

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1907

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. EXETER

For the return match between these clubs at Kingsholm, the Gloucester ranks were again sadly depleted owing to the county match. Wood, Hudson, Gent, Hollands, Johns and Quixley (the latter as reserve) were all called upon for Gloucestershire, but Hudson could not accept owing to an injury. Collins was also an absentee in the forwards. The vacancies were filled from the Reserve team.

Exeter had several absentees – including E. Carter, who was playing for Cornwall v. Devon – and had to re-arrange their back division.

Teams:-

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; C. Smith, E. Hall, G. Cook, H. Smith, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), B. Parham, F. Pegler, G. Holford, G. Matthews, J. Wyburn, R. Craddock, W. Bailey, forwards.

Exeter. – W. J. Pike, back; P. Kerswell, A. Skeines, A. J. Kerswell, P. Baker, threequarter-backs; W. C. Newberry, F. Force, half-backs; E. C. Morgan, H. Mills, T. Shorland, S. Lawrence, W. Youlden, Lieut. A. G. Rolleston, Lieut. W. E. Mann, W. Webber, forwards.

Referee: H. G. Smith.

THE GAME

Gordon Vears started for Gloucester about twenty minutes late, before a fair crowd. There was no return to the kick-off and the first two scrums were in neutral territory.

From the second, Force was offside, but Welshman kicked straight up in the air, and from the ensuing scramble Exeter punted into the Gloucester 25. Here the ball got loose, and Hubert Smith punted to the centre. Pike kicked to Gloucester territory. A mistake by the Exeter halves let Gloucester through, but Pike fielded well and sent back to the centre again.

Pike was not so lucky a moment later, and from a dribble by Stephens he was collared in possession. Exeter extricated themselves at the next scrum, but were again forced back on their own 25 line. Exeter worked out to the centre, A. Kerswell being prominent. Stephens opened out the game nicely, and the ball came along beautifully, but Cook made a very poor pass, and Hall had no chance – a really good opportunity thrown away, much to the disgust of the crowd.

Gloucester were now pretty hotly on the attack, but Exeter wheeled a scrum nicely and relieved. "Whacker" Smith marked from a high kick, but P. Kerswell answered well. A moment later the ball went to Welshman, but he put in a fine touch-finder. From the ensuing scrum Pegler sent out to the backs, but Hall passed very badly with Cook and Hubert Smith waiting with a clear field. Stephens punted across, but Parham in jumping for the ball knocked on.

Gloucester now were in a favourable position, but profiting by a bad pass P. Kerswell dribbled away to the centre. From here the ball was sent to Welshman, who sent to the centre again. Just a few seconds later P. Kerswell kicked up, and Welshman apparently cleared, but was adjudged to have gone to touch. The Gloucester forwards got away beautifully, and having beaten the full-back, it looked odds on a score, but A. Kerswell ran in beautifully, and taking the ball from their very feet sent to touch. Cook made a very poor attempt to drop a goal.

The many changes in the Gloucester team had seriously upset the home men, as was apparent from the somewhat scrappy description of the play. Welshman got down and saved a dangerous rush, and then Gloucester transferred to neutral ground again.

Exeter were penalised for the most palpable off-side, but Welshman's shot went wide and Exeter kicked out. Dix and Stephens opened out again nicely, and C. Smith and Hall got past the back, the latter kicking over the line. Exeter, however, kicked dead just in time. Again Dix passed out, and Stephens made ground but Skeines intercepted and kicked out. Then the other wing had a chance, but Hubert Smith was thrown into touch ten yards out.

Gloucester were now in a good position, and were repeatedly getting the ball back, but the handling was poor in the extreme, chances going a begging in the most exasperating manner. Welshman received and ran through beautifully, and the ball was carried right in, but just at the critical juncture Parham knocked on.

RESULT

Gloucester.....2 tries (6 points)
Exeter.....Nil