

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1907

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM

SECOND MATCH AT KINGSHOLM

A SCRAMBLING GAME

GLOUCESTER WIN BY A TRY

The second meeting of these local rivals took place at Kingsholm in bitterly cold weather. The first game, it will be remembered, ended in favour of Gloucester by 15 points to 5, and as this match was played at Cheltenham it was expected that at home the City would prove equal to again lowering the colours of the Town.

During the holidays both clubs had been engaged on successive days, but whereas Gloucester beat the Old Merchant Taylors by 22 points to 8, Cheltenham were only able to draw with the Londoners – 11 points each.

General form, however, is no guide where local rivalry is so keen, and Gloucester, with recollections of a defeat from their opponents at Kingsholm last season, had cause not to underestimate the Town representatives.

Cheltenham had to choose their team from some eighteen players, and the final selection resulted in Hayward, Moberley, and Jones standing down. There was some difficulty in fixing up the City fifteen owing to the defection of Wood, Hudson, Gent, C. Smith, Dix, and Hollands.

About 500 Cheltenham enthusiasts came over with the team, but the crowd was not up to expectation, the weather no doubt keeping many away.

The teams took the field at 2.55 as follows : –

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; J. Beard, E. Hall, G. Cook, and F. Bloxsome, three-quarter backs; J. Stephens and H. Smith, half-backs; G. Vears (captain), W. Johns, B. Parham, F. M. Stout, H. E. Quixley, R. Craddock, H. Collins, and G. Matthews, forwards.

Cheltenham. – B. Davy, back; W. A. Pocock, G. Romans, V. Ridge-Jones, and F. Fry, three-quarter backs; A. Goddard and A. Hall, half-backs; G. T. Unwin (captain), W. N. Unwin, C. S. Barnett, C. Bennett, W. G. Beauchamp, H. Evans, G. Pocock, and W. Hailing, forwards.

Referee : Mr. C. Palmer (Bristol).

THE GAME

Beauchamp started for the Town, and the ball went to W. N. Unwin, who kicked to touch inside the home 25. In some loose play the ball got to Romans, who passed to Ridge-Jones, but the latter knocked on. Cheltenham rushed a few yards, but H. Smith, with a useful punt, kicked out of danger.

Stephens, who was working the scrum, started a bout of passing, but the ball went astray. Hall, however, took a flying kick, and found touch in the Town 25. A long punt to Davy was knocked on by the Cheltenham custodian near his goal line, but the Town quickly cleared to the centre.

Pocock, following up a kick by Hall, collared Bloxsome in the Gloucester 25. A smart passing movement, initiated by Goddard, led to a sharp attack on the City lines, and Fry was only stopped in the nick of time. Cheltenham hovered near the Gloucester line, and with a strong burst the Town forwards were nearly over.

Gloucester relieved by the aid of a penalty. The Gloucester forwards burst away with a strong rush, but they were checked, and a well-judged punt by Pocock sent play to mid-field.

A mark fell to E. Hall, but not much ground was gained with the kick. From a long throw-out Fry took the ball well and burst through, but he punted and Parham made a clever mark, which enabled Gloucester to keep operations in mid-field.

The erratic wind caused the ball to dance about awkwardly, and mistakes in fielding were frequent. Gloucester paid a visit to their opponents' end, but they were beaten off with a fine dribble by the town front. Exciting play followed at the centre, matters being fairly even.

H. Smith punted down to W. Pocock, who was well collared by E. Hall. The ball became loose, and Cook picking up cross-kicked. Collins, who was put on-side, fielded and handed to Matthews, who was only pulled down a couple of yards from the line. Cheltenham relieved from a dangerous position, and later there was a series of exchanges by their backs, but W. Pocock was very feeble.

Barnett headed the visiting forwards in a fine dribble, but Stout saved in daring fashion. Gloucester made headway in a good rush, and a combined movement gave Bloxsome possession. The Second teamer, however, was beautifully collared by Barnett and thrown to touch.

Succeeding play was contested in the Town 25, where Stout brought off a strong dash down touch. The old International, however, succumbed to numbers. A wild pass from the scrum lost Gloucester a good position, and Cheltenham were not stopped till the centre was reached. Here a long punt went over the town line, and Davy touched down.

Following the drop-out, Stephens, H. Smith, and Cook took part in a beautiful bit of passing. Cook ran right down, but with an almost certain try in view Hall missed the pass. Bloxsome tried to break through in the next minute, but it was a feeble effort and easily repulsed.

Cheltenham came out strongly to mid-field, where some desperate forward work was witnessed.

At length the ball was kicked to Bloxsome in the open, and the Second teamer had a good chance of getting through. He was, however, brought down. The ball rolling away, Stout took it over the line. Pocock gathered, but Stout robbed him of possession and scored a good try. Welshman had hard lines with the goal kick.

Romans dropped out, and twice in quick succession Cheltenham had to concede minors. Soon afterwards the interval was announced.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 try
Cheltenham Nil

Vears resumed, but failed to send the ball ten yards, and a scrum followed at the centre. Cheltenham heeled from the initial scrums, and neat passing ensued, but Fry was forced to touch by Beard. The Town gained a footing in the home 25, but Stout broke away with a magnificent dribble which took the ball past Davy. Several Gloucester forwards were well up, and Johns continued the movement, but over-ran the ball, and Davy got back and saved.

Gloucester got the ball out, but Bloxsome was feeble in the extreme and did not make a yard. A mistake by the home backs enabled Cheltenham to clear, but Welshman picked up at his opponents' feet and saved splendidly.

Cheltenham worked down some dozen yards or so, but the City men retaliated, Johns being prominent with some fine footwork. Davy cleared with a lucky flying kick, and this caused operations to be fought out at the centre.

Both packs of forwards were conspicuous for some grand loose rushing, and the game was full of excitement. Romans, from a transfer by Hall, tried to cut through, but the ex-Gloucesterian was legged and his pass went forward. Welshman was next called upon to stop a dangerous rush of the Town forwards, which he did with great effect.

Some hot play followed in the Gloucester half, where Romans attempted a drop at goal, but only a minor resulted. Gloucester dropped out, but another kick by Romans sent the ball over the line, Welshman touching down.

On the restart, Johns was conspicuous with a brilliant dribble which severely tested the Town, but A. Hall managed to knock the ball to touch. Bad marking by Gloucester allowed Cheltenham to clear, and a penalty against the City still further improved matters for the Town. Good work by Beard sent the ball to Davy, who only got in a poor kick to touch. Gloucester tried passing, but Bloxsome was again weak and ground was lost.

In subsequent play the Gloucester forwards heeled several times, but Hall and Smith resorted to kicking, and in each instance the wind took the ball back and to touch – ground being lost. Play hovered in mid-field during the next few minutes, but operations were very scrambling.

Johns relieved with a truly great dribble, but Davy saved in fine style. In the next minute the ball got across to Bloxsome, only to see the wing man allow himself to be collared in tame fashion. A big rush, following splendid work by Welshman, led to a sharp attack on the Cheltenham line, but the defence prevailed. Before the end Cheltenham got out of danger, and from a kick down the wind took the ball over the City line, and a touchdown was recorded.

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... to the absence of Gent, and Dix being unfit, Stephens had to go up as scrum half, and right well the veteran acquitted himself in the position. Hubert Smith proved a serviceable partner, and the Gloucester pair had none the worst of matters at half-back.

Goddard played his usual hard game for Cheltenham, and Albert Hall did fairly well with the few opportunities afforded him.

Cheltenham were best represented at three-quarter by Romans, who did some fine kicking, and displayed better judgment than his colleagues. Ridge-Jones was weak, and except for a few good tackles, was little in evidence.

Gloucester was splendidly served at full back by Welshman, who outshone Davy altogether. The Gloucesterian scarcely made a mistake in fielding, and some of his saves were wonderfully smart. He also kicked a fine length. Davy appeared unnerved at times, and it was clearly an off-day for the Cheltenham custodian.

GLOUCESTER A v. GORDON LEAGUE

EASY VICTORY FOR THE CITY SECONDS

At Hempsted. The League started, and exchange kicking followed, to the advantage of the League. Gloucester, however, soon got up and quickly made their influence felt. They reached the line several times without success early in the game, and an unsuccessful kick was made at goal from a mark by Gloucester.

Baldwin scored easily a few minutes' later. The try was not converted.

Arthur, with surprising simplicity, got through the whole lot of opponents in front of the goal with the next try just before half-time. Purton converted.

Oswell made a good dribble up the field for Gordon League on resumption, but he was fouled from behind and thus stopped. Arthur again scored for the visitors, and Purton goaled.

Baldwin was not long in adding the next try after taking the ball well. The kick failed.

Pegler was the next to get over from a scrum near the goal line, but no extra points were added.

Gloucester only played 13 men and Gordon League 14. The latter played a plucky game, and were several times near scoring, but the visitors were easily the better side.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 2 goals, 3 tries (19 points)

Gordon League Nil

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