

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1908

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL

The big match at Cheltenham proved a strong counter-attraction, and the attendance at Kingsholm to witness the return fixture between these old rivals was considerably below the average.

Gloucester still had Welshman, Gent, "Whacker" Smith and Craddock on the injured list, whilst Hudson had also to withdraw from the team owing to a cold. Thus the home team were again sadly weakened.

There were several alterations also in the Bristol team.

At the time of the start a thick drizzle was driving over the ground making everything most unpleasant.

Teams : —

Gloucester. — E. Butler, back; F. Smith, G. Beard, G. Cook, and H. Smith, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), W. Johns, B. Parham, F. Pegler, D. Hollands, H. Quixley, G. Holford, G. Griffiths, forwards.

Bristol. — A. Levy, back; E. C. Cook, D. Llewellyn, M. Meyer, M. E. Neale, three-quarter backs; J. Larcombe, J. Spoor, half-backs; J. L. Mathias, W. E. Meyer, N. Moore, P. Down, F. Feltham, W. Cooper, E. Kibbey, J. Mallett, forwards.

Referee : Mr. J. Holt (Leicester).

THE GAME

Bristol arrived nearly half an hour late, and Vears started from the Dean's Walk end. The kick did not go far, and play opened at the centre. From the first scrum the ball came out to Neale, who shook himself clear from a tackler and kicked to touch. In the next scrum Bristol were penalised for feet up, but although the kick was not returned the Gloucester forwards lost the ball.

The game went up and down the ground as the result of some kicking exchanges and forward rushes. Butler was applauded for a good touch-finder and Mallett came through nicely for the visitors, but Butler saved well. A moment later Johns got away nicely from touch, and the ball was kicked out to F. Smith on the wing. He went over the line, but was obviously off-side, and was recalled.

From almost the next scrum Stephens received from Dix, and a beautiful bit of passing saw Cook give to F. Smith nicely. The wing man went as hard as he could, but Neale came across, and with Larcombe's help bundled the Gloucesterian into touch dangerously near the line. Bristol, aided by a free, eased the pressure.

About on the 25 line the home forwards heeled again, and Dix getting the ball away well, gave Cook a chance. The latter dodged Neale cleverly, but Beard failed to accept his pass. Gloucester, by the aid of a good kick by Cook, got well up, but a smart follow up by Cook (Bristol) saw Butler collared.

A loose forward rush succeeding a free to Gloucester saw Bristol right down in the Gloucester 25. Here Spoor cut through finely and threw out a wide pass in the vicinity of Neale, but Hubert Smith hustled him, and the ball went astray.

A very pretty bit of inter-passing by Stephens and Cook looked promising, but the whistle blew for forward when Cook had almost gone through.

Bristol worked back again, and for some time play ruled on the Gloucester 25. Larcombe was pulled up for a very palpable not-in-straight, but little ground was gained. A good rush with Johns in the van brought relief for Gloucester. Dix and Stephens again opened out, but before F. Smith could get really dangerous Neale brought him down with a lovely tackle.

Gloucester gradually worked up to the Bristol 25, where Llewellyn marked, but his confreres were off-side, and a scrum was called. From this came the first score. F. Smith received from Dix and Stephens and failing to clear Meyer kicked across the field and over the line. The Gloucester forwards raced up, and the ball first bouncing, Parham scored amidst considerable demonstration of enthusiasm by the small crowd. Cook failed to add the two points from the easy place.

Another round of passing left Beard in possession, but he could not get round, and centre play followed for a time. Hubert Smith and Cook were responsible for a fine movement, in which the latter fairly beat the opposition, but the referee called him back for a forward transfer.

Again Gloucester were nearly scorers, but Levy kicked dead in time. A loose rush by Bristol transferred the game from one 25 to the other. However, a kick and follow up by Cook and F. Smith took it right back again. Cook, from a mark, dropped for goal, but without success.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 try
Bristol	Nil

Hollands replied well to Mathias' kick-off, but Bristol rushed to the home 25. A good open movement took the ball to the other end again quickly, and Neale kicked over the line, the ball going dead. A good reply to the drop-out, however, put Bristol on good terms again, and Spoons looked likely to get through, but Butler collared him. Then the Gloucester forwards, headed by Johns, put in a telling rush, and Bristol were called upon to defend. Johns collared Levy in possession, and the ball came out to Hubert Smith, but he was thrown into touch.

A moment later, from a scrum at half-way, Spoors dodged through beautifully. He slipped Butler, and looked as if he could have gone in himself, but he passed, and the ball went astray, a touchdown resulting. After the drop-out Cook (Gloucester) put in a useful kick to touch at the centre where the game waged for a time. Hollands got away cleverly with the ball at his feet, and dribbling on at a fine pace beat Levy and scored a cleverly-earned individual try. No goal resulted.

Bristol paid a visit to the Gloucester end and Moore tried a shot for goal from a mark, but the kick fell short. Cook (Gloucester) distinguished himself in subsequent play. Gloucester gradually got down to the Bristol end again, but F. Smith, when trying to get through, was pushed into touch.

Mathias kicked down, and Cook, who received, went behind the line, and in trying to run round slipped and fell, a five yards' scrum being ordered. From this awkward position F. Smith brought relief with a timely kick. The game was keenly fought out to the end, but there was no more scoring.

RESULT :

Gloucester2 tries (6 points)
Bristol Nil

REMARKS

The game was of an interesting character throughout, there being plenty of incidents and some really good football. It is rather significant that both the Gloucester points were scored by forwards, for apart from two or three brilliant bursts by the home eight, the Bristolians, if anything, held a little advantage in this department on the day's play.

However, although overweighted the Gloucester front performed most admirably, and stuck it out right to the bitter end. Johns, Hollands, Vears, Pegler, and Holford were the more prominent, the two first-named particularly in the loose.

Dix, although coming under the ban of the referee once or twice too often, and Stephens opened out the game well throughout, and it was not their fault the three-quarters could not get through. Cook played one of the best games he has shown here. His kicking was excellent and most useful, and he certainly shone in all departments of the game. The two Smiths were always handy, but Beard did not take his passes well.

On the Bristol side Neale was the shining light. He was in fine form. Between the rival full backs there was very little to choose.

GLOUCESTER A v. BRISTOL NOMADS

These teams met at the County Ground, Bristol, both being well represented. Gloucester were first to attack, and did so in determined style. After ten minutes continued pressure W. Hall dropped a goal for Gloucester. A few minutes later Stradling, a home forward, scored an unconverted try. In the last ten minutes of the first half the 'Cestrians had the best of the game, their three-quarter line combining splendidly.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 1 goal (d)
Bristol A 1 try

After the interval even play was seen for several minutes. Gloucester soon showed superiority, however, and following some aggressive work Pegler scored an unconverted try. Bristol improved after the drop out, and the game settled for a time in the visitors' quarters, where Kibby had a splendid opportunity to score, but lost it through a wild pass. In the closing stages Gloucester attacked and nearly succeeded in scoring.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 7 points
Bristol A 3 points