

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1908

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL

EXTRA MATCH AT KINGSHOLM

GLOUCESTER WIN A POOR GAME

In consideration of a guarantee, the Bristol club consented to play an extra match with Gloucester at Kingsholm, but the fixture attracted a very moderate attendance.

Gloucester were short of Gent, Welshman, and Holford, whilst Shewring, Neale, and Kibbey were prominent absentees from the Bristol ranks.

Previous to the match the home team with officers and committee were photographed.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – E. Butler, back; F. Smith, G. Cook, J. Stephens, A. Hudson, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, A. Hall, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), W. Johns, B. Parham, J. Wyburn, H. Berry, R. Craddock, D. Hollands, H. Quixley, forwards.

Bristol. – W. Nott, back; G. Lismore, S. Jones, F. Holbrook, R. Milton, three-quarter backs; J. Larcombe, J. Spoors, half-backs; N. Moore, E. Mallett, M. Meyer, F. Percy, F. Feltham, G. Phelps, A. Stradling, W. Fry, forwards.

Referee : Mr. F. W. Nicholls (Leicester).

THE GAME

The game started half an hour late, Bristol kicking off from the Dean's Walk goal. Play opened in the City half and a mistake in handling early on nearly let Bristol through. The home forwards broke away nicely from a line-out, but a promising movement was checked.

With a loose kick Bristol sent to Butler, who found touch nicely. A loose rush by Gloucester saw Nott collared in possession, and a minute later a series of exchanges left the ball with Hudson. The International ran and put in a short punt, which was charged down, and a visitor kicked to touch. A neat effort by Spoons tested Butler, who cleared a couple of opponents neatly and got in a good kick to midfield.

Centre play followed, ending in Gloucester opening out, but Stephens' pass to Hudson was forward. The Gloucester backs were again prominent with some clever interpassing, but Hudson, in trying to cut inside Nott slipped and fell to the ground.

A mark to Bristol enabled the visitors to reach the home half where Berry received from a throw out and kicked across. Frank Smith raced up touch and cleverly beat Jones for possession. Keeping the ball in play he took it past Nott, and gathering on the run he ran over with a good try. Cook failed at goal.

Resuming, Bristol had the better of the exchanges, and the home defence was taxed. Stephens legged Spoons when the latter looked dangerous, but later the visitors forced a minor from a kick over the line.

On the drop-out the Bristol backs showed up with a splendid round of passing, Lismore finally putting in a cross-kick which gave his side a good opening. Hall, however, gathered just in time and prevented a score. Bristol had all the better of subsequent play, the forwards heeling well and the backs handling smartly.

Gloucester were forced to concede another minor, but on the drop-out a determined forward rush by the City took them to the opposite end. There was a good chance of a try, but a pass was intercepted, and Spoons transferred play to the Gloucester 25. Here Larcombe broke away cleverly, only being pulled down by Butler a few yards outside. The ball getting loose several Bristol players handled, and a score appeared certain. Lismore, however, was rushed off the ball, and Gloucester dribbled out of danger.

In some open play Berry and Johns were prominent, but the latter lost the ball. Hall, however, picked up, and more exchanges between the half-back, Berry and Johns, gave the vice-captain a try near the posts. Cook failed at goal.

Hudson brought off a strong run on the re-start, and Dix afterwards nearly went through on his own. Gloucester now attacked strongly, and Stephens was only pulled to touch a yard from the line. Bristol cleared luckily, and then from a shot at goal from a penalty, Bristol touched down.

Gloucester pressed smartly on the drop-out, and Hollands, after a big effort, was only tackled in the nick of time. In trying to force home an attack, Gloucester had a pass intercepted, and Bristol cleared to the centre. Here Jones brought off a capital run but lost the ball. Spoons, however, came along, and sending over the line touched down for a soft try under the posts. Nott failed at the easy place.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 2 tries
Bristol 1 try

Gloucester re-started, and the home team at once got into a good position. Faulty play lost one or two nice openings, and a mistake by F. Smith allowed Bristol to reach more favourable quarters. Spoons made a good effort down touch, and then weak play in the line-out by the home forwards gave Bristol a fine chance. Percy picked up neatly, but was brought down a yard from the line.

Gloucester worked out gradually, but the players were very slack and made poor use of their opportunities. A fine run and kick by Spoors put Gloucester on the defence, Cook saving neatly.

Still keeping up the pressure Bristol worked hard for a score, the Gloucester tackling being very weak. Nott, from near the touch flag, made a splendid attempt to drop a goal, the ball striking one of the uprights and rebounding into play.

There was no improvement on the part of the City in subsequent play, and the game as a whole was a poor one. From a long punt by Cook, Nott fumbled on his own half, but he recovered, and beating both F. Smith and Cook who had followed up, kicked to touch finely.

Gloucester at length opened out, but Hudson, in attempting a short punt, had his kick charged down by Nott, who had a possible chance of scoring, but he hesitated and was lost.

Hollands was mainly responsible for Gloucester clearing from their line, but subsequent play was more amusing than serious.

Gloucester on two or three occasions had really fine openings, but the players fumbled the ball repeatedly to the disgust of the crowd. Eventually one pretty movement materialised, F. Smith racing over in the corner. The place kick by Cook was a failure.

Bristol, on the re-start, gained a footing in the home quarters, but Gloucester came away with a brilliant round of passing. F. Smith was the last to receive, and he ran beautifully and over the line, but he was called back for stepping into touch.

Before the end Hollands scored from a line out, and Cook added the goal points.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal, 3 tries (14 points)
Bristol 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

Little interest was taken in the fixture, and the match is not likely to benefit the Gloucester Club to any appreciable extent. The score was very flattering to Gloucester, for on the play Bristol were little inferior.

The home forwards were powerful in loose rushes and faster in the open, but in the scrums the Bristol eight had the better of the deal.

Bristol missed several chances in the first half, whilst after the change of ends the home backs frequently muddled and lost a number of opportunities.

JC