

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1902

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. REST OF COUNTY

This match, arranged by the Gloucester Club for the benefit of T. Collins, the old city and county forward, was played at Kingsholm on Thursday, before a good attendance. There were changes in both teams, Dyas and A. Hall playing at half-back in place of Needs and Foster for the Scratch; whilst F. Rooke appeared for Collett in the City team. The kick-off did not take place till after 5 o'clock.

The teams were : –

Gloucester : G. Romans, back; C. Smith, F. Rooke, J. Stephens, and Lewis Smith, three-quarter backs; R. Goddard and G. Hall, half-backs; C. Hall, A. H. Click, F. Westbury, W. Johns, J. Jewell, Bert Parham, G. H. Smith, and E. Essex, forwards.

Rest of County : B. Blanch (Stroud), back; C. Clifford, J. Cook (Cheltenham), C. Goddard, and S. S. Harris (Gloucester), three-quarter backs; R. S. V. Dyas (Cheltenham) and A. Hall (Gloucester), half-backs; T. Gillmore, G. Cossens (Cheltenham), H. Penney, B. Fisher (Stroud), Brown (Cinderford), J. Lewis (Bristol), A. Purton, and J. Merchant (Gloucester), forwards.

The Rest team, which was captained by J. Lewis, made a surprisingly good show, and Gloucester had quite as much as they could do to win. Soon after the start, Harris was prominent with a dashing run down touch, and though Romans staved off disaster with a very fine tackle, the effort placed the Scratch in such a good position that Harris was able to cross with a good try a couple of minutes later. Purton failed at the place-kick.

On the re-start the City forwards, Westbury leading, displayed some clever footwork, but Cook saved after a bad mistake in fielding. Subsequently the old Gloucester centre broke through prettily, but his pass went astray.

Gloucester attacked after this, but they failed to penetrate the defence. Capital runs by Dyas and Clifford gave Gloucester plenty to do in defence, and for some time the Rest held the advantage. Then Rooke, getting a pass from Goddard, cut up between the opposing centres, and re-passing to Goddard the latter ran over behind the posts. Romans easily goaled, and at the interval Gloucester were leading by two points.

Directly after the resumption, A. Hall, Harris, Dyas, and Lewis took part in a brilliant bit of combination, which severely tested the home defence. The Gloucester forwards worked out with some splendid loose rushes, but from kicks over the line the City team had to concede a couple of minors.

Subsequent play was fast, the Rest doing good all-round work. Clifford was several times prominent on the left wing, and B. Blanch relieved his side repeatedly under severe pressure. Gloucester eventually gained the upper hand, and attacked strongly, but the back play was faulty, and the Rest easily cleared. At length Lewis Smith picked up in the loose, and following some neat exchanges Westbury scored. No goal resulted. There was keen play after this, both sides in turn being on the aggressive, but nothing further was scored.

For the Rest, whose forwards beat the home pack in heeling, Lewis, Penney, Cossens, and Purton did a lot of good work; whilst Hall, Westbury, and Click were the pick of the home eight. At half-back Goddard and G. Hall were below par, and the Gloucester three-quarters, too, had an off-day. Rooke, though at fault occasionally, was the smartest player in the line, his clever screw-kicking being one of the features of the match.

Dyas was a tower of strength to the visitors, and Clifford and Sid Harris did excellent service at three-quarter. Cook showed up with one or two clever runs, but his defence was uncertain. Both Romans and Blanch were in good form at full-back.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)
 Rest of County 1 try (3 points)

TO-MORROW'S MATCHES

GLOUCESTER v. COVENTRY

At Coventry. The following are the teams : –

GLOUCESTER	Positions	COVENTRY
G. Romans (capt.)	Back.	G. Hollins
C. Smith	Three-quarter	G. H. Tuke
F. Rooke	backs.	R. Orton
J. Stephens	"	A. Shilton
Lewis Smith	"	A. Randle
G. Hall	Half-backs.	J. Chamberlain
R. Goddard	"	F. J. Warth
C. Hall	Forwards.	A. J. Arch
A. H. Click	"	W. Cleaver
F. Westbury	"	N. J. Walker
F. Oswell	"	R. G. Carruthers
J. Jewell	"	F. Cleverley
Bert Parham	"	C. L. Pigott
E. Essex	"	H. W. Whitton
G. H. Smith	"	B. Rotherham