

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1911

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v CHELTENHAM

TOWN WELL BEATEN AT KINGSHOLM

THREE TRIES FOR WASHBOURNE

Only two matches were arranged between these clubs this season, and the first fixture was set down for decision at Kingsholm to-day.

Cheltenham came with an unbeaten record, but the class of opponents met – Aston Old Edwardians, Handsworth, Stroud, and Penylan – are not in the first flight, and this afternoon's contest was the Town's first serious test.

Gloucester were again very weak, C. Cook, Hudson, Berry, and Holford all being absent. Davy was away from the Cheltenham team, Bloodworth filling the vacancy.

The teams lined out as follows : –

Gloucester. – F. W. Hayward, back; W. Washbourne, J. Hamblin, W. Staunton, L. Hamblin, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, W. Hall, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), W. Johns, J. Meadows, A. Lodge, S. Smart, G. Griffiths, F. Pegler, F. Russell, forwards.

Cheltenham. – B. S. Bloodworth, back; H. Hughes, K. T. Burns, W. B. Williams, D. Sullivan, three-quarter backs; A. Bendall, J. Bendall, half-backs; W. N. Unwin (capt.), B. W. Onslow, H. Wixey, F. T. Wixey, C. Bennett, L. H. Peckover, A. F. Townsend, H. Burnell, forwards.

Referee : Mr. Feltham (Bristol).

THE GAME

There was only a moderate attendance when Unwin kicked off, and the ball going over the line Hayward conceded a minor. Following the drop-out there was an exchange of kicking, ending in Burns sending to touch inside the Gloucester half. In some loose play Hall picked up and dodged through cleverly, until upset by Bennett. The ball rolling away, Johns dribbled through finely and took it past Bloodworth, but the situation was saved.

Using their feet the City forwards made headway, but Bloodworth sent them back with a nice touch-finder. Heeling by Cheltenham saw a pretty round of passing, and Sullivan reached Hayward before being checked. Gloucester replied immediately, but Washbourne failed to take an awkward pass from J. Hamblin.

From the next scrum Dix fed Hall, who sent to Washbourne, and the wing man ran well until pushed to touch by Burns. Good work by H. Wixey made considerable ground for the Town, L. Hamblin effecting a good clearance. Working well together in the loose, Cheltenham attacked, and Gloucester were hard pressed. Heeling nicely the Brothers Bendall got the ball away cleverly, and after neat passing Williams ran over with a clever try, the Gloucester backs being sadly out of position. Onslow failed to convert.

Hall dropped out, but clever combination between the Bendall's and Hughes led to Cheltenham attacking again. The Gloucester forwards relieved with a loose dribble, Griffiths leading, but the ball was over-run. A penalty against Cheltenham was well returned by Burns, and Gloucester gained no ground by a subsequent passing movement.

Pretty play by Hall changed the venue, and later Washbourne progressed a few yards from a pass by Hall. The Gloucester backs were again placed in possession, but though the ball was handled correctly L. Hamblin could not travel far.

Off-side by J. Bendall caused Cheltenham to be penalised, and Hall punting high the Gloucester forwards got under the ball. Burns failed to gather, and Cheltenham were dangerously placed. The situation, however, was saved by Williams. Cheltenham relieved with a useful rush which was checked by L. Hamblin, and then Gloucester got away beautifully. Staunton cut through, but with L. Hamblin waiting on his right he attempted a short punt – a foolish proceeding. The result was the ball was captured by Sullivan, who made off, but was collared from behind.

Gloucester got in a desperate burst which took some stopping and just after Hall was stopped when looking dangerous. Peckover was brought out of the scrum by Cheltenham, and immediately getting the ball he punted to touch at mid-field. Gloucester lost ground by passing, and all round the City was playing below form.

Griffiths was prominent with a strong burst for the City, and then Dix opening out, Hall gave a nice pass to Staunton. The latter, however, fumbled badly and let Cheltenham away. Hall and J. Hambling combined in putting Gloucester well down, but on Cheltenham being pressed the visitors brought out Unwin and Peckover to smother the passing.

Hall, changing his tactics, punted instead of passing, and J. Hamblin only just failed to recover. Gloucester continued to press, and a lovely movement, in which all the backs took part, promised well. L. Hamblin was tackled by Sullivan but he passed inside to Staunton, who was pushed into touch-in-goal.

Hughes dropped out, Hall replying finely to touch. The Gloucester forwards at once got moving, and a desperate effort was only checked on the line. There was a temporary stoppage owing to Griffiths being winded in charging down a return, but he was soon able to resume. On continuing a scrum followed five yards from the Cheltenham line, and the Town had nine backs out. Gloucester attacked strongly, but they could not pierce the defence.

At length Johns, after a burst on his own, threw out a long pass to J. Hamblin, who fed Washbourne at once. The left winger had just the chance of getting there, and with a splendid dash he beat a couple of opponents and scored far out. Hayward missed the goal points.

Cheltenham re-started, but the interval was soon afterwards whistled.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 try
Cheltenham	1 try

Vears resumed, and the opening scrum took place right on the centre line. Gloucester got the ball out, and there was some smart exchanges between Dix, Hall, J. Hamblin, Staunton, and L. Hamblin. The latter, on reaching Bloodworth, gave a repass to Staunton, who was collared from behind with a grand opening.

For an infringement Cheltenham were penalised, but Hayward could not land a goal, Burns receiving and punting to touch. A pretty bit of footwork by Hall caused danger to Cheltenham, and Johns was pulled down only a few yards from the line. The Town got out of danger, but Gloucester got back with neat combination on the left wing, Washbourne being pushed to touch when going well.

Gloucester confined the game to the Cheltenham half, but play was very scrappy, the Town being out for smothering tactics. Unwin was continually shouted at to put his head in the pack, but the Cheltenham captain preferred to act as rover.

A foul by L. Hamblin escaped the notice of the referee, but this was by no means the first illegality of the kind that had gone unnoticed. The City continued to monopolise the game, and following a kick by Hall, Hughes fumbled, and Washbourne gathering he dashed over in the left corner with a good try. The place kick failed.

Soon after the resumption the Gloucester backs were on the move, and J. Hamblin with a grand run beat the defence and scored the third try. Again Hayward failed at goal.

Washbourne received the drop-out, and after a short run punted across. A visitor, however, secured, and saved. Then Dix opened out, and Staunton going strongly secured a fine opening, but failed to pass at the right moment.

The Cheltenham line was subjected to considerable pressure, but the defence held out. For off-side the Town were penalised in front of goal, but Hayward made a feeble attempt at conversion.

Following this, the Gloucester forwards had an open goal, but they over-ran the ball, and Cheltenham reached the centre. Weak play by the City backs allowed Burns to get clear away, but with no one to beat he passed to Hughes, who knocked on with a certain try in view.

Soon after Gloucester conceded a minor from a fruitless drop at goal. After the drop-out the Gloucester backs handled, but Staunton failed to take, and in falling to the ground he was laid out. There was only a slight delay, but subsequent play was lacking in incident.

Cheltenham were twice penalised for infringements, and Gloucester also came under the ban of the referee, but little advantage accrued to either side. The City eventually set up an attack, and after Dix had nearly scored, a lovely bit of passing enabled Staunton to score a good try. Hayward missed the goal kick.

In the last five minutes Gloucester had all the play, and just before the end Washbourne registered his third try after a fine run. Hayward failed at goal.

RESULT :

Gloucester 5 tries (15 points)
Cheltenham 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

It was a good game in patches, and Cheltenham at times held up splendidly. But once the Town captain weakened the forwards by withdrawing men from the scrum it was all over as far as Cheltenham was concerned. Unwin is fully entitled to his own judgment on the policy adopted, and probably the tactics employed helped to keep down the scoring, but the game as a spectacle suffered in consequence. Had Cheltenham been hopelessly outclassed in front there might have been some reason for Unwin's move, but the opposite was the case in the first half, and the backs certainly showed they could handle smartly on the occasion when Williams scored their one and only try.

Gloucester did not settle down until after the change of ends, and then it was a case of City first, Cheltenham also ran. Now and again the Town put in some good work, but as a combination they were outclassed, and Gloucester's four tries did not do justice to the immense superiority of the City in this half. There was plenty of open play, and had the home backs been able to handle with accuracy the defence must have been beaten on several other occasions. The Cheltenham forwards were a hard working lot in the loose, and their rushes were often dangerous, but there was no great skill displayed. Peckover, Bennett, and H. Wixey were about the pick, though Unwin was useful in the line-out and tackling.

The City front were not together in the early stages. Cohesion was lacking, and there was an absence of that general all-round cleverness we expect from the men. Well on in the game, however, Vears whipped the men into shape, and with the change of ends came a decided improvement. There was then method in getting the ball in the scrums, with the result that Dix was often in possession. When the City reached their opponents' 25 Unwin always came outside and also had Peckover to assist him. Gloucester found it difficult to outwit the attentions of so many backs, but they found a way eventually, and four times the Town lines were crossed.

There were occasions when the rival forwards were a general mix up, and a lot of keen tackling and vigorous work were witnessed. On the Gloucester side Johns, Griffiths, and Vears were ever prominent, and Meadows proved a most valuable recruit. The Second teamer should be heard of again.

Behind the scrum the cleverness of Dix and Hall put the Brothers Bendall in the shade. Hall took matters easily at times in view of next Saturday's game with Cardiff, but he got through a lot of excellent work. J. Bendall had a penchant for off-side, and his eagerness to get on top of Dix cost his side numerous penalties.

At three-quarter the City players were not consistent, though the work which led up to all the tries was first-class. Washbourne was the great success of the afternoon, and the left winger has not been seen to so much advantage for a long time. His three scores were the result of fine efforts, there being no mistake about his going for the line. We can do with a few more displays of this class, Washbourne ! J. Hamblin, though not fit, played a very useful game, but Staunton's failure to take his passes rather spoilt his work. The old Tredworth boy, however, has the correct idea of the centre game, in going straight up the ground. L. Hamblin performed creditably, and is a useful reserve to fall back upon.

For Cheltenham, Burns was a great asset in kicking, but otherwise was not in evidence. Williams, the other centre, shaped promisingly, but neither of the wing men did much, for the simple reason that they got little of the ball. The defence in the second half curled up, and there were indications of a serious weakness in this department. Bloodworth was only a moderate reserve for Davy and full-back Hayward was not often called upon for Gloucester.

Scorers for Gloucester : Washbourne, 3 tries; Staunton and J. Hamblin, one each. Hayward failed at all the place-kicks.

Next week : Cardiff, at Kingsholm.

GLOUCESTER A v ST. PAUL'S TRAINING COLLEGE

CITY SECONDS' EASY WIN

This match was played on the St. Paul's College Ground; Cheltenham. The teams were : –

St. Paul's. – Green; Wood, Turland, Cook, and Wager; Lewis and Stanforth; Allan, Browning, Carpenter, Clarke, Davison, Shorthouse, Thomas, and Wooland.

Gloucester A. – W. Egerton; J. Baldwin, J. Hayward, H. Cook, and F. Bloxsome; F. Allen and W. Cannock; J. Harris (capt.), S. Millard, C. Mumford, J. Westbury, W. Dovey, A. Banner, F. Yates, and A. Cox.

The home team kicked off. Turland opened out nicely, but was soon surrounded and brought down. Gloucester were not long in making their strength felt and in a determined attack the College had to concede a minor. They returned to the Gloucester 25, where the visitors were only relieved by a free-kick. They in turn were penalised, however, and Clarke, with a fine kick, very nearly succeeded in landing a goal.

Egerton took a free for Gloucester without any result, but a minute or so later Cook ran across with a try. Egerton again failed to goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	1 try
St. Paul's College	Nil

Gloucester attacked continuously upon the resumption, and after a great deal of keen play in the home 25, Yates got through. Egerton failed to convert.

Baldwin and Bloxsome ran in easily with two more in quick succession, which remained tries, and the former also afterwards landed a beautiful drop goal. Banner and Cook scored further tries. The extra points were not added in either case.

Gloucester were by far the cleverer fifteen. The College collapsed very badly in the closing stages of the second half.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 1 goal (d) 6 tries (22 pts.)

St. Paul's College Nil

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