

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1911

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v ABERTILLERY

BRILLIANT FINISH

HANDSOME WIN FOR GLOUCESTER

For their third match of the holidays Gloucester had to make several changes, W. Hall and G. Vears being among the absentees.

Hall's leg stood Tuesday's test, but he sustained a kick on the foot which prevented his turning out against 'Tillery.

The Brothers Hamblin figured at half, and the vacancy at three-quarter was filled by F. E. Chapman, the English International, who kindly offered his services.

The teams were : –

Gloucester : C. Cook; A. Hudson (captain), S. C. Cook, F. E. Chapman, and W. Washbourne; L. Hamblin and J. Hamblin; W. Johns, H. Berry, S. Smart, G. Holford, F. Pegler, S. Millard, C. Mumford, and J. Meadows.

Abertillery : H. James; F. Court, Watts, Weyman, and W. Davies; J. Richardson and W. Dando; Jim Webb, J. Howells, John Webb, H. Bird, L. Lewis, T. Simmonds, M. Blackwell, and T. Jenkins.

Referee : Mr. Feltham (Bristol).

THE GAME

There was a fair attendance, including a good sprinkling of 'Tillery supporters, when the players took the field ten minutes after the advertised time. Johns kicked off, but a Gloucester forward getting in front of the ball a scrum was ordered at the centre. The City front got possession and heeled, and the Hamblins' fed Hudson, but the latter was tackled, and his pass went to touch.

A wild pass by Dando went to James, who punted to Chapman. The latter put in a flying kick, but off-side by the forwards pulled the home men up. Jim Webb led 'Tillery past the centre, but Gloucester soon worked back, Berry showing up with a fine dribble. James partly saved, but a kick over the line forced a minor.

On the drop-out Hudson and C. Cook shone with big kicks which gave Gloucester a position in their opponents' half. Here the Hamblins opened out, but Hudson (who was playing centre) muffed his pass. 'Tillery came away with a good rush, and a pretty passing movement promised well. C. Cook, however, made a good tackle. The City worked out to more favourable quarters, where Hudson threw a wide pass to Washbourne. The latter transferred inside to S. Cook, who returned the ball, but Washbourne fell to a grand tackle by James. L. Hamblin immediately after cut out a nice opening, and S. Cook continued the movement nicely, but Hudson was bowled over on the 25 line.

Abertillery relieved slightly, and then came some pretty play by L. Hamblin, which left the ball with Washbourne. The right winger made a big effort to cross, but again succumbed to a deadly tackle by James, and was laid out. After a slight delay the Gloucester man was able to resume, and Chapman receiving a pass was only pushed to touch a few yards outside.

From the next scrum Gloucester had a fine opening, but Hudson failed to take Chapman's transfer. Fumbling by the City allowed Abertillery to clear, and subsequent play was very scrambling.

Off-side by Dando gave Gloucester a free kick, and James failing to gather play was taken to the visitors' 25. Weyman punting out Cook received and raced through, passing to his namesake, who made off down touch nicely, but was eventually pushed over the mark.

Chapman was prominent with a clever, swerving run which beat several opponents, but S. Cook just failed to take his pass. However, Gloucester soon scored, for after nice passing, Chapman got away, and beating James cleverly, scored a fine try. L. Hamblin failed to convert.

Hudson forced a minor after the drop-out, and on another start some even play was witnessed at midfield. Good kicking by 'Tillery brought them in the home half, where from a big punt the ball went over the City line and S. Cook touched down. Richardson soon after force another minor from another attempt to drop a goal.

Holford followed up the drop-out at a fast pace, but knocked on in trying to field the ball, and a scrum followed. A bad pass out from J. Hamblin was taken advantage of by the visiting forwards, and Gloucester had to touch down again. On the resumption the Gloucester half-backs opened out, and Hudson brought off a strong run, but his pass inside to Chapman was not properly taken, and a splendid opening was lost.

Abertillery made headway by the aid of a penalty, but the Gloucester backs were set on the move again. This time Hudson punted, and Washbourne following up robbed Courts and dribbled on. James attempted to check, but he lost the ball, and S. Cook being handy, picked up and scored behind the posts. L. Hamblin converted.

Hudson took the ball from the re-start, but his kick was charged down, and 'Tillery had a grand opening. C. Cook, however, got to the ball and apparently kicked from the field of play to touch-in-goal. The referee, to the surprise of the visiting supporters, gave a drop-out. Abertillery had the better of the play till the interval, but were unable to score.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 goal 1 try
Abertillery Nil

Jim Webb resumed, Holford finding touch at the centre with his return kick. Gloucester tried to open out from the loose, Hudson getting in a good punt to touch with his left foot. A dashing burst by the 'Tillery forwards was well stopped by C. Cook, and then Holford was prominent with a lovely dribble, which James stopped in good style.

A round of passing by the visiting backs was brought to an abrupt conclusion by a forward transfer, and this was followed by some scrappy forward play. James beat C. Cook twice in touch finding, and this gave the Monmouthshire team a territorial advantage. From the next scrum Richardson beat the City halves and secured a fine opening, but with an open goal line his pass was forward.

Abertillery went close after this, S. Cook relieving with a capital effort. The visitors were only playing seven forwards, but they were getting the ball better than the City pack. A bad pass from J. Hamblin lost Gloucester ground, and from this point the visitors attacked strongly. They had one glorious chance from a bout of passing, but the centre held on too long and was upset. Gloucester were kept busily defending, and they were eventually forced to concede a minor from a fruitless drop at goal.

The City got no relief from the drop-out play, play being confined to the home half. Off-side by J. Hamblin gave 'Tillery a penalty, and James took a drop for goal, but the ball fell short, and was secured by Hudson. The City captain ran out and passed to Cook, who fed Chapman. The latter punted, and there was a race for the ball, but it was captured by an opponent, who effected a good save. Ensuing play was contested at midfield, where C. Cook distinguished himself with some clever work. Gloucester at length heeled, but S. Cook was partially tackled and lost the ball.

Abertillery got dangerous through the agency of Richardson, and later from a pass by the same player Davis crossed, but the transfer was ruled forward. Stanley Cook brought relief with a grand effort and pass to Hudson, who threw wildly to Chapman with practically a clear field. Clever dribbling by Pegler and Berry beat the visiting full-back, but Court came along and cleared in the teeth of considerable opposition.

'Tillery, with a dashing forward burst, looked dangerous, but they were successfully pulled up. Then in the loose Chapman picked up and executed a grand run, jumping and swerving in great style. The full-back, however, upset him, and he was unable to give a good pass.

Gloucester showed up well after this, and a brilliant movement initiated from a line-out saw Hudson get away, with Chapman in attendance. A timely pass to the wing man enabled Chapman to race to the full-back, when he yielded to Hudson, and the latter ran over behind the posts. L. Hamblin added the goal points.

From the re-start there was another glorious movement and another score. S. Cook received the ball, and cutting through he passed to Washbourne, who sent inside to J. Hamblin. The latter was collared, but managed to hand back to Cook, who punted high and over the line. Several Gloucester forwards were up, and Meadows gathering from the bounce scored the fourth try. L. Hamblin again converted.

Scoring came quickly, and another try followed in less than two minutes. This time the point was credited to Abertillery, who gained a good position with a strong loose rush. From the subsequent scrum the 'Tillery halves got the ball away, and Davies dashed over in the corner. The place kick failed.

Resuming, Stanley Cook showed up with a pretty run, and Gloucester attacked again. Smart did actually cross from a clever bit of work by Holford, but a forward transfer was given.

From the next scrum Gloucester heeled, and the ball got across to Chapman by way of S. Cook and Hudson. Chapman was apparently collared, but he feinted to pass and got clear again. James was easily beaten, and a try resulted behind the posts, Chapman being loudly cheered. L. Hamblin converted.

In the remaining few minutes, play favoured Abertillery but no further scoring was done.

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RESULT :

Gloucester	27 pts.
Abertillery	3 pts.

JC