

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1902

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL

KEEN RIVALS AT KINGSHOLM

A CLOSE GAME

GLOUCESTER WIN ON TIME

The first meeting of the season between the two premier teams in the county aroused all the old interest and excitement, and with the weather favourable there was again a large attendance of spectators at Kingsholm.

Both clubs had suffered three defeats already this season, and with so many changes in the teams from last year the result was looked upon as a very open affair. Gloucester tried "Whacker" Smith in the centre to-day vice Rooke, and played Lindsay Vears on the wing; whilst F. Goulding resumed his place in the forwards, W. Essex standing down.

The alteration behind the scrimmage was regarded a risky experiment in so important a game, but after Rooke's feeble display against Swansea the committee were compelled to find a substitute, and the removal of Smith from the wing to the inside position was considered the best move under the circumstances.

Bristol had to find substitutes for Baker and Eberle, who have returned to their respective Universities; whilst Claridge was also an absentee, his place forward being filled by J. "Williams," an old county player. The visitors were further weakened by Needs missing his train, and W. Arbery, reserve, was pressed into service.

The following were the revised teams : –

GLOUCESTER	Positions	BRISTOL
G. Romans	Backs.	J. Oates
L. Smith	Three-quarter	R. G. Vaughan
G. F. Collett	backs.	W. Arbery
C. Smith	"	T. J. Gibson
L. Vears	"	P. Hussey
J. Stephens	Half-Backs	V. Bartlett
A. Brown	"	W. Butcher
F. Goulding	Forwards	D. Brown
A. Hawker	"	T. Webb
F. Westbury	"	F. Channon
A. Purton	"	J. W. Williams
G. H. Smith	"	E. Meyer
Bert Parham	"	N. Moore
F. Oswell	"	T. Davis
W. Johns	"	E. Day

Referee : Mr. Gil Evans (Birmingham)

## THE GAME

The teams were only a few minutes late in turning out, and Gloucester winning the toss, Romans elected to defend the Dean's Walk goal. Williams kicked off, and the ball going to Purton, the latter kicked to touch at the centre. From the first scrum Bartlett got off-side, and Romans, by the aid of a free, gained some 20 yards. The Gloucester forwards made headway with a strong burst from a line-out, but Bristol retaliated with some good footwork, and midfield was the scene of operations.

Gibson, following up a kick by Bartlett, floored Lewis Smith before he could get in a reply, and subsequently from a punt over the line Bristol forced a minor. Vaughan returned the drop-out to touch near the centre, where Bristol tried to open out the game. No ground was gained, however, and "Whacker" Smith securing, he punted to Oates, who sent to touch.

A beautiful wheel by the Gloucester forwards, Parham leading, gave the home team an advantage, but Stephens missing a pass from Brown badly, enabled the visitors to get back to midfield. Ensuing play was very scrambling, and mistakes on both sides were frequent.

Wheeling in fine style, the Gloucester forwards looked likely to get clear, but Butcher just managed to turn the ball into touch. In the two subsequent scrums Bristol heeled, and from a pass by Butcher, Vaughan punted high to Romans. The latter fielded and tried hard to screw his return into touch, but he just failed, and Oates was able to get in a useful reply.

Midfield play followed, but was devoid of incident. Hawker marked from a kick by Bartlett, but he made poor use of the touch-line, and Gibson gained some 20 yards with the return. For an infringement Gloucester were penalised outside the 25 line, but Moore's shot for goal fell a long way short. Still Bristol pressed, and taking advantage of loose play by Brown and Stephens, found a footing in the home quarters. Here some loose scrummaging resulted in Butcher picking up, and with a good kick, dropped a goal, the success being greeted with loud applause by the Bristol supporters.

Gloucester resumed, and the home team at once worked into their opponents' end. Brown, with a useful punt, further improved matters for the home side, but Oates relieved cleverly. Bristol, working well, dribbled beyond the centre, but Collett stopped them. The ex-Cantab subsequently started a loose dribble which resulted in Gloucester reaching Oates, but off-side stopped them. Collett, a minute later, showed up with a brilliant dash, which looked promising for a score, but he was brought down, and his pass going astray, Bristol saved.

Some keen work followed in the visitors' 25, but Vaughan brought relief with a timely punt to touch. Gloucester, however, got back again, and the Bristol lines were subjected to severe pressure. From a line-out Collett secured, and made a big effort to cross, but Oates brought him down in front of goal. Some anxious moments ensued for Bristol, the home team making desperate efforts to score.

Heeling nicely, Brown got away in smart style, but "Whacker" Smith was fouled as he was about to receive the pass. Bristol were penalised for this offence, and from the favourable position Romans placed a good goal, thus reducing Bristol's lead to one point.

Bristol re-started, and play was fast and furious at the centre, no quarter being given by either side. The Gloucester forwards were doing well in the lines-out, but the stopping was effective. From another penalty Moore had a shot for goal, but he met with no success, and Romans ran out and kicked to touch. With some brilliant forward work Gloucester came right down the field, and the Bristol line had a narrow escape. One determined burst carried the ball to Oates, who only saved at the critical moment. A moment later "Whacker" Smith was nearly over, but he lost the ball, and Oates touched down.

Bristol dropped out, and even play followed. Heeling by the Gloucester forwards saw Brown feed the home three-quarters, but Collett passed forward to Lewis Smith when there was a good opening. Then a Bristolian got in a good kick past Romans, but the City Captain effected a capital return. Taking advantage of mistakes by the visiting backs, "Whacker" Smith came through cleverly, and worked out a nice opening. Johns, however, made a mull in trying to pick up, and another possible chance of scoring was lost. After this Collett showed up with a strong run, but he was floored on the 25 line. The interval was then called.

#### HALF-TIME SCORE :

Bristol .....	1 goal (d)
Gloucester .....	1 goal (d)

Goulding resumed with a feeble kick, and a Bristol forward punted into touch well inside the home half. Early on Westbury was prominent with a strong burst and pass to Parham, who continued the movement, but his repass was knocked on. Aided by a free Bristol worked out of danger, and gradually got into the home end. Butcher, with useful punts, caused Gloucester to defend, and later he kicked over the line, and Romans touched down.

Resuming there was plenty of vigorous play with little skill, but honours were fairly even. The Gloucester forwards, with one very determined combined rush, beat the visiting three-quarters, but someone got back and saved in daring fashion. Play travelled up and down the ground at a good rate, but there was not much in it.

A beautiful bit of work by Collett, who kicked across cleverly, put Gloucester in a scoring position, but in a scramble for the ball an infringement occurred. After this Lewis Smith received a pass from the scrum, and the wing man made a great effort to score in the corner, but he was held outside.

For the next five minutes Bristol were pressed right on their line, and great excitement prevailed. Brown nearly slipped through, and then the home forwards were almost over in a bunch. At length Butcher brought temporary relief with a couple of kicks, but Gloucester were back again. From a terrific punt by Collett, Oates misfielded, and Goulding being well up secured, but his pass went astray, a glorious chance being lost.

Gloucester still kept the upper hand, but the visitors defended well. Off-side play by Butcher caused Bristol to be penalised in a good position for a shot at goal. Romans essayed the place, but owing to some misunderstanding the ball was put on the ground too soon, and the Bristol forwards charging they kicked down the field, the ball rolling into touch. This gave Bristol a footing in the home end, and playing up with renewed vigour the Gloucester defence was subjected to severe pressure. Hussey once went over from good passing, but he was called back for a forward transfer.

There was only about five minutes to go now, and the game appeared lost to Gloucester. The home men, however, did not give up hope, and they went into work with tremendous energy. From neat passing Vears had a dash down touch, but he was bowled over before getting dangerous. Play continued to go in favour of Gloucester, but mistakes at the critical moment spoiled some good movements.

At length Brown and Stephens got the ball away, and "Whacker" Smith tried to break through, but he was held. The ball, however, got loose, and Collett went away with the ball at his toes. By clever pedipulation he beat the opposition, and then sent the ball towards the corner flag. There was a big race for possession, but Lewis Smith was up first, and diving for possession scored a try amidst tremendous enthusiasm. The spectators in the immediate vicinity swarmed on the field of play at the corner, and there being some delay it was thought the point had not been allowed. When a Gloucester man brought the ball out, however, it was seen that it was all right, and there was a further demonstration. Romans took the shot for goal, but failed. Owing to the spectators remaining on the touch-line play could not be resumed, for a minute or two, but eventually they were got back.

Bristol dropped out, and Romans knocking on in fielding, a scrum followed in the Gloucester half. The visitors were here awarded a free, but Romans replied splendidly to near mid-field. Nothing further of incident occurred, and soon afterwards the end arrived.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester .....	1 goal (p), 1 try (6 points)
Bristol .....	1 goal (d) (4 points)

#### REMARKS

Gloucester veritably pulled the game out of the fire, and on the run of play they deserved their win. In the second half especially the home team had a lot the best of the argument, but they threw their chances away in the most aggravating manner.

The effort which led up to the winning point being recorded was one of the prettiest and most effective bits of play seen during the whole of the seventy minutes over which the game extended, and though Lewis Smith obtained the try the chief credit of the score was undoubtedly due to Collett. It was an exciting moment, culminating in an outburst of enthusiasm rarely witnessed at Kingsholm.

Coming to the game itself, it could not by the wildest stretch of imagination be termed a good exhibition of football. Vigorous forward play and keen tackling were the chief features, with an occasional flash of brilliance such as was seen at the close, and which turned what looked like a certain defeat for Gloucester into a victory.

The back play on both sides was considerably below the standard expected from such first class organisations. After the recent displays of Gloucester we did not expect a great exhibition from them, but Bristol to-day did not show us anything better. The absence of Needs, of course, handicapped the visitors, but we question if his presence would have materially affected the result.

Forward it was a battle royal between the respective packs, and on the whole the Gloucester eight came out best. In the lines-out the home players – Goulding, Parham, Purton, and Westbury particularly – did some very effective work, whilst their play in the open, though lacking judgment now and again, was an improvement on the previous week.

In the tight scrums matters were fairly even, though Gloucester were smarter in wheeling and combined better in loose rushes. For Bristol, Moore, "Williams," and Day were always noticeable, following up keenly, and never being at a loss as to what to do with the ball.

At half-back we had no star performer on either side. Individually, perhaps, Butcher was the most useful, Bristol being frequently got out of a tight corner as a result of his timely kicks to touch.

The players on either side lacked initiative, and the only real opening made was by Brown, who slipped through prettily once, but his pass was not taken. Stephens worked hard, but to our mind he would be better employed at centre three-quarter.

In the second half Stephens changed places with Brown, who stood back, but the players have a lot to pick up before they will attain to the perfect understanding which existed between Hall and Goddard.

At three-quarter there was little, if any, combination displayed, and the few passing bouts that took pace were not of much account. Individually, Collett was the most prominent three-quarter on the field, the ex-Cantab putting more go into his play than in any previous match this season. He made several strong runs, and tackled with more energy. Perhaps the fact of his having such a determined defensive player alongside him had an appreciable effect, but whatever the cause Collett certainly did far better than against Swansea.

"Whacker" Smith's removal to the centre position had this one important effect – it fairly bottled up all attempts at passing by the visitors. The marking on both sides, however, was very close, and there were few opportunities of getting clear. Lewis Smith made the most of the chances which came his way, but Vears got very little to do.

On the opposing side Vaughan was the most prominent, with Gibson and Hussey useful at times. Romans played a very sound game at back, kicking well, and never being at fault in fielding. Oates also played well.

#### GLOUCESTER A v. BRISTOL A

On the County Ground, before a good crowd. The visitors started the game. The opening stages favoured Bristol, but they were unable to get through. Play was chiefly confined to the forwards.

Bristol scored by Carter after a grand run by Needs. Evans failed at goal. Following this Bristol added another try by Straker. Evans again failed at goal.

#### HALF-TIME SCORE :

Bristol A ..... 2 tries  
Gloucester A ..... Nil

Bristol started the second portion. Smart work by Needs and Evans placed Bristol in a good position. Gloucester were penalised, but Straker failed at the place-kick.



Following this a grand run by Shewring ended in Evans getting over, but he was ordered back for some informality. Subsequently West scored for Bristol, but Evans failed to convert. No further scoring took place.

RESULT :

Bristol A ..... 3 tries (9 points)

Gloucester A ..... Nil

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