

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1911

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v NORTHAMPTON

WEAK CITY TEAM'S SURPRISE

NORTHAMPTON SAVED BY A PENALTY GOAL

In this important match at Northampton, the City were most unfortunately situated, players crying off wholesale on Friday night.

Hudson and Cook, owing to injuries, were not selected, and other players who could not make the journey for various reasons were W. Johns, H. Berry, F. Pegler, W. Staunton, and J. M. Baldwin.

Thus the fifteen which opposed the powerful side placed in the field by the East Midlanders was far below Gloucester's full strength.

The vacancies, it may be stated, were filled wholly by Second Teamers, no outside assistance being sought.

L. Hamblin, H. Cook, and F. Russell were making their initial appearance in first-class football; and Hayward had only played once for the premier City team (last Monday against Cinderford).

Northampton had a full team out, Hancock (Gloucester) figuring at full back, whilst W. M. Grant (the Scottish International) assisted at three-quarter.

On paper, therefore, the East Midlanders had an immense advantage.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – F. W. Hayward, back; L. Hamblin, J. Hamblin, H. Cook, W. Washbourne, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, W. Hall, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), N. Hayes, E. Yates, G. Holford, A. Lodge, F. Russell, G. Griffiths, S. Smart, forwards.

Northampton. – W. Hancock, back; E. C. Cook, E. R. Mobbs (capt.), R. Harrison, W. M. Grant, three-quarter backs; G. Williamson, A. Earl, half-backs; H. Burke[*sic*], A. G. Bull, W. Wright, A. Chalmers, H. Burke[*sic*], W. Welch, –. Gilbert, R. Ives, forwards.

Referee : Mr. A. O. Jones.

THE GAME

Gloucester started, and a good return left the opening scrum in neutral territory. The Gloucester forwards made ground cleverly, but Mobbs shook himself clear when tackled, and kicked to the Gloucester half.

Off-side by Gloucester lost ground, and then twice in quick succession Williamson opened out, Mobbs and Cook running strongly. The game was carried right to the Gloucester line, but the forwards cleared well.

The Northampton forwards had the advantage in the next scrum, hustling the City men right back, and Dix was penalised, but Hives failed with the kick in a good position.

From the scrum following the drop-out, Dix passed out wide, and Hall cut through cleverly, but he could not get clear, and passed to J. Hamblin, who punted to touch. Gloucester rushed the game well into Northampton quarters, but another clever dodgy run by Mobbs gave Northants a nice slice of ground.

In some loose work at the centre Gloucester showed to advantage, Smart being prominent.

A clumsy kick by Williamson let Gloucester right up, and Washbourne gathering cleverly passed out to Russell, who had rushed up, and he went to touch, and again the homesters were indebted to Mobbs for clearing the game from their quarters.

Northampton's front rank brought off a dashing run which Dix checked, but his pass was miles forward. Close in front of the goal Hayward was pressed, but he cleared smartly, and put in a capital reply to a long kick.

A little later Hall gained ground with a fine touch-finder, but the ball getting across Grant punted clear. The struggle between the forwards was terrific, but there was very little in it up to now. Penalties against Dix followed, and from one of these Hives landed a splendid goal.

Loose play followed, and a mark to Northampton put them beyond the centre, and getting the best of a fierce melee from a line-out, the homesters got down. Hall, however, sent them back.

A pretty bit of work by Williamson and Earl set Mobbs and Grant in motion, and the latter made a bold bid for the line, but was pushed into touch. The referee was particularly severe on Dix, and penalised him again, but the kicks failed although close in.

Aided by frees Gloucester attacked, but admirable work by Earl, Mobbs, and Grant took the game to the visitors' line again, and but for some smart tackling the Saints must have scored. A long kick by Mobbs just before half-time caused a touchdown.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Northampton 1 goal (p)
Gloucester Nil

Immediately on the restart sharp following up by Bull bowled Hayward over into touch, and Gloucester were pressed.

Beautiful passing by all the Northampton backs was spoilt by Harrison over-running the ball, and Hall cleared cleverly under pressure. Then Mobbs missed a drop for goal after the Northampton forwards had carried the ball right up to the Gloucester posts.

Charging down a kick the Gloucester pack reached the centre. A clever cross-punt by Hall took Gloucester right down, but the men were not up soon enough to press home the advantage. J. Hamblin did the only thing possible in dropping for goal, but the kick went wide.

Gloucester, however, by sound scrummaging, maintained their footing in the Saints' territory. The visiting forwards were putting up a great show in spite of the absence of the veterans, and were having quite their share of the game hereabout, gradually working into a favourable position, but as soon as the ball came out it was a different story. Mobbs and company always made ground.

Then followed a spell of more open play, the ball travelling up and down the field at a great pace. Soon, however, the forwards took charge of the affairs again, and Hamblin put Gloucester right up with a great kick. Hayward made a good attempt to drop a goal, but from the drop-out the ball was kicked back over the dead-ball line.

The game was fiercely contested at the centre for some time. Then Dix cut away smartly, and set Washbourne going, but Mobbs upset him when going well. The Gloucester forwards were getting the ball capitally in the scrum now, but it travelled badly outside, and Hall showed his wisdom in using touch frequently.

Then came a lovely round of passing from Dix to Hall, Hall to Hamblin, and the latter to Washbourne, who scored a grand try in the corner. Hayward's kick, a good one, just failed.

In response to shouts of their supporters, Northampton tried with all their might to get the lead again, but were met with a very stubborn front. The referee spoke to a Gloucester player for something he said, and at the first opportunity gave a free against the visitors.

The struggle between the forwards towards the close was simply titanic, but Gloucester maintained their command splendidly, and a hard game ended in a draw.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 try (3 points)
Northampton 1 goal (p) (3 points)

REMARKS

The result was a great feather in the cap of the Gloucester forwards. It is no exaggeration to say that they surprised even their most sanguine supporters by the magnificent way they played, especially in the second half. They realised that the correct game [word, words unreadable] the ball as much as possible.

[word, words unreadable] not said disparagingly of the backs, because although Mobbs and his merry men were the faster and heavier, they were quite unable to stop the try, which was as good and as neat a movement as any Gloucesterian would wish to see.

The candid confession must be made that after the first ten minutes I feared Gloucester were in for a hiding, so it was all the more pleasant to have to write how well the men came out of a strenuous and arduous game.

Individualising is not necessary here, and nothing remains but to congratulate the whole team on a very fine performance.

GLOUCESTER A v RUSPIDGE

POINTLESS DRAW AT KINGSHOLM

These teams met at Kingsholm in dull weather, before a small attendance. The visitors were assisted by A. Hall and Bowkett, of the Cinderford premiers.

Gloucester A : W. Egerton; F. Bloxsome, J. Harris, W. Sysum, and E. Harris; W. Cannock and F. Allen; J. Meadows, L. Mumford, S. Millard, A. Cox, J. Westbury, A. Banner, P. Simmonds, and W. Dovey.

Ruspidge : T. Dorrington; A. Jones, R. Cooper, R. Milliner, and G. Bevan; B. Prosser and A. Hall; G. Walkley, A. Hewlett, J. Hyndman, E. James, F. Baldwin, R. Addis, W. Adams, and G. Bowkett.

Gloucester started, and by a forward rush made headway but Hall sent them back with a nice kick. The Seconds came away, led by Meadows, but the ball was forced to touch. Ruspidge were penalised, but Egerton failed to find touch with the kick. Hall a minute later picked up in the loose, but just failed to clear the defence. Ruspidge attacked, and a nice run and cross-kick by H. Jones gave them a chance, which Bloxsome nipped in the bud by making a mark.

The visitors, however, continued to press, the forwards playing strongly. Cooper found touch at the home 25 with a well-judged kick. Meadows picked up here in the loose, and running some distance transferred to Simmonds, who gained more ground and then kicked. The forwards followed up and transferred play to the visitors' 25. Ruspidge were penalised, but Egerton failed with the place-kick, and the Foresters sent to mid-field.

Harris came away with a fine run, but just failed to clear the opposition. From a penalty Sysum a minute later just failed to goal. The Seconds' pack were controlling the ball in the loose splendidly, and continually came away with good dribbles. Play was confined for some time to the visitors' territory, but no score was effected.

Subsequently they worked to mid-field, where Bloxsome sprinted down touch, but he was well tackled. A series of scrums took place on the Foresters' line, but owing to the inability of the City halves to obtain the ball nothing resulted.

A. Hall went away, and running splendidly gained a considerable slice of ground before being pulled down.

Ruspidge then pressed and forced a minor, and a short time after Jones was held up only a yard outside. The interval then arrived with the score sheet blank.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A Nil

Ruspidge Nil

Ruspidge restarted, and almost immediately was seen the best bit of play as yet in the match. This was a forward rush by the Seconds, who dribbled in fine style two-thirds the length of the field before the ball was sent to touch.

The visitors worked back, and then Bloxsome went away with the ball at his toes, but just at the critical moment he failed to gather, and the ball went dead.

A. Hall later showed up prominently for the visitors, carrying play to the 'Cestrians' half, where a visitor cleared the opposition but was pulled up for an infringement. Play was now of a far more open character, both teams shining in turn.

The A team continued to press strongly, but they lacked the power to put on just the finishing touch. Ruspidge transferred the venue to the home territory by a passing movement, in which most of the backs handled, but they could not quite clear the defence, and the City came back again by the aid of short rushes.

Later Hall ran strongly and passed to the wing man, but the re-pass was feeble, and a good chance was thus lost. The Seconds broke away and tried hard to register a score, but the defence was equal to the occasion, and the final whistle then came.

RESULT :

Gloucester A Nil
Ruspidge Nil

REMARKS

The game, although of a scrambling nature, was fiercely contested between the two packs. Ruspidge were far better in the scrums, heeling repeatedly, but the backs did not accept the many chances which were offered them.

The Foresters' scrum half was very nippy, and A. Hall employed his usual bustling tactics. Time after time he cut through the opposition, but was not backed up.

The Seconds' forwards were masters in the loose, and their control of the leather confined play for the most part to the Foresters' quarters.

The team seemed to lack finish to notch the necessary points. Egerton was safe at back, his touch-finding being particularly good, and the visiting custodian suffered by comparison.

For the Seconds, Meadows, Simmonds, and Bloxsome were the pick; while Hall and Bowkett were the shining lights for the Foresters.