

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1910

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL

THE RETURN GAME

GLOUCESTER'S WEAK TEAM AT THE COUNTY GROUND

'CESTRIANS BEATEN IN A KEEN GAME

For away matches, Gloucester seem unable to get their full strength together, and for this important fixture at the County Ground, Bristol, the City had to find substitutes for Hudson, Vance, Gent, Wyburn, and Pearce – a contingent of players very difficult to replace.

Bristol, on the other hand, had practically their best side out, and were pretty keen on their chances.

Miserable weather prevailed, drizzling rain falling, which made things very uncomfortable. The ground was very heavy, but a plentiful supply of oat husks strewn about improved the condition somewhat.

The attendance was very moderate.

Gloucester. – W. Egerton, back; J. M. Baldwin, W. Hall, H. Barnes, W. Washbourn, three-quarter backs; S. Stephens, J. Stephens, half-backs; W. Johns, G. Vears, H. Berry, G. Holford, D. Hollands, W. Nelmes, F. Pegler, G. Griffiths, forwards.

Bristol. – W. R. Johnston (capt.), back; C. Kingston, H. W. Shewring, J. A. Spoons, M. E. Neale, three-quarter backs; R. Goodman, F. Hill, half-backs; W. E. Meyer, M. Meyer, G. Percy, J. Payne, G. Newton, F. Feltham, W. Frost, H. Parsons, forwards.

Referee : Mr. J. Miles (Leicester).

THE GAME

Vears kicked off for Gloucester, and from the first scrum Bristol were penalised for off-side, and the visitors gained a nice slice of ground. Passing by Gloucester looked promising, but Johnston sent back finely to Egerton, who fumbled and Bristol reached the centre. Here S. Stephens passed back badly from a scrum, and Barnes was collared before he could do anything.

Loose play followed, in which the Bristol forwards picked up and opened out. There was a nice opening, but Spoor's transfer was captured by Berry, who dashed away and relieved. Ground and ball were very treacherous and the players made numerous mistakes in handling.

Off-side by Gloucester gave Bristol a penalty, and Shewring cross-kicked to Spoor for the latter to feed Neale. The latter punted to the centre of the field, where Washbourn knocked on in trying to gather. The Bristol forwards were doing all the heeling, but they could do little in passing. A neat break-away by the Gloucester backs looked promising, Washbourn punting to Johnston, who returned straight to Baldwin. The latter had a good chance, but he kicked and the opportunity was lost.

Bristol changed the venue with a strong forward rush, and, later, Neale put in a splendid run down touch, being finally upset by Egerton. Hollands led a fine dribble out, and by good kicking Gloucester reached their opponents' end. Bristol replied with a long dribble, and the visitors had to kick dead. Subsequent play was confined to the visitors' end, Bristol attacking strongly. Gloucester gained slight relief, but inside the City half Hill gathered neatly, and, with a strong run, beat the defence and scored a good try. Johnston failed at goal.

On resuming centre play followed, but a weak effort by Baldwin allowed Bristol to get dangerous again. Useful work by Barnes enabled Gloucester to ease the pressure, but Johnston's grand kicking gave Bristol an advantage.

Holford, with a good dribble, made headway, but mistakes by the visiting backs allowed Bristol to get back. Then followed a remarkable bit of play. From near the centre the Bristol forwards, led by Meyer, dribbled finely, the Gloucester players repeatedly failing to check the rush owing to the greasy ball. Bristol looked all over scorers, but a man over-ran the ball at the critical moment, and Gloucester rushed back. Off-side by Holford, however, checked the movement. From the penalty Shewring dropped for goal, but missed.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Bristol 1 try
Gloucester Nil

Bristol resumed, and Barnes failing to take the ball a scrum followed in the Gloucester 25. Goodman was early penalised, and again, a minute later, Gloucester were awarded another penalty, Egerton getting in some good kicks to touch.

A mistake by the Bristol three-quarters in handling gave the City forwards an opening, and for lying on the ball Goodman was penalised. Egerton's kick was well returned by Spoor, and, Neale following up, Baldwin was tackled in possession. Bristol gained a footing in the visitors' half, but they were quickly driven out. Dashing work by the Gloucester forwards looked promising, and Johnston was hard pressed. Gloucester were right on their opponents' line, where Goodman was penalised for palpable off-side. Egerton had a shot for goal, and with a lovely kick equalised the score.

Resuming, clever work by Hill placed Gloucester on the defence, but the City forwards gained relief. Then from a punt out by Egerton, Johnston fielded, and, with a grand kick, dropped a goal amidst loud cheering.

Gloucester re-started, and Bristol at once set up a hot attack, Egerton saving luckily in the corner. Bristol were going strongly now, the forwards wheeling splendidly. They only just failed to score, the ball going to touch-in-goal.

Gloucester came away with a strong rush, and Hall gathering, there appeared a likely opening, but the tackling was sound. Good work by the Gloucester forwards was thrown away by the weakness of the backs, who were frequently at fault.

Bristol were pressing, when a determined burst by Johns gained some twenty yards. Johnston punted back, but Gloucester cleared finely.

Baldwin fielding a kick cross-punted, and Pegler being well up tackled Johnston in possession. The ball rolled away, and there was a good opening, but Kingston came across and saved pluckily.

Gloucester worked desperately to get on terms again, but Johnston again and again came to the rescue of his side by his magnificent kicking.

Still Gloucester persevered, and after a neat effort by S. Stephens, Washbourn, with a grand burst, beat Johnston and scored in the corner. Egerton failed at goal.

There was now only a point between the teams. Subsequent play was keenly fought out. Gloucester held the advantage for a time, but Bristol with a forward burst took the game to the Gloucester line. Here the home team got the ball out, and, Neale securing, he raced over in the corner. Johnston missed the goal points.

Only a few minutes were left for play, and Gloucester worked hard for victory. Intercepting a pass, J. Stephens got clear, with Hollands nicely placed, but the ball slipped out of his hand.

This was the last chance, and the game ended with Bristol winners by four points.

RESULT :

Bristol 1 goal (d), 2 tries (10 points)
Gloucester 1 goal (p), 1 try (6 points)

REMARKS

Considering their weakened ranks Gloucester did surprisingly well, the result being in the balance till the finish. It was a great struggle forward, where Gloucester did splendidly in all phases of play. In the second half especially the City displayed fine form, and it was disheartening that they did not have better support behind. All the men did well, but Holford, Johns, Hollands, and Berry were greatly to the fore.

At half Gloucester missed Gent badly, though young Stephens did his best, and was prominently identified with Gloucester's try. At three-quarter Gloucester were poor, but with Hudson and Vance away it was hardly to be expected the City would hold the Bristolians. Barnes got through a lot of good work, and was the best in the line. Washbourn scored his try smartly, but he got few chances.

Johnston was Bristol's great success, the International playing a lovely game and kicking a fine length. His drop goal, which won the match, was a really superb effort. Egerton played creditably.

GLOUCESTER A v. BRISTOL NOMADS

COMPENSATION AT KINGSHOLM

These teams met at Kingsholm, before a small attendance of spectators. Owing to the late arrival of the visitors the game was not started until forty minutes after the advertised time.

The teams were : –

Gloucester A. – H. Hancock; O. Rigby, E. Hall, J. Hamblin, and A. Broady; W. Dix and S. Ewers; F. Quixley, W. Blackford, F. Welshman, Jackson, W. D. Henderson, S. Millard, J. Price, and F. Blackwell.

Bristol Nomads. – R. Fry; R. Irving, S. Shipp, F. Harris, W. Briddon; R. Morris and H. Feltham; A. Stradling, H. Mayell, A. Suller, H. Tiencken, R. Jowett, W. Fry, W. Wiltshire, and R. Ferris.

Bristol started against the wind, and the opening exchanges left little advantage to either side. A good touch-finder by Hall put Gloucester well up, and the forwards made a desperate attempt to get over, but they were beaten off and Bristol cleared.

Gloucester kept up the pressure well for a couple of minutes and forced a minor, but a nice sprint by Irving carried the game into Gloucester's quarter. Dix opened out prettily, but Rigby held too long with his men waiting. Hall again gained a nice slice of ground with a touch kick, and later took a shot from a penalty, but it went wide.

Gloucester opened out again, and Hall flinging out wide, gave Broady a chance, but he was well tackled. Bristol were again penalised for off-side by Morris, but the wind carried the ball outside. A pretty bit of work by Ewers, Hall, and Hamblin put the latter nearly over, and Gloucester maintained the pressure for some time.

Eventually the Bristol forwards broke away well and carried the game to beyond the centre, but Gloucester retaliated and were soon in the Bristol quarter again, where the game remained for a long time. After two or three dashes for the line, Dix whipped one out smartly to Rigby, who went over in the corner.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 1 try
Bristol Nomads Nil

Immediately on the resumption the Gloucester forwards sailed away with a fine rush, and carried the game right up to the line. The ball got loose, and Hamblin gathering tricked the opposition nicely and scored in the far corner. No goal resulted.

Bristol gradually worked up, benefitting in their tackling by having the wind behind them, but Gloucester cleared and carried the game to the centre. A long kick by Shipp sent the ball over the line, but from the drop-out Gloucester came away in good style and again centred the game.

Bristol opened out and Tring[sic] kicked well, but Ewers marked, and a good return left honours easy. Bristol, however, gradually worked up, and the home defence had an anxious time for a minute or two. Bristol had a free, but after a lot of preparation and "no charge" they failed to take advantage of it, and Gloucester cleared to safety.

A nice burst from a line-out gave Bristol an attacking position again, but the home forwards came away with the ball beautifully and danger was averted. More centre play followed, and Bristol again made desperate efforts to score, scrum after scrum being contested near the home line. The Gloucester forwards, however, put in all they knew, and with a great rush carried the game right to the other end, one of the pack nearly getting over. Gloucester lost the services of Henderson, who was knocked out, about five minutes before the end, but they maintained the upper hand to the end although there was no more scoring.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 2 tries (6 points)
Bristol A Nil

REMARKS

It was not a very great game from the spectators' point of view, the three-quarters practically spoiling all the openings by going across the field instead of up the field. Hall kicked well, and Hancock was in great form.

Henderson, we are glad to say, soon came round, and seemed little the worse for his shock.