

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1912

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v BRISTOL

WEAK BRISTOL TEAM AT KINGSHOLM

GLOUCESTER'S THIRD WIN

Though Gloucester had already beaten Bristol twice this season, scoring 24 points to 11 in the two games, the third and final match of the season at Kingsholm had its attraction.

Bristol unfortunately were weakly represented, the absentees including Johnston (apparently reserving himself for next week's International), Shewring, Biggs, Mark, and Percy, all suffering from injuries.

Gloucester had Johns and Stanley Cook away. Heavy rain had a big effect on the gate.

The teams lined out as follow : –

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

Bristol. – G. Bateman, back; R. Price, T. R. Brown, C. Corsi, H. Feltham, three-quarter backs; W. Wring, H. W. Wookey, half-backs; W. Bradshaw, J. Bailey, W. Preddy, W. Shaw, W. West, E. Kibby, J. Leahy, forwards.

Referee : Mr. W. James (Crumlin).

THE GAME

Bristol started, and early on the City backs got in a nice bout of passing, Hudson sending to touch following a re-pass. A penalty fell to Bristol for off-side by Hall, but Gloucester were awarded a free soon afterwards, and the game was taken to the centre. Here Wring beat Dix cleverly and ran down touch, finally sending to Corsi. The latter ran well, but fell to a fine tackle by Cook. Another penalty fell to the home team, and with a neat touch-finder Cook gained some 20 yards. The ground was in a sloppy condition, and made correct handling difficult.

Clever work by J. Hamblin put Gloucester well inside their opponents' half, but they quickly lost their position. A free fell to Gloucester for an infringement, but Cook failed to find touch, Corsi making no mistake with the reply. Immediately after, however, Cook got his own back in some exchange kicking with the same player.

Bristol were doing well in the scrums, and Wring got the ball away cleverly, but was pulled down by the neck of the jersey just in time. Gloucester were very hard pressed, and only desperate tackling kept the visitors out. Dix tried to clear with a punt out, but his kick was charged down close in, and the home line narrowly escaped. Then Hall and Hudson combined in gaining relief.

The referee was dealing out frees plentifully, and from one granted to Bristol Corsi made a good attempt to drop a goal. The ball fell short, and Cook kicked out to Price, who failed to take. The ball, however, dropped into Corsi's arms, and running well the centre gave Price a nice pass, which was not accepted. From the ensuing scrum the Bristol backs handled cleverly, but Feltham was beautifully tackled by Cook near the line.

Then followed a lovely effort by Dix and Hall, the half-backs re-passing nicely, and coming out to mid-field. Here Hall punted, and Washbourne raced hard to gather, but was just beaten.

Bristol changed the venue, but Hall, with a fine run, secured an opening and passed to Hayes. The latter kicked past Bateman, but Corsi got back and saved. From the next scrum Dix "barged" his way through and put the ball over the line, but the referee, carrying out the decision of the Welsh Union Society of Referees, disallowed the point.

Off-side by Wring gave Gloucester a penalty in a good position, but the kick for goal was a poor one. Gloucester had the better of subsequent exchanges, and for a bad foul of Dix Bristol were again penalised right in front of the posts. Again, however, L. Hamblin missed the goal, a minor resulting.

Bristol dropped out, and play was confined to their half. Holford and Hayes were prominent in a dashing dribble which looked likely to materialise, for Bateman missed the ball. Dix gathered and sent out to Hudson, but the captain had no chance for he was at once pounced upon. In tackling a home player a visitor sustained a smack in the face, but he soon continued.

Gloucester were in a good attacking position, and Dix, working the blind side of the scrum, threw out a pass, but there was no one there, and a Bristol man securing he punted clear. Gloucester opening out, the ball was got across to Washbourne, who sprinted away, but was legged from behind. He recovered and passed to L. Hamblin, who punted high, only to see Feltham make a good mark. This proved useful to Bristol, and they centred play.

Holford knocking the ball back from a line[out], Hall secured and handed to J. Hamblin. The latter let the ball go to his brother, who ran hard and well, but was tackled a yard from the line. Immediately after Hall was stopped in a similar way, and Dix was held up outside a minute later. Berry apparently crossed next, but he was called back. However, Gloucester's persistent efforts were at length rewarded with a try by Hudson, who crossed easily after a series of exchanges initiated by Dix. The place-kick by L. Hamblin was a failure.

On the drop-out there was a scramble for possession, and West injured his leg, having to be carried off. Bristol resumed strongly, and from a flying kick Hudson was forced to pass back to Cook to clear. Wring broke away from a scrum in capital style, but Corsi, to whom he passed, was laid down by L. Hamblin, both players being temporarily laid out.

Continuing, a good kick by Cook gave Gloucester an advantage, but the City did not make the most of it. Even play followed, till Bristol made headway from a penalty awarded the visitors for a foul of Corsi by L. Hamblin. The interval was then sounded.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 try
Bristol	Nil

Vears re-started for Gloucester in a storm of rain, and the City forwards preventing a return, play settled just inside the Bristol half. Dix soon distinguished himself with a break-away down touch and passed to Hudson, who had a splendid dash, but fell to a sound tackle.

Immediately Bristol transferred play to the other end, but a pretty passing move left the ball with Hudson, who raced away in fine style. He was pressed near the touch-line, and threw work[sic], causing great amusement once by shaking ...nent[sic]. Some fast play followed, Dix doing fine work, causing great amusement once by shaking off a big opponent who attempted a high tackle. Dix again came into the picture with a solo effort and pass to Washbourne, but the wing man failed to hold the greasy ball. Bristol, who were playing very strongly, kept play at the centre until the City men burst away, and Bateman was tackled over his line. He, however, got the ball to touch.

Gloucester pressed, but a pass was intercepted by Price, who only had Cook facing him. A timely pass to Brown sent the latter away, and a try appeared certain. Cook, however, went for his man, and making a final plunge put out his hand and touched Brown's leg, bring him down midst great excitement.

Gloucester cleared from a dangerous position, and J. Hamblin chipped in with a useful run and pass to Hudson. The captain galloped off, but found Corsi too much for him. Bristol showed up with some clever passing and re-passing after this, and the home team were certainly being kept on the move. Good work by Wookey led to a sharp attack on the home line, and the defence had to be on the *qui vive*. Relief came as the result of some good kicking, and then the Gloucester backs were set going by Dix and Hall. Nothing resulted as Hudson's pass to J. Hamblin was adjudged forward.

Gloucester, however, gained a position in their opponents' end, though weak play by Hudson lost ground. In some loose play Dix fielded and cut out a lovely opening. He gave Berry a well-judged pass and the Old International handing to Hayes, the latter scored a good try. W. Hall just missed placing a goal.

Bristol dropped out, and the visitors continued to play well. Wookey and Feltham showed up with some pretty play on the left wing, but the effort was checked in time. Corsi put in a capital effort for Bristol, and Hudson being at fault, the visitors got very dangerous. A forward was held up in the nick of time, and Corsi nearly bored his way through with a dashing effort. Relief came eventually through the ball going over the line for a touchdown.

Cook dropped out with a fine kick which bounced into play inside the Bristol half. Washbourne was checked in a well-intentioned effort on the right and then from a passing movement Hudson had a good chance, but hesitated, and lost the ball, Corsi picking up and clearing. Gloucester returned to the attack, Brown fumbling from a penalty kick taken by Cook and allowing the City to get close up. From a scrum on the 25-line, Dix was given possession, and darting away he fed Washbourne, who crossed in the corner. Cook missed the goal.

Time was then called.

RESULT :

Gloucester 3 tries (9 points)
Bristol Nil

REMARKS

Bristol put up a surprisingly good fight, and on the play, the home team were somewhat lucky in gaining a clear nine points' victory. It is reasonable to assume that Bristol at full strength would have done better, but in justice to the team which did duty this afternoon it should be mentioned Bristol made a better show than in either of the previous games. The great improvement was forward, where Bristol did wonderfully well, and at no point were they outplayed.

In the early stages the City pack were repeatedly beaten in heeling, but the home men got on top in the second half, and furnished the backs with numerous opportunities. There was some fine work on both sides in the loose, and the keenness of the tackling was very marked. Bristol gave nothing away in any department, and the whole pack deserve praise for a downright good display. Hayes was the equal of any other player on the field in the front, and just now the ex-Old Boy is in rare trim. Berry, Holford, and Pegler were also noted for special work.

The most successful player outside the scrum to-day was Dix, who put in a tremendous amount of effective work. He not only got the ball away smartly, but he was quick to seize upon the slightest opening, and Hayes' try was the direct outcome of a very clever effort by the City scrum half. Dix scored one of his old-fashioned tries by "barging" through the scrum on the line, but Mr. James, the referee, disallowed the point to the surprise of the Gloucestrian and a good many supporters. The Welsh Union referees discussed this point only last week, and it was decided a try obtained in this manner was not legitimate. Mr. A. O. Jones was, I believe, the first official to rule against the point in a recent match in Wales.

At outside half Hall did a lot of sound work, but the poor support behind discounted his efforts. A new scrum worker appeared for Bristol in Wring, and he certainly gave promise of being successful in the position. Wookey also did better at outside half and combined nicely with his partner.

There was some good play at times amongst the threes, but sandwiched between were many errors in judgment and tactics. Hudson was off in the second half, and did several risky things, especially in passing back.

The Hamblins performed creditably without accomplishing anything particularly smart, and Washbourne experienced his usual hard luck in missing one or two tries.

Bristol had a safe and resourceful centre in Corsi, who kicked splendidly and tackled with unerring judgment. Brown lacked finish, and the wings were more useful than brilliant.

One of the most exciting incidents in the game was the tackle by Cook of Brown when the latter looked all over a scorer. The City custodian was well up to form, though the heavy and greasy ball was a handicap to his kicking. Bateman was shaky at times, but by no means did badly, and had no chance of stopping either of the tries scored against his side.

Scorers for Gloucester : Hudson, Hayes, and Washbourne. L. Hamblin, W. Hall, and C. Cook failed with place-kicks.

Next week : Wednesday, City team start on the trip to Paris, returning Friday night. Saturday, Cinderford, away.

GLOUCESTER A v NAUNTON PARK

CITY SECONDS' EASY WIN

Played on the Cheltenham ground, which was a quagmire. Naunton started downhill, but the City made ground by judicious kicking and following up, and twice Cherrington brought Staunton down when he was going strongly for the line. Naunton then had a spell of attack, but play was very scrappy, the only passing being done by the Gloucester men. There was no score at the interval.

Afterwards the visitors' forwards were prominent, and after a good combined movement Bloxsome made a smart zig-zag run and scored as he was brought down. The place-kick failed.

The next minute the City forwards were all but over after good dribbling, and within ten minutes of the restart Staunton did the trick again. Immediately afterwards Dovey received and made a dash, and beating all opposition in a straight run scored near the posts, Hayward converting.

Subsequently Cook and Banner scored from forward rushes, Hayward once converting.

Play degenerated into a mud-lark, with Gloucester all over their opponents except at the finish, when Naunton rushed up and nearly scored.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 2 goals, 3 tries (19 points)
Naunton Park Nil