

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1909

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM

KEEN RIVALS AT THE TOWN GROUND

CITIZENS WIN SPLENDIDLY CONTESTED GAME

COLLEGE BOYS PROMINENT

For the second meeting of the season between these rival clubs – a friendly fixture on gate-sharing terms at Cheltenham – the Town had several changes from the side beaten at Kingsholm in the League fixture in November. Clifford, Cook, Goddard, Wixey, and Mansell-Pleydell were absentees, and the vacancies were filled by Cheltenham College boys, with H. Hughes.

Gloucester were short of Gent and W. Hall, the latter suffering from illness, and standing down at the last moment. C. Cook, the Second full-back, though hurt, was pressed into service, Welshman going into the three-quarter line. A fair crowd of supporters journeyed over to the Garden Town with the City, and the gate was the biggest of the season. The ground was heavy after the rapid thaw.

Gloucester. – C. Cook, back; F. Smith, F. Welshman, J. Hamblin, A. Peglar, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), W. Johns, H. Berry, B. Parham, G. Holford, G. Griffiths, J. Wyburn, D. Hollands, forwards.

Cheltenham. – B. Davy, back; H. Beck, L. W. Hayward, H. Mather, J. G. McIlquham, three-quarter backs; J. A. Pym, H. Hughes, half-backs; J. T. Unwin (capt.), W. N. Unwin, W. H. Unwin, C. Bennett, L. G. Pockock, G. W. Patterson, T. Clarke, F. Hopkins, forwards.

Referee : Mr. A. J. Lawes.

THE GAME

The start was nearly half an hour late, Vears kicking off and G. T. Unwin replying to Cook, who got in a nice return. A good forward rush by the Town saw Cook upset, and play was contested in the City half. Cheltenham opened out and Hayward punted high, but knocked on trying to re-gather.

The City made headway with a loose rush and kick, but off-side spoilt it. Davy with the penalty put in a fine kick to Cook, who could only punt straight to touch. Cheltenham now tried passing, but lost ground, and the City reached the centre. Another penalty to the Town gave the home side an advantage, and operations were again in the Gloucester 25.

Again the Cheltenham passing broke down, and Johns dribbling through, collared Davy on the centre line. Some hot forward play was witnessed ending in Gloucester breaking up and rushing finely. Bennett and G. T. Unwin replied for Cheltenham, but Welshman effected a grand pick up and kicked to touch. Heeling by the City forwards saw Dix open out, and the ball went right along the three-quarter line to Pegler, who, however, lost the ball.

Cheltenham worked out of danger, but near midfield Stephens started a bout of passing. Welshman cleared an opponent cleverly, and handed to Smith, who beat Hayward nicely, and timing a nice pass to Parham, the City forward ran over with a grand try behind the posts. Welshman landed a nice goal.

F. Smith received from the re-start, but his return was charged down, and the Gloucester line was placed in danger. For an infringement in front of goal, Gloucester were penalised, but Patterson unaccountably missed the goal. Ensuing play favoured Cheltenham, who confined operations to the City 25. From a mark Patterson had an other kick for goal from near the touch-line, the ball hitting one of the uprights.

Clever kicking by Hayward was very helpful to Cheltenham, who were having the best of matters forward. Gloucester resorted to passing, but the ball went astray, and nothing resulted.

Soon afterwards Patterson forced another minor with a long shot for goal from a penalty. By dint of good rushing Gloucester got out to mid-field, where Parham picked up and passed, but Hamblin sent forward to Pegler. The City set up a warm attack, but they were beaten off, and a grand rush, headed by G. T. Unwin was not checked until the Gloucester 25 was reached. Here Pym gathered from a scrum and tried to break through, but he was pulled down. Cheltenham were now in a good position and the home team worked desperately hard for a score. Pym opening out the ball got across to Beck, who raced hard for the corner, but Cook effected a superb tackle.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 goal
Cheltenham Nil

Patterson resumed, and there being only a poor reply, the game settled at the centre. After a couple of scrums Dix secured in a bunch of opponents and worked out an opening very trickily. He easily eluded the Cheltenham centre, and then passed to Berry, who ran nearly to the line, and then handed to Holford, who scored a good try. Welshman again goaled, and Gloucester held a 10 points' lead.

There was a good reply to the kick-off, and Berry was early prominent with a fine run. His pass, however, was not accepted, and a possible opening lost. Gloucester were now getting the better of the forward play and Wyburn with a good dash put the Cheltenham line in danger. A home player kicked out to Cook who took a drop for goal, which only just failed, a minor resulting.

Following the drop-out play was very scrambling amongst the forwards. The game was fought out chiefly in the town half, but Gloucester could not get an opening. Penalty kicks to Cheltenham enabled the home team to change the venue, but Gloucester at once got back to the old position.

Stephens and Johns rushed very close, and then Hollands gathering feinted, and then passed to Dix, who scored a smart try. Welshman failed with the goal kick.

Cheltenham dropped out, and in some loose play came away splendidly. Hamblin, however, snapped up the ball beautifully, and ran across the ground. He essayed a pass, but the ball was missed, and Hayward kicked down to Cook, who was floored ten yards outside.

Cheltenham, urged on by their supporters, made great efforts to score, and excitement was very high. Gloucester, however, held out, and eventually cleared to more favourable quarters. Cheltenham, however, returned, and Beck from a loose kick had an open line, but tried to pick up, and lost a golden opportunity.

Hollands who had been knocked out, now retired, and Gloucester continued with seven forwards. Cheltenham gained the upper hand, and then from a passing movement McIlquham got possession, and running hard for the corner got the ball over the line amid the cheers of the home crowd. The place kick failed.

Gloucester re-started, and even play followed for a time. Both teams played with great vigour, but there was not much in it. At length Gloucester went very strong and looked to have a chance, but a knock on occurred.

Cheltenham cleared to their 25, and then a big rush took the Town well beyond the centre. Some loose kicking gave Hayward an opening, but he missed the ball. Beck, however, was up and cross kicked to the goal where Mather followed up and scored under the posts. G. T. Unwin kicked a goal and this ended the game.

RESULT :

Gloucester	2 goals 1 try (13 points)
Cheltenham	1 goal 1 try (8 points)

REMARKS

A splendidly contested game, if not an over brilliant display. The conditions generally were against correct football, the going being very heavy. Cheltenham were highly pleased with the excellent fight they made, and the Town team certainly deserve every credit for their performance.

Even when the state of the game was dead against them the Cheltenham players never gave up, and pluckily sticking it to the end, emerged with only a five points margin against them. There was an element of luck about the last try, and it is very questionable if the scorer was put on side. Still, the infringement, if it occurred, passed the referee, and Cheltenham profited to the extent of a goal.

As usual in games between these rivals, play was exceptionally keen, and plenty of vigorous tackling was indulged in. Forward, Cheltenham, taking the play throughout, had the best of matters in the scrum, but in cleverness and resource the City eight were on top. In the lines-out especially the visitors held a clear advantage, Holford, Berry, and Johns being very prominent.

Both packs of forwards put in some telling loose rushes, and in this department there was not much to choose between them. The Gloucester men opened up the game prettily at times, Griffiths shining in this respect. For Cheltenham the College boys, Pocock and Patterson, were hard workers in every phase of play, and Hopkins and G. Unwin were often noticeable.

Behind the scrum the play was scrappy at times, and a lot of mistakes occurred in handling. Cheltenham certainly did not lose anything by the inclusion of Pym at half-back. The College boy, who is only 16 years of age, was a tireless worker throughout, and was often a thorn in the side of his opponents. Pym, however, displayed a decided tendency to off-side tactics, and was frequently on top of Dix before the ball came out of the scrum. Hughes did some useful things in kicking, and generally performed creditably.

The Gloucester players, Dix and Stephens, accomplished much good work under difficulties, the last-named especially playing with rare judgment and skill.

The three-quarters on either side were by no means great. In attack the men were not seen to any advantage, and the tackling on both sides was generally poor. It was Cheltenham's weakness in this respect that led to their downfall, the centres being badly at fault when two of the City's tries were recorded.

Welshman shaped fairly well in his new position for Gloucester, and Smith did the little he had to do very well. The left wing, however, was very moderate, Pegler doing practically nothing. Hayward made one or two good runs, and he and Mather kicked splendidly.

McIlquham was very shaky, but the Collegian made no mistake in going for the line when he scored. The full-backs were well matched, but both players, as well as the other backs, failed to find touch as they might have done.

GLOUCESTER A v. NAUNTON PARK

SECONDS PILE UP POINTS

This was the return match at Kingsholm. The Seconds were short of Dix (half-back) and C. Cook (full-back).

Gloucester A. – H. Ellis; J. Beard, H. Barnes, W. Egerton, and H. Smith; E. Rudge and Hubert Smith; A. Hawker (capt.), C. Westbury, R. Bird, H. Aston, F. Blackford, J. Hall, H. Daniells, and J. Nelves.

Naunton Park. – Gibbons; Sheen, J. L. Bendall, F. Tovey, and Dodwell; A. Bendall and Bowen; Emerson, Gridley, J. Townsend, Carter, Cox, W. Townsend, C. Barnes, and A. Vick.

The visitors arrived three-quarters of an hour behind time and a late start was made, Gloucester defending the Dean's Walk end.

The return to the kick-off left play at the centre, but after a spell of even play Gloucester worked up into the visitors' 25. The home backs tried passing, but Smith was upset. A little later Smith on the wing cross-kicked, and Egerton gained ground with a useful touch-finder. The ball came out to Beard on the other wing, but his desperate effort to cross was frustrated.

Gibbons had a kick charged down, but he recovered in wonderful fashion. Naunton, however, were forced back on their own line and had to touch down. Ellis put in a fine return to the drop-out, and Gloucester were again on the aggressive. A very pretty round of passing initiated by Hubert Smith and partaken in by Egerton, Barnes, and H. Smith ended in the latter scoring a smart try, which Barnes converted.

Gloucester continued to keep play in the Park 25, but several rounds of passing just failed of the desired result. However, the Seconds kept trying, and eventually the halves opening out the game nicely gave Egerton possession, and he put Barnes in with an unconverted try.

A minute later Hubert Smith set Barnes going again, but he failed to pass and slipped up only a couple of yards out. Not long after, however, the home backs got going, and after a nice round of transfers Beard scored in a good position. The kick failed.

Gloucester continued to have all the best of matters, and Egerton dodged through with another try, which he converted with a good kick.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A 2 goals, 2 tries
Naunton Park Nil

Shortly after resuming a fine bit of passing gave Beard a chance, and he sprinted over with a good corner try, which was not improved upon.

The home backs tried directly after to repeat the dose on the same wing, but a pass went astray. The Seconds, however, had not long to wait, for Bird got over in a forward rush. There was no goal.

Gloucester were now having it mostly their own way. Hawker had a dash through on his own, but after getting through most of the team he came down at the final fence – the full back.

A wide pass by Westbury, beautifully gathered by Egerton looked promising, but the last pass was muffed.

A brilliant individual run by Beard gave him another try right under the posts. There was no goal, however.

Gloucester kept up a continual pressure, and Beard again got over under the posts, but again there was no goal.

Naunton were pretty well all to pieces now, and Westbury got another try between the posts. Once more, however, the kick failed.

Gloucester kept up a continuous attack, and the Park back losing possession of the ball from a kick Rudge dashed up and dived over with a try, which Beard converted.

Rudge completed his double event, getting over again a moment later. No goal resulted.

RESULT ;

Gloucester A ... 3 goals, 8 tries (39 pts.)

Naunton Park Nil

REMARKS

In such a one-sided game there is very little to call for comment, but the Seconds deserve every commendation for obtaining, with the team at their disposal, such a total of points.

Hawker, Bird, and Westbury were always prominent in front, and Rudge and Hubert Smith were too good for the Park pair.

In the third line there was some very useful material. Beard, of course, is a well-trying player, and shone repeatedly, and in the others the Seconds have some very useful material to work on. Ellis proved himself safe at back.

Naunton Park had very little look in, especially in the second half, but they kept at it gamely.

JC