

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1912

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v BRISTOL

SECOND MATCH AT THE COUNTY GROUND

GOOD WIN FOR GLOUCESTER

THE BRISTOLIANS DISAPPOINTED

The second of the three matches arranged this season between Gloucester and Bristol was decided to-day at the County Ground. Three weeks ago the teams met at Kingsholm, when Gloucester proved winners of a rather moderate game by 16 points to 8. On that occasion the three-quarter back play of the winners was disappointing, but, fortunately the forwards were able to carry the side home successfully. Bristol had a strengthened team this afternoon, W. R. Johnston resuming his place at full-back, whilst there were two changes forward. The Gloucester side, too, was stronger with the inclusion of Hudson and Johns. In Bristol the match was advertised as one of the tit-bits of the season and local supporters had great hopes that the result of the first match would be reversed.

The teams were : –

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

Bristol. – W. R. Johnston, back; H. Marks, H. E. Shewring, T. R. Brown, R. Price, three-quarter backs; H. F. Wookey, Cecil Biggs, half-backs; W. Bradshaw, F. Bright, S. Carey, H. Murgatroyd, E. Kibbey, W. Preddy, J. Bailey, W. West, forwards.

Referee : Mr. J. H. Miles.

THE GAME

There was one change in the Gloucester team. Stanley Cook was available, and to allow of his inclusion J. Hamblin sportingly offered to stand down.

The ground was in fair condition, and there was a good crowd when Vears kicked off. The ball, however, failed to go ten yards[sic], and a scrum followed at the centre. Dix beat Wookey early, but stumbled and Biggs, picking up, fed Shewring, but the pass was forward.

A free to Bristol was taken by Shewring, but Cook returned well, Johnston fumbling and allowing the ball to go to touch.

Bristol continued to get the ball from the scrums, but the passing broke down, and Gloucester rushed beyond mid-field. Clever kicks by Washbourne and Hall gained further ground. Bristol dribbled back, but Dix and Hall combined nicely down the touch, the latter reaching Johnston before being checked. The International stopped a dangerous rush of the Gloucester forwards neatly, and then a loose dribble by the home front took the game to the other end.

Hall, with clever footwork, came back, but Dix spoiled the effort by getting off-side. So far the Gloucester forwards had been beaten for possession and the backs had had scarcely a sight of the ball. S. Cook was prominent with a sharp dash, and then Dix and Washbourne nearly brought about a score, Dix being tackled by Shewring just outside. Bristol relieved luckily, but in a brilliant forward rush Hayes knocked on when near the goal-line.

Immediately after Bristol were penalised, Hamblin's kick hitting the upright and going outside. Bristol cleared from the dangerous position, and subsequently tackled well when Gloucester tried passing. A dashing effort by S. Cook put Gloucester well down, but the ball was sent over the line, and Johnston kicked dead.

Play was keen on the resumption, but close covering prevented the desired opening. Shewring, with a finely judged kick, put Bristol close in, Hall and Dix relieving with pretty combination. Gloucester broke away strongly, Holford being to the fore, and there was a grand opening on the left. Hudson, however, was tackled right on the line.

Gloucester attacked resolutely, but off-side by Dix enabled Shewring to ease the pressure. Bristol made headway with a passing run, and Marks got in a fine dash, but threw forward. Gloucester quickly changed the venue with good kicking and forward work, Berry shining. A lovely run by Hall was spoiled through a subsequent faulty transfer. Gloucester, however, got going again, the forwards opening out from the loose, and Cook, Hamblin, and Washbourne handled in turn, the latter scoring in the corner. Hamblin failed in the goal kick from the difficult position.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 try
Bristol Nil

Carey resumed for Bristol, and there was a spell of play at the centre. The home backs were at length set going, Brown and Price making a bold bid for a try. The defence prevailed, but immediately after Wookey, working the short side of the scrum, nearly put Price over. Gloucester gained relief by touching down, and subsequent play was waged near midfield.

Smart, with good following up bothered Johnston, and Bristol were pressed. Hall, fielding a loose kick by a Bristolian, cross-punted, and Johnston fumbling under his goal, Smart gathered and scored near the posts. Hamblin easily converted, and Gloucester secured an eight points' lead.

Restarting Gloucester held the advantage, the forwards working well together. Dix brought off a fine run down touch giving the "dummy" beautifully, but his pass inside was not accepted. Wild handling by the Bristol backs nearly ended in disaster, Johnston saving just in time.

Bristol twice, in [the] face of sharp attacks and by the aid of kicks, secured more favourable quarters. A dashing dribble further improved matters, but ground was lost by feeble play behind. For the next five minutes the game was very scrappy among the forwards and was devoid of interest.

Dix and Hall at length opened out, but little headway was made, the ball going right across the ground. Cook and Hudson distinguished themselves with smart individual efforts which led to Gloucester gaining a footing in the Bristol half.

A drop at goal by Hall, however, was unsuccessful, and the home team gained breathing space by touching down.

Soon after the restart Dix robbed Wookey and secured a lovely opening, but Holford, to whom he passed, threw behind Hudson, who had a walk-in. The Bristol lines narrowly escaped a minute later, but a big forward rush relieved.

Inside the Gloucester half Wookey initiated a round of passing, and the ball being cleverly handled, Shewring scored from an inside pass by Brown. The place kick was a failure, though the spectators behind the posts shouted loudly "Goal." Hall sustained a cut head in tackling Brown, but after being bandaged soon came back.

Bristol had a good chance on the resumption, but Marks was tackled in trying to cut inside. Gloucester worked out to beyond the centre, where Hall served Hudson nicely, but the captain failed to accept. Hall, with a tricky punt, tested Johnston in the next minute, but the International was safe.

The last five minutes was very keen and inclined to roughness. From a smart breakaway by Dix, Hudson had a dash, but Shewring pushed him to touch. Soon afterwards the end came.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)
Bristol 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

It was a hard game, but not so open as one would have wished. The Gloucester forwards, after a somewhat shaky opening, displayed fine form, the work in the loose and the lines-out being particularly good. Berry, Meadows, Johns, and Holford shone repeatedly in these phases of play, but the whole pack did well.

Dix did splendidly at the scrum, and got in several good things on his own. Hall displayed all round cleverness, varying his play with great skill.

The respective three-quarter lines were inconsistent, some excellent work being spoiled by faulty handling.

Stanley Cook was the most distinguished for the visitors, the other players not getting so much to do. C. Cook was every bit as good as Johnstone at full-back. Shewring was the best man behind for Bristol, though Biggs and Marks showed usefulness at times. Of the forwards, Preddy, Carey, and Murgatroyd were the most prominent.

Towards the end the players got out of hand a little, and the finish came at the right moment. The defeat was a great disappointment to Bristol, but Gloucester just about deserved to win.

GLOUCESTER A v BRISTOL NOMADS

These teams met at Kingsholm before a small attendance. The men faced each other as follows : –

Gloucester A. – F. W. Hayward; W. Staunton, H. Cook, W. Sysum, and F. Bloxsome; J. Humphries and Carr Cummings junr.; J. Harris (captain), F. Pegler, G. Griffiths, F. Yates, S. Millard, J. Dovey, C. Mumford, and P. Simmonds.

Bristol Nomads. – A. H. Evans; A. Davis, J. Corsi, B. Bray, and H. Feltham; H. Wookey and L. Satterley; S. H. Edwards, F. Lewis, W. Bryant, A. Crewe, F. Ryall, F. Bennett, W. Allen, and W. Veater.

Pegler started for Gloucester, but there was no return. From the first scrum, however, Bristol opened out and Corsi punted clear, but Hayward put in a capital return, and Gloucester were well up. Getting the better of subsequent exchanges, Gloucester forced a minor. There was a good return to the kick out, and then a short, sharp burst by the Gloucester threes gained a nice bit of ground. A hot melee near the visitors' line ensued, but Bristol cleared.

Cook tackled Bray beautifully, and the ball getting loose, Bloxsome and Yates dribbled on, and the latter went over but failed to quite touch the ball down. A poor kick by Cook let the Bristolians up, but Hayward saved cleverly, and several times, very quickly following, put in useful touch-finders. The Gloucester backs had an opening but Cook held a bit too long. Sysum gained ground with a good touch-finder, and Gloucester attacked strongly. Two or three times the visitors' line only just escaped, and then a touchdown brought them the much-needed relief.

Bristol came away in great form after this, and getting right into the Gloucester quarter, looked dangerous, but the home forwards cleared. Gloucester got the ball out once or twice, but the marking and tackling of the Bristol three-quarters was very close and keen. Gloucester got well down, but Bristol broke away, and a quick sprint by Feltham took him past the centre, where he kicked up. Staunton fumbled, and Bray dashing up gathered the ball cleverly and scored a good try, which was not converted.

Bristol were getting the ball back in the scrum well, but could not get clear.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Bristol Nomads 1 try
Gloucester A Nil

Gloucester set about their task in most determined fashion, and in the first half minute Cook was nearly over. Gloucester carried a scrum cleverly, and in the loose Sysum dribbled over and Staunton dashed up and scored. Hayward failed at the kick.

A moment later Hayward put in a fine long shot for a dropped goal, the ball striking the top of the upright. A long touch-finder by the same player put Gloucester in a good position, and the forwards carried the ball over the line, but a five yards scrum was given. Gloucester were having the better of the scrummages hereabouts, but there was something lacking in the combination behind. The home forwards rushed a scrum well, and Cummings put in a neat dribble, but although quite close to the Bristolians' line, the Seconds could not score. Eventually they dribbled over, but Davis kicked dead.

Gloucester quickly returned to the attack, but the play was somewhat scrappy, and the home men could make no impression on the defence, and Bristol cleared. The game, which was a good deal more strenuous than scientific, continued to be waged in the Bristol half, but Gloucester could get no "forrarder."

RESULT :

Gloucester A 1 try (3 points)
Bristol Nomads 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

With the pack the Seconds had out they ought to have been able to do much better than make a three points' draw. The forwards worked very hard, but there was something sadly lacking at the base of the scrum, and the wing men never once got a decent chance.

The Bristolians were very quick, and passing was soon broken up. Hayward gave a capital display at full back, kicking a good length all the time.