

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1907

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL

For the return engagement between these old rivals at Kingsholm both clubs suffered from absentees, Hudson, Matthews, and Hawker being away from Gloucester; whilst Bristol missed the services of E. Meyer, Shewring, J. Spoor, Scott, and Bale, and also came one short.

After a lengthy absence A. Wood reappeared in the home team in place of Romans, it being understood the two players would alternately fill the full-back position. Romans, it was stated, was assisting the Old Boys against Naunton Park. The afternoon was fine, but the attendance was not up to the average for matches with Bristol.

The teams lined out ten minutes late as follows : —

GLOUCESTER	Positions	BRISTOL
A. Wood	Backs.	W. Nott
F. Bloxsome	Three-Quarter	-. Phillips
C. Smith	Backs.	M. E. Neale
H. Smith	"	W. Llewellyn
F. Smith	"	C. Weeks
D. R. Gent (capt.)	Half-Backs.	J. Larcombe
J. Stephens	"	T. Quinn
B. Parham	"	F. Bailey (sub.)
W. Johns	Forwards.	V. Green-Armytage
G. Vears	"	P. J. Down
A. Purton	"	N. Moore
F. Pegler	"	L. G. Meyer
A. Hawker	"	E. Kibbey
H. Collins	"	J. Vinnicombe
W. Holder	"	T. Woods

Referee : Mr. W. Willis-James.

THE GAME

Parham kicked off for Gloucester from the Worcester-street goal, and there being no reply a scrum was formed just inside the Bristol half. The visitors gained ground with a loose rush, but a big kick sent them back. A mistake in fielding by Stephens allowed Bristol forwards to break away, but Bloxsome saved neatly.

Heeling by the visiting forwards saw the backs attempt passing, but the tackling was safe. Gloucester made ground with a useful burst, Johns being to the fore, but a wild kick caused the ball to go astray. Bristol cleared.

The visiting forwards heeled, but Larcombe was robbed by Gent, who followed up and tackled Phillips nicely. Gent now got the ball out, but C. Smith missed Stephens' pass, which was snapped up by Neale, who ran cleverly and handed to Moore. The latter, however, was pounced upon by F. Smith and brought down in grand style.

Ensuing play favoured Bristol, who were getting the ball from every scrum. Quinn made a good dash through once from a pass by Larcombe, but his transfer went astray, and C. Smith punted down. Following up the Gloucesterian again secured, but passed badly, and Bristol got back to the home 25. From a mark by Gent, Wood took the kick and punted high, but the forwards lost the ball, and no further ground was made.

The game continued to go all in Bristol's favour, but at length Pegler opened out from a line-out, and F. Smith cross-kicking, Gloucester had a chance, but failed to accept. For off-side play Bristol were penalised, and Gloucester gained a good footing in their opponents' end. Nice combination gave F. Smith a chance, but though the wing man slipped Phillips he was tackled by Nott. Gloucester, however, still pressed, and Gent getting the ball out nicely to Stephens, a series of exchanges amongst the Gloucester three-quarters left the ball with Bloxsome, who raced over in the corner. Wood failed at goal.

Pegler got in a good return to the drop out, and ensuing play was fought out in the Bristol half. The visitors, however, got away with a passing bout, but Neale was beautifully tackled by H. Smith. The latter player was at fault a minute later, but Parham gave Gloucester an advantage with a good kick. The home backs indulged in some neat passing and inter-passing, but the Smiths could not pierce the defence.

A big burst by a Gloucester forward took the ball to Nott, who was floored under his goal. Green-Armytage gained relief with a strong run, but Gloucester were soon on the attack again, and Bloxsome was only brought down a few yards outside. Immediately after Stephens cut through cleverly, but his pass went wide, and a possible opening was thrown away.

Subsequent play was fast and open, and the Gloucester backs shone in a neat movement. C. Smith, however, failed to take from his brother, and though F. Smith recovered he could not get through. In the next minute, following some loose work, Parham picked up and passed out wide to Bloxsome, but the ball bounced the wrong way or there was a certain try.

By clever footwork, L. Meyer being prominent, Bristol eased the pressure, but Gloucester worked back with some good handling. C. Smith cut up the field, but after working out a nice opening, he transferred forward. Ensuing play was contested at the centre, until Pegler picked up in the loose and passed to Holder. The latter dashed away, but was heavily tackled from behind just as he was about to pass. Immediately after a Bristol player was laid out, but both men were able to resume.

There was not much in it for the next five minutes, operations being confined to midfield. Gent and Stephens working the short side of the scrum, the latter cross-kicked, but Nott made a good mark. There was some capital kicking by players on both sides, but at length a visitor fumbled a return by Wood, and Johns picking up a lovely chance of scoring presented itself. C. Smith ran to the full-back, but with a clear opening F. Smith lost the ball.

Bristol worked out, and Neale, intercepting a pass, ran to Wood, who effected a good tackle. The ball rolled away, and C. Smith picking up handed to Holder, who kicked finely to midfield, where the game was when the interval was sounded.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 try
Bristol Nil

Mathias re-started, the ball going to Purton, who punted to Phillips. The latter misfielded, but managed to turn the ball to touch. Moore was instrumental in sending play to the home 25, but H. Smith came away with a fine dribble. Assisted by the forwards the ball was taken three parts the length of the ground, and after a scramble near the line Holder was credited with a try. From near the touch line Wood landed a grand goal.

Bristol resumed, but Gloucester were soon on the aggressive again through a smart movement by Stephens and F. Smith. The latter punted across and Nott, being pressed by C. Smith, kicked straight to touch. From a short throw-out Bloxsome received from Gent, and went over with a simple try. Wood's shot for goal was a fine one, but the wind took the ball out of its course.

Bristol dropped out, and from Purton's return a visitor marked. For off-side later by the Gloucester forwards Bristol gained some thirty yards, and Larcombe further improved their position with a tricky bit of play. Gloucester, however, recovered through Stephens charging down a kick.

Gent next got the ball away beautifully from a scrum, but Bloxsome was out of position to take Stephens' pass, which was taken by an opponent. He, however, failed to get far. From a punt down by Stephens, Nott allowed the ball to go between his legs, and Bloxsome following up upset the Bristol full-back. Gloucester looked like scoring, but Bristol saved luckily.

Gloucester were having the better of the exchanges now, and Gent and Stephens fed the three-quarters well. H. Smith twice tried to break through, but he was stopped in time. A possible opening presented itself on the right wing, and F. Smith sent to Wood, who had come up, but the full-back was tackled outside.

Then came a brilliant run by F. Smith, who beat the defence except Nott, when he sent a timely pass to C. Smith. The ball, however, hit the centre's shoulder, and bounced over the line. Gloucester were in a favourable position, and the City tried hard to score. An interception, however, lost the home team a lot of ground, Neale dribbling to well inside their opponents' end.

Wood checked a rush of the Bristol forwards with a lucky flying kick, the ball going to touch at the centre. From a line-out Parham put in some clever work which caused Bristol trouble, but the visitors effected a good save. Rushing a couple of scrums Bristol got well down, but they were beautifully stopped by Wood, who dashed through and kicked, but the ball was charged down. Johns being ruled off-side, Bristol were given a penalty straight in front of goal, but Moore failed to cover the cross-bar, and only a minor resulted.

Following the drop-out H. Smith ran and punted down the field. There was a race between the Smiths and Neale, but though the latter gathered he was upset. Near midfield H. Smith broke away nicely and sent to Gent, but the captain was well tackled at the 25 line. The Bristol forwards, wheeling well, brought off some good back work. F. Smith made one fine attempt to beat the opposition, but he just failed. Gloucester continued to have the better of the game, but Bristol put up a fine defence.

Play was near the centre when Gent opened out, and Stephens, H. Smith, and Bloxsome in turn handled. The wing man tried to cut inside Nott, but was collared. He, however, managed to let go, and Gent picking up went over with a good try. The charge was disallowed, and Wood, with a splendid kick, landed a fine goal. "No-side" was then called.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 goals 2 tries (16 points)
Bristol Nil

GLOUCESTER A v. BRISTOL A

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Bristol A 2 tries
Gloucester A 1 try

RESULT :

Bristol A 2 tries (6 points)
Gloucester A 1 try (3 points)