

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1912

RUGBY

GLoucester v BRISTOL

OLD RIVALS AT KINGSHOLM

GLoucester WIN WELL-CONTESTED GAME

The first of the three matches arranged between these clubs this season was decided at Kingsholm in bright, frosty weather. Bristol, though starting moderately, have picked up nicely the last two months, during which period they claimed victories over Pontypool and Swansea, and only lost to Cardiff by the goal kick. In their ranks to-day were several players new to a Gloucester crowd, whilst Cecil Biggs, the old Cardiff captain, figured at Kingsholm for the visitors for the first time. It was a matter for regret that W. R. Johnston, the English full-back, was unable to play for Bristol, but Gloucester were similarly handicapped in having Hudson on the injured list. Bloxsome was selected to fill the captain's place, but he had not recovered from the injury sustained a fortnight ago, and W. Staunton (who had previously appeared for the City at centre three-quarter) was given a trial on the wing, in which position he has recently assisted the Seconds.

The teams fielded ten minutes late before a good crowd as follows : —

Gloucester. — C. Cook, back; W. Staunton, L. Hamblin, J. Hamblin, W. Washbourne, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, W. Hall, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), G. Holford, A. Lodge, H. Berry, F. Pegler, J. Meadows, S. Smart, N. Hayes, forwards.

Bristol. — A. Harris, back; H. Marks, H. E. Shewring, J. A. Corsi, P. R. Brown, three-quarter backs; C. Biggs, H. W. Wookey, half-backs; S. Carey, W. West, W. Bradshaw, H. Murgatroyd, B. Hurst, F. Bright, W. A. Bryant, E. Kibbey, forwards.

Referee : Mr. J. H. Miles.

THE GAME

Vears kicked off with the sun at his back, but the ball failing to go ten yards, a scrum followed at the centre. Gloucester were at once penalised, and Shewring put in a long kick, which was fumbled, but Cook recovered and punted to touch. The Bristol backs were the first to open out, but the passing broke down, and J. Hamblin kicked through to Harris, who found touch at the centre.

Gloucester retaliated with some neat exchanges, Hall bringing off a clever run, but a forward transfer was given. Dix, however, put the home team in an attacking position with a neat touch finder, and Gloucester attacked strongly with a forward burst, Harris saving splendidly by dropping on the ball a few yards outside.

From a long throw-out West secured and punted to Cook, and gained much-needed relief. Near the centre Dix and Hall got away, and there was a clever bit of work between the latter and L. Hamblin, but the pass was forward.

Bristol were next prominent with some neat exchanges, Brown running well on the left wing. He finally punted, but Gloucester saved, though at the expense of a penalty. Shewring had a shot for goal, but kicked poorly, and the City cleared. Hall, with neat play, sent the game to the centre, where the home backs tried passing, but little ground was gained.

In some loose play Meadows picked up and threw wide to Washbourne, who re-passed, J. Hamblin kicking to touch. Gloucester got very dangerous in a loose burst, Berry only being tackled outside. A minute later Bristol had another narrow escape, Harris saving on the line. Gloucester worked hard to open their score, but the back play lacked the necessary penetrating power. Holford appeared to complete the home team, and immediately the City forwards dribbled through and over the line, Smart being credited with a try near the posts. L. Hamblin converted.

Bristol restarted and the visiting backs handled smartly up to a point. Then the passing broke down, and Meadows picking up got in a capital kick. Even play followed, but the work of the backs on either side was very moderate. Bristol at length shone in a pretty movement, Biggs and Shewring shining, ending in Brown scoring in the corner. Shewring failed to convert.

Gloucester dropped out, and at once secured a good position. With a sharp dash the forwards took the ball close and Dix crossed the line, but was called back for some infringement. Biggs brought relief to Bristol with neat kicks, but the home team worked back with loose footwork. A flying kick save the situation, and a little later Harris prevented a score in capital style. Gloucester continued to be dangerous, but a penalty against them allowed the visitors to ease the pressure, Cook forcing a minor with an attempt to drop a goal. On the restart Dix robbed Wookey and burst away, but Berry failed to take his pass with a good opening.

A little later Hall brought off a fine run and pass, but the next transfer, with a certain try in view, was missed. From the next scrum there was another chance, but this time Hall failed to take a pass from Dix. Gloucester continued to have all the game, but the home backs were weak in attack. Washbourne showed up smartly once with a dash on the right, but the defence was too strong. Another free to Bristol saw Shewring put in a fine kick to touch. From the line-out, however, the Gloucester forwards broke clear away, and Harris being beaten, Berry gathered the ball cleverly and scored a good try. L. Hamblin added the extra points.

Play on the resumption favoured Bristol, who obtained a capital position thanks to good kicking by Shewring. Gloucester, however, soon changed the venue, and the game was at midfield when the interval was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 2 goals
Bristol 1 try

Bristol restarted, and an exchange of kicks ended in an advantage to the visitors, Biggs sending to touch well inside the home half. Carey was temporarily laid out, but was soon able to resume, and J. Hamblin gained Gloucester a few yards with a touch-finder. The home threes were set going by Dix and Hall, but J. Hamblin passed forward to his brother.

Then the Bristol backs passed smartly, and the Gloucester line narrowly escaped. Heeling well the visitors put in a sharp attack, Marks only being pushed to touch just outside. Gloucester gained slight relief, but the ball coming out to Marks, the Bristol right winger made a bee line for the goal, and got over near the posts. Biggs converted, and there were only two points separating the teams.

Gloucester resumed, but the home team were playing below form. The Hamblins were again at fault when the ball came out, and the play of the third line as a whole was very poor.

Bristol forced a minor as the result of a kick over the line by Brown, and in subsequent play the visitors had the best of matters. The Bristol backs were faster than the home men, and they used their pace to advantage. Staunton failed to field after an interception with a nice opening, and then Biggs dodged through cleverly. The effort led to an attack on the home line, but a dead ball resulted from the final kick.

Gloucester, urged on by the shouts of their supporters, showed improvement on the drop-out. Harris was at fault in fielding a kick, and thus gave Gloucester a footing in their opponents' half. Some short kicking ended in Hall fielding and cross-punting to the Bristol goal. The City half-back racing on put his men on side, and Hayes securing the ball he dropped over the line with a try. L. Hamblin's shot for goal hit the upright.

The game was brighter on the resumption, the Gloucester forwards doing good work. The three-quarters, however, continued to play feebly, and could not be trusted. Bristol displayed some neat exchanges, but Shewring held on too long and spoiled a possible opening.

Cook was called upon several times in subsequent play, and he showed his worth, finding touch much better than previously. A clever bit of play by Dix put Staunton in possession, and the Second teamer had a 30 yards dash down touch, finally succumbing to a tackle by Harris. From the next scrum Dix gathered, and slipping Wookey dived over with a try. L. Hamblin missed the goal kick.

This success inspired the home men, and a dashing burst by the forwards put Bristol strictly on the defence. Berry made a big effort to score, but he was well tackled, and then wild passing by the visitors saw Carey pushed to touch a dozen yards from the line.

A penalty to Gloucester was taken by Hamblin, whose kick was charged down, but Bristol were kept on the defensive. Hall brought off a lovely run, but succumbed to numbers, and then the Bristol backs combined in a movement which completely changed the venue.

Gloucester were penalised for a foul on Shewring, but little ground was made with the kick. Shewring, however, got the better of Cook in a kicking duel, sending play to the home 25. From this point the home backs brought off their best bout of passing, L. Hamblin cutting through nicely and feeding Staunton, but the latter was upset by Marks.

Gloucester again passed prettily, but Washbourne was collared by Brown, and though he managed to pass to J. Hamblin, the latter lost the ball. Hall recovered and sent to Holford, who tried to kick but missed the ball. He regained possession, but was penalised for lying on the ball.

Gloucester, with a splendid dribble, went right to the line after this, and Dix nearly crossed from the subsequent scrum. Biggs cleared from a dangerous situation, and midfield play followed. Just before the end Brown forced a minor with a punt over the line.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 goals 2 tries (16 points)
Bristol 1 goal 1 try (8 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester were weak at three-quarter to-day, and it was due to failure in this department that Bristol were able to level up things somewhat. The visiting threes were faster and smarter all round, and with anything like the chances that fell to the home men they would have run up a big score.

Gloucester were four times over the line to their opponents' twice, and this was a fair indication of the run of the play. The game was well contested, but at no point produced any great excitement.

The Gloucester forwards played a fine game, and it was fortunate for the City they were able to claim an advantage here. Both in the scrums and open the home forwards asserted superiority, some of the loose work being brilliantly carried out.

Berry showed a lot of his old form, and Smart, Holford, Meadows, and Hayes worked with great effect. Bristol were best represented by Carey, West, and Bright.

At half-back Dix and Hall combined nicely, but the support behind was very feeble. Dix had to contend with a sharp worker in Wookey at the scrum, but he got the ball away smartly, and was ever on the alert for an opening, especially near the line. Hall played clever football all through, running and kicking with judgment and varying his tactics judiciously.

The Gloucester third line has already been referred to. They had openings in plenty made for them to-day, but the Brothers Hamblin could not find their game, and fumbled frequently. As a consequence the wings – Washbourne and Staunton – got few chances in attack.

Cook was very safe at full-back, giving nothing away in fielding. He kicked a fine length at times, but he was not at his best in finding touch. Harris saved well for Bristol, and by no means made a bad substitute for Johnston.

Shewring and Biggs were the outstanding players in the Bristol back division, and both did a lot of good work in attack and defence. Brown and Marks both displayed resolution on the respective wings, the latter's try being a very smart effort.

Corsi was not given many opportunities, but his tackling was sound. Wookey was a hard worker, but inclined to off-side; whilst he did not deliver his passes any too well.

Scorers for Gloucester : Smart, Berry, Hayes, and Dix; L. Hamblin converted two.

Next week : Leicester, at Kingsholm, when the City three-quarters will have to be in vastly-improved form if the triumph gained in the Midlands is to be repeated. I should like to see Stanley Cook in the line for this match. His pace will be wanted.

GLOUCESTER A v BRISTOL NOMADS

CITY SECONDS SUCCESSFUL

At the County Ground, Bristol. The City Seconds had a good team out, and looked forward to recording another victory at the expense of their rivals.

Gloucester A. – F. W. Hayward; Another, A. Sysum, H. Cook, and A. Sadler; F. Allen and T. Humphries; J. Harris, S. Millard, F. Yates, G. Griffiths, C. Mumford, A. Banner, J. Dovey, and P. Symonds.

Gloucester had the better of the play in the first half, and closely invested the Bristol lines, but could not score. Early in the second half Gloucester were awarded a free, and Hayward dropped a lovely goal. The visitors still pressed, and towards the close Harris dropped a goal for them, whilst Bray touched down for Bristol just in the nick of time.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 2 goals (1d, 1p) (7 points)
Bristol Nomads Nil