

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1910

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM

THE THIRD MATCH

MODERATE GAME ON HEAVY GROUND

CHELTENHAM WELL BEATEN

Up till Thursday it looked any odds on this match not being played owing to severe frost, but there was a remarkable change in the weather on Friday, and though another frost followed in the night the Kingsholm ground was not seriously affected, and the game was duly brought off.

This was the third meeting of the teams this season, Gloucester having won the two previous games by large margins.

For to-day's contest both clubs were weakened, Hudson, Vance and Egerton being unable to appear for Gloucester; whilst Hayward, Clarke and Vick were absent from the Town ranks.

The attendance was below the average when the teams lined out ten minutes late as follow :—

Gloucester. — H. Hancock, back; J. M. Baldwin, W. Hall, H. Barnes, W. Washbourne, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, J. Stephens, half-backs; W. Johns, G. Vears, H. Berry, G. Holford, J. Wyburn, D. Hollands, W. J. Pearce, G. Griffiths, forwards.

Cheltenham. — B. Davy, back; H. Hughes, F. Welshman, B. Andrews, H. Sheen, three-quarter backs; G. Bowstead, J. A. Pym, half-backs; G. Cossens, W. H. Williams, C. Bennett, A. Gardner, H. Wixey, A. Waite, C. Godding, F. T. Wixey, forwards.

Referee : Mr. J. Milburn (Bristol).

THE GAME

Williams started for Cheltenham, and following an exchange of kicks play opened in the Town half. From a line-out Baldwin and Gent made headway to the Cheltenham 25, but Pym regained a few yards with a short burst.

Heeling by the Cheltenham forwards saw Pym feed Bowstead, but the latter's kick was charged down by Gent, who dribbled on and gathered neatly. Stephens, however, knocked on with a clear opening.

Cheltenham worked out with loose kicking, but passing by Gloucester gave Washbourne a chance. A forward transfer, however, was given. In their own 25 Cheltenham got the ball out, but Sheen fumbled Welshman's pass, and Baldwin, dribbling through, took the ball to the line, where Davy saved. Soon afterwards Cheltenham conceded a minor.

Following the drop-out Cheltenham, by good footwork, reached the home half, but Gloucester rushed back, Davy effecting a good save. For off-side by Pym, Cheltenham were penalised, but the City infringed a minute later. Gent received Davy's kick, and with a well-judged punt found touch in the Town 25. Scrambling play followed, mistakes in handling being numerous.

From passing right across the ground Gloucester looked to have a possible chance, but Barnes was tackled before he could get the ball to his wing. A little later Barnes, with a long kick over the line, forced a minor.

So far play had been very scrappy, and the open movements attempted were of a poor standard. Cheltenham were kept strictly on the defensive, but the City could not get through. Eventually, following a clever run by Hall, Vears scrambled over with a try, Barnes failing at goal.

Cheltenham re-started, and good kicking by Davy gave the Town a footing in the Gloucester half. Hollands, with a break-away from a line-out, brought the game to the centre, where Stephens opened out. Hall again shone with a neat run and pass to Davy, who made his mark, but he gained little ground with the kick. The ground had picked up terribly in places, and the players retained a foothold with difficulty.

A clever bit of play by Gent took Gloucester well down, but a passing movement by the home backs saw Barnes tackled by Hughes directly he received. Cheltenham were doing better than Gloucester in the scrums, but their backs only kicked, and Hancock twice replied with beautiful touch-finders. Most of the play took place where the ground was at its worst – a veritable mud-heap – and was a perfect farce.

A rush by the Cheltenham forwards tested Hancock, but Gloucester cleared, Stephens, with a useful kick, sending to near the centre. Mid-field play followed, but was entirely lacking in interest.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 try
Cheltenham	Nil

Vears resumed, and the Gloucester forwards getting up Holford led a rush which took a lot of stopping. Pym with a strong burst put Cheltenham on the 25-line, where the Gloucester backs opened out nicely. Barnes, receiving from Hall, feinted to pass, and went clean through to Davy, when he timed a nice transfer to Washbourne, who scored neatly. Barnes failed at goal.

Gloucester returned to the attack directly after the drop-out, and with anything like a decently dry ball to handle they would have scored twice. Then from a punt over the line by Baldwin, Cheltenham touched down. Ensuing play was principally forward until the Gloucester backs, with a bout of passing, set up a warm attack. Hall punted across, but Washbourne failed to get possession, and a Cheltonian kicked dead from the field of play.

A scrum followed five yards outside, where Berry gathered in the loose and passed out. Barnes slipped an opponent and transferred to Hall, who, however, was smothered. Cheltenham showed up with good forward play after this, but they could not get out of their half. Still, the game was lacking in interest, and incidents were scarce.

Gloucester raised the hopes of their supporters by a passing movement, but Barnes' transfer to Washbourne went wide. Then the other wing had a chance, and following a smart effort by Hall, Baldwin very cleverly eluded Davy in a confined space and scored a good try. Barnes missed the goal points.

On the drop-out Cheltenham shone in a round of passing, but Welshman missed his transfer. The visitors made further headway, but Pearce, Holford, Berry and Hollands led a sharp rush back to near the centre. Here an open movement by Gloucester enabled Barnes to shine with a good run and pass to Washbourne, who scored well. Hancock this time landed a goal.

Cheltenham re-started, and mid-field play ensued. Then the City got set going, and Baldwin punting high, Davy was floored on the line. He lost the ball and a Gloucester forward got over, but an infringement had occurred.

Cheltenham cleared by the aid of the resultant kick, but Gloucester were soon back again, and Cheltenham had an anxious time. After several lucky escapes, the Town lines were crossed again, this time by Barnes, who made full use of his opportunities. Hancock failed at goal.

Pegler knocked on in taking the drop-out, and Cheltenham had a position at the centre. Neat work by Hall and Baldwin put Gloucester back. Davy mis-kicking in front of the home forwards, the City got very close. Berry gathered in the loose and looked all over a scorer, but he was pulled down on the verge of the line.

From the subsequent scrum Pym was penalised, but from the easy position Hancock failed to land a goal. Cheltenham punted out to the centre, where the game was being fought out when the end came.

RESULT :

Gloucester ... 1 goal, 4 tries (17 points)
Cheltenham Nil

REMARKS

The unrepresentative character of the teams, coupled with the fact that Gloucester had very easy journeys in the two previous games, robbed the fixture of a lot of interest, and the "gate" was rather disappointing.

Cheltenham were again "clean out of the hunt," and five times over the line did not represent the City's superiority. Forward, the Town played a hard game, and in the scrums they had quite a fair share of the ball.

The three-quarter backs, with the exception of Pym, however, were of moderate class, and Davy was by no means up to his best form. Only once in the second half did Cheltenham reach the Gloucester 25, and then their stay was of very short duration.

With decent conditions Gloucester would probably have topped their big score in the last game, for they were repeatedly on the attack. Failure to handle correctly at the critical moment, however, lost several tries.

The City forwards, like their opponents, found the heavy going a great handicap, and it was impossible for the men to do themselves justice. Still some real good work was accomplished at times, in which all the players shone at intervals.

At half-back, Gent (whose last game it was for the City at Kingsholm) worked with remarkable success, and Stephens once more gave a delightful display, rarely failing to take his passes. The three-quarters were far in advance of their opponents in combination, resource, and general ability.

In the centre, Hall and Barnes were exceptionally smart in making openings, and Baldwin and Washbourne showed praiseworthy dash in going for the line. Baldwin played his best game for the premiers, and the way he beat Davy – generally a sure tackler – when he scored was very smartly done.

Hancock performed with great credit at full-back, and the City need never fear entrusting him with the position. He kicked with length and judgment, whilst his fielding and gathering of the ball were first-class.

JC