

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1908

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM

There was an absence of the old-time excitement and enthusiasm attending former meetings between these near and keen rivals, and this notwithstanding the match was in connection with the County League Competition.

The attendance was very moderate at Kingsholm at the advertised time of starting, but the threatening weather no doubt kept some enthusiasts away.

Gloucester were short of Hudson and Stephens, whilst the Town lacked the services of Champain and Ward.

The teams lined out five minutes late as follows : –

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; F. Smith, W. Hall, J. Hamblin, J. M. Baldwin, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, H. Smith, half-backs; W. Johns, H. Berry, B. Parham, G. Griffiths, J. Wyburn, G. Holford, D. Hollands, forwards.

Cheltenham. – B. Davy, back; H. Beck, L. Hayward, H. Cook, C. Clifford, three-quarter backs; G. T. Unwin, A. Goddard, half-backs; W. Williams, F. Hopkins, E. M. Mansel-Pleydell, G. Cossens, C. Bennett, T. Clarke, H. Wixey, forwards.

Referee : Mr. H. Smith (Bristol).

THE GAME

Gloucester were successful in the toss, and W. Unwin kicked off from the Worcester-street goal, Griffiths returning to touch inside the home half. From a throw-out the ball got loose, and Gent picking up cleverly got in a nice punt to touch. A minute later Hayward received from a flying kick by Parham and forced a minor with a fruitless drop at goal.

Hayward received from the drop-out, but could not get far. The Town forwards, however, dribbled close to the home line. Goddard, receiving from the scrum, tried to bore his way through, but lost possession. Welshman gathered, and running round punted grandly to touch some 30 yards out. Gloucester made headway from a line-out, and then H. Smith kicked cleverly and robbed Davy. Griffiths, however, knocked on in trying to pick up. The City gained a footing in their opponents' end, and W. Unwin at once came out as extra half to stop the passing.

Off-side play by Cheltenham, passed by the referee, allowed the Town to clear, but Hamblin sent them back with a lovely punt. A little later the City halves opened out, and Baldwin, slipping Hayward, ran and cross-punted. The ball was taken over the Town line by Johns, but he was off-side, Baldwin having failed to put his men on-side. Another well-judged punt by Hamblin gave the Gloucester right wing a possible chance, but a visitor secured the ball and punted straight to touch. Cheltenham were hard pressed for a time, but relieved with a loose kick over the line, and Hayward touched down.

Even play followed at mid-field, where Goddard sent a bad pass to G. Unwin, which was missed. Hall dribbled through, but Gent in trying to pick up knocked on, thus losing a fine opening. Gloucester lost ground through a faulty transfer by H. Smith, and a Cheltonian kicked to touch in the City half. Here the home backs indulged in some neat combination, and F. Smith cross-kicked to a bunch of Gloucester forwards. The ball, however, bounced the wrong way, and Cheltenham cleared.

Play was fast at the centre until G. Unwin kicked to Welshman. The City custodian doubled Beck and Hayward beautifully, and after running some 20 yards found touch well inside the Town 25. Welshman repeated this performance a couple of minutes later, being again loudly cheered for his clever effort. For off-side play Cheltenham were penalised, but though no charge was allowed Welshman made a miserable attempt to land a goal.

F. Smith replied to the re-start, and Gloucester looked likely to have an opening. Parham picked up neatly and threw to Baldwin. The latter ran across the ground and passed, but though Hall took a difficult transfer cleverly he sent forward to F. Smith. Gloucester continued to have the better of the exchanges, and the game was confined to the Town half.

A brilliant bout of passing by the City backs looked all over for a score, Baldwin just being tackled outside. From a scrum close in the ball came out to the home backs, but though a good effort was made to cross the attempt was unsuccessful.

The City, not to be denied, continued on the attack, and Baldwin had another dash for the left corner, but was held up. The attack, however, was maintained, and following a clever move initiated by Gent, in which H. Smith, Hall and F. Smith took part, Hall ran over cleverly from a pass inside. Welshman landed the goal points.

Resuming, Wyburn showed up with a grand burst from a line-out, but the subsequent passing went astray. The City were going great guns now, and Cheltenham were sorely pressed. The Town attempted to open out, but G. Unwin kicked feebly to Welshman, who returned with interest.

From a scrum on the 25-line Gent started H. Smith on the move, and after Hall had handled, Hamblin received and raced over with a good try. Welshman just failed with the place-kick.

Cheltenham resumed, and there was some hot forward work inside the visitors' half. Gent and H. Smith gained ground for their side with useful kicks, but the Town replied with loose footwork and reached mid-field. Here there was a temporary delay owing to Bennett having to replace a torn jersey.

Continuing, a mis-kick by Gent lost a good slice of ground, and Cheltenham reached the home end for the first time for twenty minutes. In some loose play Hamblin gathered neatly, and coming right through the Town forwards found touch with a nice kick.

After this Cheltenham tried some passing, but it broke down badly. In a long line-out Johns secured and opened out nicely, but with the defence practically beaten Hamblin knocked on. Soon afterwards the interval was reached.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 goal, 1 try
Cheltenham	Nil

Vears re-started, the ball going to Wixey, who punted a few yards to touch. By useful kicks Cheltenham made headway, and then from a flying kick by Holford, G. Unwin made a mark. Davy, however, only punted straight over the line for a touchdown.

For getting in front of the ball Gloucester were penalised, and a scrum was ordered on the 25-line. The City forwards heeled, but Goddard robbed Gent and toed the ball across to a colleague, but Gloucester saved. H. Smith was instrumental in changing the venue with a well-judged kick, and ensuing play was fought out near the centre.

From a throw-out Johns received and immediately let the ball go to Griffiths. The latter passed to Hamblin, who cut through beautifully and sent to Hall. The latter ran up to Davy and then yielded to F. Smith, who raced home in fine style and planted the ball behind the posts. Welshman converted, and Gloucester held a 13 points' lead.

Johns fumbled the kick-off, but quickly recovered, and then a lovely bit of combination was spoiled through Baldwin stepping to touch. G. Unwin, picking up in the loose, tried to go through, but he was legged, and passing back, the ball was snapped up by Hall. The clever centre brought off a magnificent run, beating a host of opponents. He then passed to F. Smith, who gave up to Hamblin, but the latter was just pulled up in time by Cook.

Cheltenham cleared from a dangerous position by the aid of a penalty, but Gent and H. Smith put them back with neat play. Berry breaking away, Gloucester pressed hotly again. Baldwin, fielding on the run, tried hard to beat the defence, but he was well tackled a dozen yards outside. G. Unwin, with a strong run down touch, relieved the pressure, and mid-field was the scene of operations.

The Cheltenham forwards heeling, Goddard and Unwin tried passing. One movement looked promising, but Clifford was nicely brought down by Welshman. The ball rolled over the line, and W. Hall, in trying to kick out, had it charged down. He, however, recovered and conceded a minor.

Cheltenham did better after this, and Davy was seen to advantage twice when hard pressed. Clifford, following up a high punt, gathered the ball on the run and had a dash for the line, but F. Smith rolled him to touch.

Wheeling a scrum, the City forwards, headed by Vears and Berry, came right away. A kick, however, went straight into the arms of Davy, who was pulled down by the Gloucester captain. From a scrum Gent and H. Smith opened out, and F. Smith receiving, the little wing executed a great run. He succeeded in beating Davy, but he was cut off from behind, and Baldwin, to whom he passed, was tackled directly he got the ball. The effort led to an attack on the Cheltenham line, and the visitors being penalised, Welshman landed a beautiful goal from near the touch-line.

Berry replied to the re-start with a huge punt, but Goddard marked and sent to touch. The Town halves opened out, Unwin being prominent, but Hamblin intercepted and checked the movement. Holford with a dashing run from a line-out put Gloucester in a good position, but when passing was attempted the ball went astray.

Cheltenham worked back and ensuing play was fought out in the home half. From a neat opening by G. Unwin, Hayward received, and racing through beat Welshman and scored in a good position. Davy took the shot for goal and covered the cross-bar, but Vears touching the ball in transit the goal points were disallowed.

In the last few minutes Cheltenham attacked desperately, and the Gloucester defence was sorely tested. The tackling, however, was sound. Right on the City line H. Smith ran out and passed to Hall, who got clear to Davy and then handed to F. Smith. The wing man, however, was cut off by Hayward, and what looked like a certain try was missed. Cheltenham then came again, and displayed some clever passing, but nothing resulted.

RESULT :

Gloucester 3 goals (1p), 1 try (16 points)
Cheltenham 1 try (3 points)

GLOUCESTER A v. CHELTENHAM A

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 1 try
Cheltenham A Nil

RESULT :

Gloucester A 2 tries (6 points)
Cheltenham A Nil