

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1908

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLO'STER v. NORTHAMPTON

FAST AND KEEN GAME

GLOUCESTER WIN BY TWO POINTS

Favourable weather prevailed for the return match between these teams at Kingsholm, and there was every prospect of a keen and interesting game.

Both clubs turned out as selected; Stephens, Johns, and Parham resuming for Gloucester.

The visitors were reported strong forward, and the side generally was considered a good one.

The teams lined out punctually to time as follows : –

Teams : –

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; F. Smith, G. Cook, A. Hudson, and C. Smith, three-quarter backs; J. Stephens, D. R. Gent, half-backs; G. Vears, W. Johns, B. Parham, R. Craddock, D. Hollands, H. Quixley, G. Griffiths, H. Halford, forwards.

Northampton. – W. Brown, back; E. R. Mobbs, A. J. Nevitt, F. Coles, F. C. Panting, threequarter-backs; P. Hodge, M. J. Long, half backs; A. Chalmers, P. Fussell, L. Skempton, J. W. Warren, H. Burke, G. Burke, J. Burch, W. Welch, forwards.

Referee : Mr. Palmer (Bristol).

## THE GAME

Gloucester won the toss and deputed the visitors to defend the Worcester-street goal. Chalmers kicked off, the ball going to Holford, who was at once pulled down. From the ensuing scrum Gloucester heeled, but Gent passed out wildly, the ball going yards from any player. Hudson tried to gather, but was pushed over, and the situation looked ominous at this early stage. The ball, however, was turned to touch in time.

Off-side by Gloucester lost the advantage of a fine kick by Welshman, but a little later the visitors were penalised, and Gloucester reached the centre. Here the City tried passing, but not much ground was gained.

A pass from Hodge to Panting on the short side of the scrum saw the latter punt across, but Hudson got possession and executed a short burst and pass to C. Smith. The latter returned to Hudson, and a few more inter-passes took place, but the movement was checked on the 25 line.

Gloucester attacked strongly, and from a clever cross-kick by Cook, Johns had a clear run in, but the forward knocked on. The game was confined to the Northampton half, and following a punt by Hudson, C. Smith and Mobbs raced for possession. The visiting captain got there first and kicked out very pluckily.

Weak play by the City backs let the visitors clear, but Gloucester soon got back again. In their own 25 Hodge got the ball out to Coles, who dodged and passed to Newitt. The latter clean beat Hudson, and running to Welshman, sent out wide to Mobbs on the centre line. Racing hard Mobbs out-distanced all opposition, and finished a superb run by scoring behind the posts amidst great cheering. Coles converted.

Gloucester re-started, but Coles at once put Northampton down with a grand punt. The visiting forwards followed up strongly, and Welshman was floored as soon as he got possession.

Heeling well the East Midland forwards gave their backs numerous chances. From a smart bout the ball was sent out wide to Mobbs who was nearly in again. In the next minute the same player was only stopped a yard outside. Gloucester eventually eased the pressure, and a long kick by Hudson was only poorly returned by Brown to touch near his 25. Working hard, Gloucester rushed right to the line, but the visitors luckily saved. Gent opened out, but F. Smith failed to take the transfer with the backs well placed.

In subsequent play the Gloucester men were not clean in their methods, and Northampton easily repulsed the attacks. Hudson, from a pass by Stephens, tried hard to break through, but he succumbed to numbers. Eventually a kick went to Brown, who fumbled and allowed the ball to bounce over the line. He tried to clear, but kicked feebly to Hollands about ten yards outside. The latter was collared from behind, but let the ball go, and Hudson coming up strongly gathered, and dived over with a try, which Welshman converted, thus placing the teams level.

The re-start was well replied to, but play was very scrambling. A long kick by Gloucester went to Panting, who was finely tackled by Frank Smith. The Northampton man hung on to the ball, but the referee did not penalise, and there was a scramble amongst several players. A scrum followed, and Long securing, he punted to Welshman, who found touch with a beautiful kick well inside the Northampton half.

Gloucester rushed very close from a scrum, and Holford picking up was nearly over. The ball getting loose a Northampton forward luckily cleared to the 25. Northampton made further headway, but near the centre the Gloucester backs handled smartly. Hudson, however, was just tackled in time by Mobbs. Gloucester had the better of the exchanges to the interval, Cook shining in some good play, but there was no more scoring.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester .....	1 goal
Northampton .....	1 goal

Vears resumed, and from the reply Gent sent to touch inside the visitors' half. From the first scrum Gent started a round of passing, Stephens, Frank Smith, and Cook handling in turn. The latter yielded to Hudson when the International had full pace up, and the Gloucesterian going strongly hit off Brown and scored a fine try. The place kick failed.

After two fruitless attempts to drop the ball into play the game continued, operations settling at midfield. Good footwork by Hodge and a forward took the ball to Welshman, who just managed to turn the ball to touch. Northampton tried hard to effect a score, but they were beaten off.

Wheeling a scrum finely the Gloucester forwards came away in splendid style. Hollands gathered, and after running a few yards passed to Frank Smith, who raced away down touch. Mobbs got across, and with a final spring just floored the Gloucesterian on the line. The ball got loose and Parham pounced upon it and claimed a try, but a scrum was ordered five yards outside. Frank Smith was winded in falling, but was soon able to resume.

Gloucester from this point played up brilliantly, and more grand passing only just failed of a score. Next Hudson, receiving from Gent, made a great dash for the line, but was tackled outside. Gloucester still kept on the aggressive, and twice in quick succession they were just robbed of a score.

Northampton eventually eased the pressure, and thanks to a fine effort by Mobbs the home end was visited. Gloucester opened out in their 25, but just as Hudson had broken clear he sent a wild pass which Frank Smith failed to take.

Some loose play followed at midfield, ending in the Gloucester forwards going away grandly. From a flying kick the ball came across to the right wing, where Cook was lying handy, and the centre picking up went over with the third try. Welshman missed the goal kick.

Resuming, there was some fast play at the centre, both teams working hard. Gent and Stephens in turn were prominent for smart breaks away, but the former held on a bit too long, and his reverse pass was missed. Gloucester took up the running again, but a kick from Gent went over the line for a minor.

The City were doing well in all departments, the forwards especially doing well in the scrum. The ball came back well, and Gent and Stephens were extremely smart in getting the ball away. The tackling, however, was deadly. Stephens and Johns, with neat passing, gained some 20 yards, but a miss by Hollands, from a penalty, allowed Northampton to gain a footing in the home 25. The City forwards carrying a scrum, dribbled beautifully to beyond the centre, Coles being very lucky in turning the ball out of play.

Gloucester heeling, Gent and Stephens twice sent sharp passes to Hudson, but the International could not get away. Off-side by Hollands lost Gloucester a good slice of ground but it was quickly recovered by the forwards, who brought off a grand 30 yards rush. Hudson was applauded for a keen follow up and tackle of Mobbs, and later the same player was upset by the Gloucester forwards.

Having obtained a footing in their opponents' half, Gloucester worked out but the passing went astray with a good chance of scoring. Hodge was penalised for an infringement at the scrum, but though Brown fumbled, Coles came to his assistance and effected a good clearance.

Some fumbling by the Gloucester backs allowed Northampton to gain a good position in front of the home goal, and from a scrum Hodge passed out to Coles, who with a good kick dropped a goal. This left Gloucester only two points in front, but nothing further resulted.

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 1 goal 2 tries (11 points)  
Northampton ..... 2 goals (1d) (9 points)

## REMARKS

The game was fast and well contested, and there was plenty of open football. In the first half there was little to choose between the teams, and the score of five points each was a fair indication of the run of the game. The feature of this half was Mobbs' try, which compared favourably with the best seen on the ground. The movement was started inside the visitors' half, and the Northampton sprinter received first about the centre line. With full speed up, Mobbs ran away from the opposition, and finished a grand run by scoring behind the posts.

Changing over, Gloucester soon got the lead through Hudson, who crossed after a fine individual effort. From this point the City improved in their display all round, and the spectators were treated to some brilliant football at times. The Gloucester forwards heeled continually, and the backs indulged in some really smart combined individual movements. Frank Smith, and a little later Hudson, experienced very hard lines in not scoring.

Mobbs' pace alone saved Northampton in the first instance, and on other occasions his tackling was instrumental in staving off disaster. Occasionally the home players fumbled in fielding, and it was owing to mistakes in this direction that Northampton were let in in the closing stages. Gloucester's win by two points did not do justice to the City, for in the second half the East Midlanders were clearly second best.

Gloucester's display was a distinct improvement on the previous week. The forwards were better together, and worked with a strenuousness and vigour that did them every credit. In the scrums and lines out the Gloucester men were constantly to the fore in the second half, and some of their loose work was very fine. Holford, Griffiths, and Quixley were conspicuous in touch play, but for all round work Johns, Vears, and Hollands frequently came under notice. One fault – and an old one – the tackling at times was too high, and in this respect the backs were also to blame. To stop an opponent it is useless to go for a man with one hand, but we saw this attempted more than once to-day.

The Northampton pack were a strong lot, but were lacking in cleverness and judgment. Chalmers, Fussell, and Skempton were a hard-working trio, but the whole eight put in all they knew.

At half-back, Gloucester held an advantage, Gent reproducing some of his best form. There was an occasional wild pass from the scrum, but for the most part, the ex-International displayed trickiness and judgment in getting the ball away, and he did some good saving. Stephens was very sound at outside half, and he did everything possible to make openings.

Hodge, the visitors' scrum worker, was given too much to off-side tactics, and this spoiled his play to a large extent. Long did fairly well standing back, but did not combine with his three-quarters as effectively as Stephens.

The Gloucester three-quarters were not seen to advantage in the early stages of the game, but later they settled down and got through a lot of capital work. Hudson played an in-and-out sort of game, but his two tries were well deserved, and there were several other occasions when he only just failed to gain the desired opening. Cook did not get the chances that fell to his partner, but he accomplished many good things in a quiet way.

The two Smiths on the wing were well tried, and both came through with credit. Mobbs was the outstanding figure on the visiting side, and he is undoubtedly a fine player. To him Northampton were greatly indebted in escaping with a two points' defeat. Coles and Nevitt were very useful centres, and Panting shaped prominently on the right wing. Brown was a weak spot in the East Midlanders' ranks. He practically gave away the first try, and he made other serious mistakes which might have gone badly for the side.

Welshman kicked beautifully and with judgment now and again, but he was not so safe as usual in fielding and gathering.

## GLOUCESTER A v. BREAM

### A DISPUTED TRY

### BREAM DECLINE TO FINISH

For this return match at Bream the City Seconds had to make two changes from the team selected. Hubert Smith notified his inability to play, and this let in Baldwin, whilst J. Hall could not turn out owing to an injury to the knee.

Bream fielded a strong side, and were not without hope of putting a check to the A team's run of successes.

Gloucester started. The first scrum was formed in the Bream 25. A good bout of passing by Bream now ensued, but Fred Kent missed badly when a score should have resulted. Gloucester now pressed, and Dix dropped a goal.

The visitors now brought off a round of passing and a score seemed certain, but Moore brought off a good tackle. Rudge got away grandly, and the visitors did well in saving their line from being crossed. Bream were now forced to touch down.

#### HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A .....1 goal (d)

Bream ..... Nil

After the interval Bream pressed, the first incident of note being a capital touch-finder by Baker. The game was now very exciting and very keen and even. Bream brought off a capital bout of passing but Fred Kent was pushed into touch and a great effort failed.

Gloucester now brought off a good dribble, and one of the forwards went into touch, but the referee let the visitors go on and score. The home touch-judge having kept his flag up, the homesters declined to continue the game if the score was allowed, so the referee stopped the game there and then, quite fifteen minutes short of time.



RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 1 goal (d) 1 try (7 points)

Bream .....Nil

Another account says the disputed try was converted, and allowed by the referee, making Gloucester's score 9 points to nil. We are further informed that the referee had to be protected by the Gloucester players after the match. Ed.

JC