting on his best pace, raced away in fine style. He cut inside the full back beautifully, and beating another opponent who had come across the field finished up a great effort by scoring behind the posts. Hamblin landed the goal points, and gave Gloucester a two points' lead.

The New Zealanders played up strongly on the kick-off, and by loose rushing got inside the home quarter. Here a penalty was awarded the Colonials, and Capper kicked a neat goal, the lead thus being quickly regained.

The changes in the fortunes of the game had raised the spectators to a high pitch of excitement, and the game, keenly contested, was followed with great interest. Gloucester, not to be outdone, got in a fine burst which placed them in a good attacking position. A visitor punted out to the Gloucester backs, who got in a pretty movement, but Hamblin, who received from Hudson, was hurled to touch. The City, however, kept up the pressure, and the ball coming out to Hamblin, the latter took steady aim and dropped a lovely goal.

The last ten minutes was full of excitement. Play was rather in favour of the visitors, but Gloucester held out splendidly. At length, following some exchange kicking, Capper punted high, and Miller failing to catch the ball, the full back, who had raced up, gathered and scored in the corner. No goal resulted. A little later Ryan also crossed, but the goal-kick hit the upright. Play to the end was well-fought out, but there was no more scoring.

RESULT :

New Zealand 1 goal (p), 4 tries (15 pts.)

Gloucester 2 goals (1d), 1 try (12 pts.)