

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1907

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLO'ESTERSHIRE v. CORNWALL

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH AT GLOUCESTER

Gloucestershire were engaged in their third championship match of the season to-day, when Cornwall were opposed at Kingsholm. The home county had to make several changes in the side originally selected, and F. Smith (Gloucester), G. Vears (Gloucester), A. J. Gardner (Clifton), and A. Teague (Cinderford) were called upon to replace F. S. Scott (Bristol), W. Bale and T. Webb (Bristol), and W. W. Hoskin (Oxford) respectively. Cornwall were more fortunate, for with the exception of T. Wedge (half-back), who was playing for England at Richmond, the original team chosen took the field. The revised teams were as follows : —

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Back — F. Johnson (Stroud).

Three-quarters — A. Hudson (Gloucester), W. Hyam (Devon Albion), M. E. Neale (Bristol), and F. Smith (Gloucester).

Half-backs — A. Goddard (Cheltenham) and J. Spoors (Bristol).

Forwards — J. L. Mathias (Bristol), G. Matthews, W. Holder, G. Vears (Gloucester), J. Watkins (Cinderford), W. Spiers (Devon Albion), A. Teague (Cinderford), and A. J. Gardner (Clifton).

CORNWALL

Back — E. J. Jackett (Leicester).

Three-quarters — B. Bennetts (Penzance), Bert Solomon (Redruth), F. Dean (Devon Albion), and B. W. Lee (Old Leysians).

Half-backs — F. Brice (Falmouth) and F. Richards (Plymouth).

Forwards — R. Jackett (Falmouth), J. G. Milton (Camborne School of Mines), H. Roberts (Falmouth), N. Tregurtha (St. Ives), N. Howe-Brown (Oxford University), Rev. J. G. Bussell (Camborne Town), J. Thomas (Devon Albion), and D. Brown (Penzance).

Referee : Mr. F. W. Nicholls (Leicester).

THE GAME

The weather was dull, but the rain kept off. The attendance was rather disappointing, and was not up to the record of a good club fixture. The reason was not far to seek, for the County Union are not in the good books of the Gloucester crowd just now. The ground was in good condition, a drying wind aiding it considerably.

The teams took the field five minutes late. The Gloucester captain won the toss, and the visitors kicked off, the ball being returned to the centre. Cornwall replied, but their forwards getting off-side a penalty followed. Spiers took the kick, and with a lovely punt found touch in the visitors' half. Cornwall heeled from the first scrum, and Dean broke through, but his pass was forward. Brice immediately after got the ball out again, and Bennetts punted down to Johnson, who fielded neatly and sent to touch. Cornwall were again penalised, and Spiers made considerable ground with the resultant kick.

Off-side by Goddard caused a penalty against Gloucester, but Holder replied well, and Jackett fumbling the home team gained a footing in their opponents' half. The visitors quickly changed the venue, and a passing movement looked promising, but Bennetts lost the ball.

Goddard securing from a scrum, passed to Hudson, who punted to Jackett, the latter finding touch a few yards ahead. Scrambling play ensued at the centre until the Gloucester halves got the ball out. Dean, however, intercepted Spoors' pass, and beating several men by feinting, got well away, and passed to Solomon, who was finely tackled by Smith. Cornwall continued to monopolise the ball in the scrums, and only a forward pass spoiled a score.

In the next minute Brice sent out neatly to Dean, who ran to Johnson and handed to Bennetts, who raced over in the corner. Jackett failed at goal. Gloucester dropped out, and ensuing play was fought out in the Gloucester half. Spoors eventually dribbled to Jackett, but the International fielded cleverly and found touch.

Cornwall continued to heel, but Goddard checked Brice, and the ball rolling away Matthews picked up and punted, but Smith could not gather. Gloucester broke away with a loose rush, but Lee stepped in and saved cleverly.

The visitors, with a loose forward burst, reached the centre, where play was very scrappy. Gloucester tried to open out but failed, and ground was lost. Smith was prominent for a good tackle of Lee, but later Hudson showed a want of resolution, and was pulled down by Bennetts. Dean came along and picked up, and only a forward transfer stopped a score.

Thanks to Hyam, Gloucester gained a favourable position, but Jackett sent play back with a good kick. Dean, with a dashing burst, gave Cornwall the advantage, but at length Goddard opened out, and Spoor sending out a long pass to Hyam, the latter fed Hudson. The wing man raced down at full pace, but he was upset by Jackett in trying to cut inside. The ball was kicked over the line in a scramble, and Jackett touched down.

The Gloucester man who received the drop-out made a wretched kick towards his own goal, and Cornwall had a splendid opening. Smith, however, raced across from the opposite wing and effected a grand save.

Operations continued in the home 25, and following a passing movement Solomon received and dropped a lovely goal. Gloucester restarted, but play continued in favour of Cornwall.

From a cross-kick by Bennetts the visitors had a possible chance, but Smith brought a couple of men down in fine style. In the home 25 Spoor broke away from a pass by Goddard, and transferred to Hyam, who came through and handed to Hudson. The Gloucesterian ran to Jackett and re-passed, and the ball coming back to Hudson, the latter completed a brilliant movement by scoring in a favourable position. Johnson failed at goal.

For getting in front of the ball on the drop-out a scrum followed on the Cornish 25. The visitors worked out, and were aided by a useful kick by Bennetts. Spiers sent the game back with a beautiful kick from a penalty, and ensuing play was fought out in the Cornish half. Milton broke away with a strong burst from a line-out, but he was upset and forced to pass forward. Gloucester replied with clever back play, and from a wide pass from Spoor to Hudson the latter ran down and punted but only a minor resulted.

Subsequent play was exceedingly fast and exceptionally keen, the tackling being deadly. A cross-kick by Smith saw Mathias just fail to rob Bennetts, but Cornwall could not get out of their half. From a long throw-out Spiers and Watkins started an onward movement, and Neale kicked well to touch. Carrying a scrum the home forwards rushed grandly, but Lee dropped on the ball fearlessly.

Cornwall worked out of danger, but the Gloucester forwards dribbled back, Matthews tackling Jackett and forcing him to throw the ball to touch. A scrum ensued close the Cornish line, and the ball came out to Spoor, who essayed a wide pass, but Dean knocked on in trying to intercept.

Exciting play followed in the visitors' 25, and Neale gathering cleverly made a brilliant attempt to score, but was stopped in the nick of time. Gloucester still pressed, but a big effort by Cornwall took them to near the centre.

Here Hudson took a short line out, and putting in a short kick the ball was taken over the Cornwall line and Hyam touched down for a try. Johnson's attempt – a good one – failed.

Cornwall dropped out, and the game continued to be vigorously contested. Johnson shone in some good touch kicking, and Smith also distinguished himself with a splendid tackle on Lee.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Cornwall 1 goal (d), 1 try
Gloucestershire 2 tries

Mathias resumed for Gloucestershire, and play opened keenly at mid-field. The Cornish halves passed out from the first scrum, but no ground was made. A little later Bennetts got in a huge punt which Johnson allowed to go to touch at the home 25. Here Goddard was penalised for an infringement at the scrum, and Milton had a shot for goal, but some of the visitors got in front of the ball, and a scrum was ordered.

Spoors got possession and passed on the short side of the scrum to Smith, who tried to cross-kick, but sent to touch. Goddard was again penalised, and Jackett gained some 20 yards with his kick. Faulty play by Spoors lost further ground for Gloucester, but a pretty combined movement saw Smith try hard to beat the defence, but he was thrown into touch.

Off-side play by the Gloucester forwards enabled Jackett to find touch well inside the home 25, and the visitors struggled valiantly for a score. The defence, however, was fine, Smith bringing down Lee when he looked a certain scorer.

The Cornishmen, however, were not to be beaten off, and they had another dash, but Johnson was safe. Gloucester tried passing in their own quarter, but they could not clear the opposition. Eventually a penalty gained Gloucester relief, and Johnson further improved matters for his side with a clever pick up and kick.

Cornwall, however, took up the running again with some loose work, and in a scramble Spiers was laid out, and had to be carried off the field. With a man short in the scrum, Gloucestershire were severely handicapped, but the home pack set to work, and immediately Vears led a glorious rush to the centre, where Solomon checked. Gloucester immediately opened out, but the passing went astray, and a visitor securing he put in a big punt. The ball went over the line for a minor.

From the drop-out Milton received and passed to Dean, but Hudson snapped the ball and went off at a good pace. He subsequently kicked, and Hyam continued the movement till the half-way line was passed.

Cornwall replied with a dashing forward burst, and then Spiers re-appeared amidst cheers. The Gloucester backs were given possession, and Hudson broke through and kicked. There was a race for possession, but Jakkett succeeded in turning the ball to touch.

Cornwall made head-way from the throw out, but Smith sneaked away on the blind side of the scrum and punted across, only to see Dean make his mark. Jakkett found touch in the home 25 with a lovely kick.

From this point Cornwall got very close, and were nearly over in the corner. Getting the ball from the scrum the Cornish halves sent out to Lee, but the latter was quickly collared. In some loose play Spiers shone, but Hyam, to whom he passed, could not get away. The Gloucester halves were at fault later, but Hudson once tried hard to get through.

Cornwall were doing very well just now, but the play had greatly deteriorated. The visitors shone in a passing movement, but Solomon held on too long, and was pounced upon by Hyam. Still the effort led to a hot attack on the home lines, and in a forward burst R. Jakkett took the ball over and scored in the corner. Jakkett failed at goal.

Gloucester re-started, but operations were still confined to the home quarters. In a body the Cornish forwards rushed down to Johnson, who partly checked and enabled Hudson to save. Gloucester worked hard to relieve the pressure, but faulty play behind lost ground. A wild pass by Spoors let the Cornishmen in, Johnson and Hyam saving under the goal.

In some subsequent loose play the Gloucester men lost possession, and Milton picking up went over near the posts. Dean failed in the easy place.

Gloucester re-started, and Hudson was early prominent with a clever run and kick, which took Gloucester to the centre. The visitors broke away from a throw-out, and looked all over scorers, but Johnson effected a good save.

Gloucester worked out from this position, but Solomon ran back in fine style and nearly beat the defence. The same player repeated his effort a minute later, and Gloucester only saved on the line. To the end play favoured Cornwall, but there was no further scoring.

RESULT :

Cornwall 1 goal (d), 3 tries (13 points)

Gloucestershire 2 tries (6 points)

JC