

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1907

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL

KEEN RIVALS AT THE COUNTY GROUND

The first meeting of the season between these old and keen rivals took place at the County Ground, and there was every promise of close and interesting game.

Bristol have experienced a bad time so far this year, but the team has played better than the record (four defeats and one victory) would indicate.

Gloucester selected the same fifteen to do duty this afternoon that defeated Swansea a fortnight ago, but unfortunately changes had to be made.

The most important was the defection of Wood (full-back) who injured his shoulder badly in tackling Bush in the county match at Cardiff on Wednesday. The vacancy was given to Welshman, of the Seconds, who had not previously appeared for the Seniors.

Gent (who was injured at Cinderford) and Hudson, too, were not altogether fit, and but for Wood's withdrawal would have probably stood down from the side.

Bristol had W. Llewellyn (who dislocated his shoulder at Leicester) away, and a trial was given to his brother. Otherwise the team was at full strength.

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; H. Smith, C. Smith, E. Hall, A. Hudson, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), W. Johns, B. Parham, G. Matthews, H. Quixley, H. Collins, D. Hollands, R. Craddock, forwards.

Bristol. – W. Nott, back; F. S. Scott, H. Shewring (capt.), D. J. Llewellyn, M. Neale, three-quarter backs; J. H. Johnson, J. Spoons, half-backs; J. L. Mathias, N. Moore, W. E. Meyer, P. Down, G. Claridge, F. Feltham, W. Cooper, L. Meyer, forwards.

Referee : Referee : Mr. Stannard (Midlands)

THE GAME

Favourable weather prevailed for the game, but there were less than two thousand spectators present when Vears started for Gloucester against the wind. The return kick went to touch inside the Gloucester half. The visitors heeled from two scrums, but little headway was made with the resultant passing.

From a kick down by Shewring, Hudson marked cleverly, but the referee disallowed, and the Gloucesterian was bundled over by the Bristol forwards. The situation, however, was saved by Hall. A penalty against the home side enabled Gloucester to clear, and the visitors followed up with pretty passing. Hudson returned inside to Hall, who cross-kicked, the ball going to a Bristol player.

A clever dribble down touch by Neale put Gloucester on the defensive, and the visitors had an anxious time. Gloucester being penalised, Shewring dropped for goal. The ball struck the cross-bar and rebounded straight to Mathias, who knocked on with a good opening.

Bristol hovered in the visitors' 25, and a forward rush took them very close. From a scrum five yards outside the ball was taken over the line, and a bunch of players fell on it. The referee awarded a try to Johnson. Moore failed at goal.

Gloucester showed up strongly on the re-start, but they were stopped at the centre. Loose forward play ensued, Bristol doing well in this regard. The home team heeled, and the backs passed, but Hubert Smith robbed Neale and punted past midfield. Bristol worked back and some exciting play followed in the Gloucester half.

Neale put in a couple of dashes down touch, but he was stopped in time. Then after neat passing Llewellyn threw away a try through losing the ball after crossing the line – a lucky escape for Gloucester. The visitors profited by a mistake by the home backs, Hubert Smith dribbling well. Neale, however, effected a wonderful clearance.

Shewring put Bristol in a good position with a strong burst, but off-side lost the ground gained. Gloucester, with good all-round work, reached the Bristol half. Here Gent opened out, but Hudson could not take the low pass offered him. Bristol got back by the aid of a penalty, but in ensuing play Gloucester had the advantage. Nice passing looked promising, but “Whacker” Smith sent forward to his brother.

The visitors were off again soon afterwards, and following a clever movement by Stephens, the ball got to Hudson. The International brought off a magnificent run beating the opposition in grand style, and finishing with a try behind the posts. Welshman goaled, and gave Gloucester the lead.

Bristol attacked strongly on resumption, but they were beaten off and subsequent play was even to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 goal
Bristol 1 try

Mathias re-started, and there being no return play opened in the Gloucester 25. The home team at once attacked hotly, but a wild pass by Shewring lost a certain try. The same player a minute later spoiled a good chance of scoring by selfishness.

The Gloucester line continued to be seriously assailed, but an interception by Hall enabled that player to kick to mid-field. Nott replied to Hudson, who sent over the line with his return, a minor being conceded. Another touchdown was recorded a minute later.

Subsequent play was very slack, the visitors losing a good slice of ground through a knock on by Welshman. Useful touch kicks by Spoors placed Bristol in a good attacking position. The visiting forwards were just now being over-powered, and the Gloucester lines had some narrow escapes. Welshman and, later, Hudson brought much-needed relief, and operations were fought out at mid-field.

The Gloucester forwards shone in a brilliant loose rush, and Stephens, fielding cleverly, passed out. "Whacker" Smith gathered, but slipped down, and was pounced upon. Bristol opened out, and Neale punted to Welshman, who returned in good style. Then, from a kick over the line by Hubert Smith, Nott touched down.

Gloucester played up strongly now, and were having the better of the exchanges. From a splendid punt by Welshman, Nott stumbled on his line. Hubert Smith raced up and had a glorious chance, but he knocked on. Gloucester hotly pressed during the next few minutes, but they found the defence too sound.

Spoors punted out from near his line, and H. Smith marked in a favourable position. Welshman's shot for goal went wide of the posts. Shortly afterwards Welshman had another place from a mark by Gent, but he again failed to cover the cross-bar. Ensuing play was contested in the Bristol half, and mistakes by the home backs nearly ended in disaster. Nott saved grandly once in the face of determined opposition, and then Hudson was only stopped a few yards from the Bristol line.

After a great effort Gloucester made another bold bid for a score, but they were kept out. In the last ten minutes Bristol rallied and made desperate efforts to pull off the game. Scott had two dashes down touch, but he could not beat the opposition.

Gloucester came again and rushed play to the opposite end. Hall was several times prominent with beautifully judged kicks which kept Gloucester at mid-field. Just before the end Bristol made one more tremendous effort, but the visitors held their own grandly, and retired winners by two points.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal (5 points)
Bristol 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

The game was contested with great spirit throughout and at times some fine play, both individually and in combination, was witnessed. At other periods, however, there was slackness on both sides and mistakes frequently[sic]. On the whole Gloucester gave a splendid account of themselves, but on the run of play they were lucky to win.

Forward, the visitors were over-weighted, but they stuck manfully to their task, the whole pack playing with resolution. Both sets of forwards heeled cleverly, and there was plenty of open play. Gent and Stephens were very effective in combination, the latter doing exceptionally well. At three-quarter all the Gloucester men were good. "Whacker" Smith kept a sharp look out on Shewring and Neale. Hudson was very dangerous, and his try was a gem.

The Bristol backs failed repeatedly, and until towards the end were off colour with the exception of Neale. Welshman at the start was shaky, but he pulled up afterwards and gave a creditable display. Nott was at fault now and again, but made some wonderful saves in the second half. This was Bristol's fifth successive defeat.

GLOUCESTER A v. BRISTOL NOMANDS

The meeting between Gloucester A and Bristol A, now re-christened Nomads, was always looked upon as one of the best fixtures in the City Seconds' card, and to-day's contest promised no exception to the rule.

Gloucester had three absentees in Welshman, Collins, and Holford. The visitors arrived one short, but a substitute was found in Dix.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – E. Butler, back; F. Bloxsome, G. Cook, F. Smith, and J. M. Baldwin, three-quarter backs; F. Arthur (capt.) and W. Robinson, half-backs; White, J. Wyburn, G. Griffiths, W. Blackford, H. W. Taylor, W. Bailey, S. Hayward, and Meadows, forwards.

Bristol Nomads. – S. Levy, back; F. Braine, W. Boddie, R. Jones, and L. Page, three-quarter backs; C. Boddie (capt.) and B. Righton, half-backs; E. Kilby, J. Carter, R. Meyer, M. Meyer, W. Fry, S. Brookman, J. Joyce, and Dix (sub.), forwards.

Bristol started, and for the first few minutes play was in neutral ground. Then Gloucester broke away from a line-out, and Baldwin racing up stopped a return. The ball came out to Cook, who, however, was floored in trying to drop a goal, and Bristol rushed away, but Butler sent them back with a good touch kick.

Aided by a fine dribble by R. Jones, Bristol pressed, but Butler tackled well. Bristol, however, kicked over the line, and a touch-down resulted. Bristol, aided by good kicking by Levy, re-imposed the pressure, but a free kick for a foul got Gloucester a little ground.

Butler put in a fine line, and Gloucester were in the Bristolians' quarter. The venue was quickly changed, and scrambling play followed at the centre. Cook cut through beautifully, but failed to pass, apparently not seeing the wing man waiting.

Again the centre became the scene of operations. Then with a touch kick Cook put Gloucester in position, but they only forced a minor, and Bristol worked out, the main factor in their favour being some good kicking by Levy.

Twice in succession the ball came out to the home three-quarters, but the passing left a good deal to be desired. Gloucester, however, worked down, but they were sent back with a good dribble by Jones. Gloucester returned to the attack again, but after a series of scrums almost on the Bristol line Levy touched down.

Gloucester kept up the pressure after this, but the game was very scrambling. In the course of half a minute both Robinson and Cook tried a drop at goal without success. Then the ball came out nicely to Bloxsome, who put F. Smith over in the corner. Cook failed at goal.

Some good open play followed, and then Boddie got away finely, but Butler effected a grand tackle. Bristol pressed for a moment, but then Gloucester broke away, and after passing by Arthur and Baldwin, Wyburn received, and running right through the Bristolians, scored a good try, which Hayward converted.

HALF-TIME :

Gloucester	1 goal 1 try
Bristol Nomads	Nil

The game was resumed to the accompaniment of hail and thunder, and play was in the central zone for some time. Righton rushed to Butler, but the latter eluded him and put in a good touch-finder at the centre, where play of a give and take nature ensued for a period again.

The Gloucester forwards broke away, but hesitated at the critical moment, and a good opportunity was thrown away. W. Boddie cut through beautifully and ran clear. He was, however, tackled on the line, and lost the ball – very hard lines, for his capital run deserved a better ending.

The ball came out nicely from the line-out, and Robinson, Cook, and Bloxsome handled, but the latter was bored to touch near the line. Cook, with a free, found touch about five yards out, and from a succeeding line-out a fine try resulted. Robinson received and passed out to Cook, who dodged through cleverly, and scored near the posts. Hayward goaled.

Another spell of loose, scrambling play followed and then Bristol were awarded a free, but Baldwin put in a good return. Robinson worked out a nice opening for Baldwin, who made a lot of ground and passed to Arthur, but the latter just failed to gather, going at top speed. Again the Gloucester forwards got the ball out, but Robinson held too long and slipped when trying to cut in.

Hayward dribbled away well, but only a five yards' scrum accrued, from which Bristol got right away, and Butler was collared in possession. A free gained but little ground for Gloucester. Hayward again headed the forwards in a fine dribble, and Levy being at fault, Taylor dropped on the ball and was credited with a try, which Hayward improved with a good kick.

Shortly after a stoppage ensued owing to an injury to Arthur. Then Gloucester tried passing, and Smith and Bloxsome and, later, Baldwin narrowly missed getting through. Robinson then tried to force his way through, but was held up, and a moment later Baldwin shared a similar fate, after Cook had made an opening for him.

Again the ball came out to Cook, but the defence was too keen, and he was forced to touch. Bristol gradually worked out of danger and carried the game to the other end, and C. Boddie got very near, but he lost the ball when tackled on the line.

Just towards the end Bristol were within an ace of scoring, but the defence just prevailed.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 3 goals 1 try (18 points)
Bristol Nomads Nil

REMARKS

The game was of a somewhat scrambling nature, and though at all times loth to cavil at any official, we must say that the referee was rather slow without being very sure – rather reversing the old proverb.

However, undoubtedly the best side won, and they won solely on superior back play, for the most violent partisan could not claim any advantage for either pack.

The home outsides were better on the day's play, but Bristol on three separate occasions had cruelly hard lines on being robbed of the result of really good work right on the line.

Butler, in quite an unaccustomed position, acquitted himself with the greatest credit, his tackling being very keen and safe. Of the three-quarters, Cook did a tremendous lot of work, and he was well backed up by Bloxsome and Baldwin. Robinson, at outside half, a new position for him, performed creditably, but he showed a little inclination to hold too long. Arthur put in a wonderful lot of hard work, and it is to be hoped his injury will not keep him out of the field.

Of the home forwards, Hayward, Blackford, Taylor, Wyburn, and Griffiths were perhaps the most prominent, the former especially in the loose, but all worked very hard.

Levy did his side good service with his lengthy and well-judged kicking, and Righton, R. Jones, and the two Boddies were always in the van.