

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1909

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. PILL HARRIERS

CITY WIN A DISAPPONTING GAME

For this guarantee match Gloucester were again below full strength, G. Vears, Stephens and Hollands being absent through injuries. Hubert Smith took the outside half position. Pill, who have done well this season, lacked the services of their leader (G. Travers) who was engaged for Wales v. Scotland at Edinburgh. The visitors arrived late, and the teams line out as follows : –

Gloucester. – C. Cook; F. Smith, W. Hall, F. Welshman, and A. Pegler; D. R. Gent and H. Smith; J. Nelmes, W. Johns, H. Berry, B. Parham, G. Holford, G. Griffiths, R. Craddock, and J. Hall.

Pill Harriers. – E. Lampree; W. Hayley, E. Seer, D. Ryan, and M. Casey; W. Moses and J. Saunders; H. Davis, H. Welter, W. Webb, L. Trump, F. Hathaway, P. Saunders, E. Lewis, and J. Hanbury.

Referee : Mr. H. Smith (Bristol).

## THE GAME

Johns kicked off against the sun, but the ball did not go the requisite distance, and a scrum was called. The Harriers got the ball back, but their wing man put in a poor kick, and the ball went to the centre again. Here Moses got the ball away nicely, and Hayley robbing F. Smith put in a kick which rolled to touch just near the corner.

Gloucester were hard pressed for a moment, but Gent brought relief with a flying kick. A visiting centre gathered and had a shot for goal, but the ball failed to rise and went dead. From the kick-out Gloucester found touch in neutral territory. Gent got the ball away nicely, but Welshman knocked on badly. In the ensuing scramble the Pill forwards went away, but Gent robbed them cleverly and sent to touch.

An exchange of kicks between Cook and Lampree ended in the ball going dead on the Gloucester line. Griffiths got away from a line-out, but kicked to Hayley who kicked over the line again. Gent and Hubert Smith opened out again, but F. Smith was well marked, and was flung into touch.

Pill maintained their footing in the Gloucester half. Gloucester were awarded a free, but little ground was gained. Eventually, however, the ball got loose and Welshman, Berry, and Holford gained a nice bit of ground, but the latter could not get clear, and Pill, with kicks, centred play.

Pill were penalised, but Cook failed to find touch, and little ground was gained. Pill carried a couple of scrums well, and got near the line, but Cook cut through prettily, and brought relief with a nice touch-finder. Another free fell to Gloucester, and this time Cook put it in touch, and play was at the centre.

A mis-kick by Gent gave the visitors a slice of ground, but F. Smith raced back and put in a good touch kick. Pill carried a scrum well, but their advantage was nullified by Gent with a touch-finder.

Gloucester tried passing, but the transfers were faulty, and little advance was made. Again, the Gloucester halves opened out the game, but the passing broke down. Johns, with an individual dribble went away finely and carried the game to the Pill 25 for the first time. Here the referee fetched Gloucester back for off-side, although the forward made every effort to get out of the reach of the man with the ball.

Gloucester worked down again pretty soon, and Welshman had a shot at goal from a free, but it went wide. Gent and Hubert Smith opened out the game again, but Pegler held too long. Then Pill rushed well, and Cook being collared in possession the visitors reached the 25 line, and Gloucester were forced to defend.

Two scrums were formed quite close to the home line, and from the second of these Gent lost possession of the ball when heeled out on the Gloucester side, and Hathaway dived over with a try for Pill. The shot at goal was a poor one.

Pill opened out the game after this, but the passing was slow. The ball was having plenty of air now, but the Pill passing was terribly poor, and the game degenerated into a scramble. Pill, however, kept close to the Gloucester 25, the Gloucester tackling being weak, the old fault of going too high at the man being the main failing.

The Pill forwards were having much the better of the argument in front, and Gloucester were again called upon to defend. Then Hubert Smith and F. Smith, with a beautiful bit of inter-passing, ran right away to the other 25, but when faced by Lampree F. Smith passed back too low, and Hubert Smith was unable to gather.

The Pill front rank went away again after this, and only a good save and kick by Cook ended a dangerous movement. Hubert Smith cut away nicely and kicked across, but a visitor marked. Cook put in a lovely touch-kick just as the whistle went.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Pill Harriers ..... 1 try  
Gloucester ..... Nil

On resuming, the return to the kick off left matters even, but Pill at once kicked down to Cook, but the latter put in a fine return. Parham rushed up to Lampree, and from the latter's return Holford started a passing run, and after Griffiths had made a few yards he passed to J. Hall, who ran through and scored a capital try, which Welshman improved with a magnificent kick.

Johns, Holford, and Berry shone in a brilliant passing run, but the last transfer went astray, and centre play followed. Hubert Smith kicked down well, but Pill, with good forward play, again centred the game. Pill were penalised, and the full-back failing to gather the return Parham snapped up the ball and handing off his man scored a snip try under the posts. Welshman missed the goal.

Immediately on the resumption the Pill halves opened out the game, and after a series of good transfers, in which all the three-quarters handled, Hayley scored. The place-kicker had the opportunity of putting the teams level but he failed to grasp it, and the try went unconverted.

After a short stoppage for an injury to a Pill forward a series of scrums followed in the Gloucester 25. Pill got the ball continually, but their outside work was poor and the passing invariably broke down.

Gradually Gloucester worked their way to the centre, and hereabouts Pill were penalised, and Seer failing to gather Gloucester gained a good slice of ground. The visiting forwards again carried a scrum nicely, and the centre was once more the venue. Here Berry gathered the ball in the loose, and bursting through on his own threaded his way right through the opposition, and put Holford over with a brilliant try, to which Welshman added the extra points.

The Gloucester forwards seemed to be waking up a bit now, and put in one or two telling rushes. Gent brought off a very nice tackle. Welshman had a long shot from a free, but it was too far. The combat rested mainly with the forwards for some time, and the game hovered near the centre mark until a long kick sent the ball over the Gloucester line.

Then Gloucester worked up, and aided by a good kick by Cook gained a favourable position. Cook again was to the fore with good touch kicking, and Gloucester rushed the game up the field at a great pace. Hubert Smith and Berry made a lot of ground, but the last pass to Parham was forward.

From in front of goal Gent tried a drop, but the ball went very wide. Gent started a passing movement and the ball came along nicely, but Welshman muddled, and the movement was stopped. The home forwards gained some ground, and then Gent went away by himself, but he was not backed up and could not get through.

Then Pill rushed to the other end. F. Smith, however, got away clear and with Berry, put in some clever work, carrying the game well up to beyond the centre. Then Parham and Berry gained more ground, and Gloucester were at last rewarded. The ball game out to F. Smith on the wing, and tricking the full back beautifully he scored a corner try. There was no goal.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 2 goals 2 tries (16 points)  
Pill Harriers ..... 2 tries (6 points)

#### REMARKS

From a spectator's point of view it was a poor, scrambling game to watch, the forwards bearing the major portion of the brunt of the battle, with the exception of the two brilliant flashes of football which led up to the scores on either side.

The Pill forwards played a hard, bashing, keep-on-going sort of game, and worried the home front rank pretty considerably. In fact they may fairly be said to have claimed the lion's share in their department. The home forwards showed lack of cohesion throughout, and had it not been for the brilliant individual play by one or two of them their play as a whole would hardly have risen above the mediocre.

Berry, Johns, and Holford were the shining lights, but Parham and Griffiths ran them very close for sterling work. Gent was nippy, but Hubert Smith did not take his passes well. Frank Smith had the most opportunities to shine of the three-quarters, but the back play on the whole was feeble.

At full-back Cook put in some capital kicking work, but he ran it very close sometimes when dodging through to run out, always a dangerous game for a full back with a fast lot of forwards against him.

There was not much to choose individually among the visitors' front rank, but their halves showed some disregard of the letter of the law as to putting the ball into the scrum and off-side, and it was a wonder they were not more frequently penalised. Their three-quarters' handling was poor with the exception of Hayley's try, which was well earned.

## GLOUCESTER A v. WHITECROFT

### CITY SECONDS' GOOD WIN

At Whitecroft. The Seconds were short of Hubert Smith, Nelmes, J. Hall, and Craddock, playing for the First team.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)

Whitecroft ..... 1 goal (m) (3 points)