

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1903

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL

KEEN GAME AT KINGSHOLM

NARROW VICTORY FOR THE VISITORS

The first of the four fixtures arranged between Gloucester and Bristol was decided at Kingsholm to-day, and the meeting aroused a large amount of interest amongst the followers of the rival teams.

Gloucester, who have done poorly at home this season, were severely handicapped in having to take the field minus Parham, Rooke, and Morgan, the latter dropping out of the side on Friday. In his place Thorne (Yorkley) was secured as a partner for Stephens, whilst G. Foulkes appeared at centre three-quarter (vice Rooke) and F. Pegler filled the vacancy forward.

Pegler appeared with the City team regularly last season, but has been prevented from turning out before owing to a smashed finger.

The other two players were new to the premier ranks, though Foulkes has assisted the Seconds, and formerly played with St. Catherine's Rovers.

Bristol fielded practically full strength, and on paper were the better balanced side.

The weather was dull, and rain threatened at the time fixed for the kick-off, but there was a very good attendance of spectators.

Bristol arrived late, and it was 3.50 before the teams took the field in the following order : –

GLOUCESTER	Positions	BRISTOL
G. Romans	Backs	J. Oates
C. Smith	Three-quarter	R. S. Vaughan
G. Foulkes	Backs	G. A. Lamond
A. Hudson	"	H. Shewring
L. Vears	"	R. H. Bell
J. Stephens	Half-Backs	T. White
J. Thorne	"	A. Straker
F. Peglar	Forwards	J. L. Mathias
F. Goulding	"	T. Webb
F. Westbury	"	E. Meyer
W. Johns	"	T. Davis
A. Hawker	"	N. Moore
A. Purton	"	A. Stubbs
G. Vears	"	D. Brown
H. Taylor	"	W. H. Needs

Referee : Mr. J. H. Bowen (Cardiff)

### THE GAME

Bristol won the toss, and Goulding started for the home team from the Dean's Walk end. The ball went to touch and another kick-off was made. This time Mathias received and punted to Hudson, who kicked across the ground to Smith. The latter fielded and sent down to Oates, and from the return the latter made his mark, finally sending to touch at the 25.

A dashing dribble by the Bristol forwards was the first item of note, but Smith kicked to touch. From a scrum Thorne got the ball away nicely, and Stephens and Smith handled, but the latter's pass went forward.

Some loose play resulted in Lamond kicking down to Stephens, who eluded a couple of opponents cleverly and sent to touch inside the Bristol half. From the throw-out Lamond marked from a knock forward, but Romans replied with a good punt to touch, and little ground was gained by the visitors. Then a visitor started a bout of passing from a line-out, White, Lamond, Shewring, and Bell handling in turn. The latter finally kicked to Romans, who was pushed to touch.

In a loose rush which followed Johns received an injury to the head, but resumed after a couple of minutes' delay. Immediately Thorne and Stephens robbed the opposing halves and dribbled away, but Bell ran the ball to touch.

Heeling by the Gloucester forwards saw Thorne feed Stephens, and a series of exchanges looked promising, but Foulkes' pass was missed by Hudson. Useful play by Stephens gave Gloucester an advantage, but a kick and follow up by Vaughan, and a strong run by Brown enabled Bristol to clear.

Subsequently a cross-kick by Bell took the game right in front of the home goal, but Romans managed to clear. A brilliant dribble by the Gloucester forwards brought operations out to the centre, where Lamond picked up cleverly and sent to touch with a good kick.

The home team made headway with a useful rush, but Oates sent them back with a fine drop-kick. Romans cleared finely for the home team, and midfield was the centre of operations for the next few minutes.

At length the Bristol backs got set going with a splendid round of passing. Bell was the last to receive, and he sprinted hard down the line, but Romans effected a grand tackle. Bristol attacked with another combined movement, but L. Vears intercepted, though he was immediately collared. Play was confined to the Gloucester 25 until Thorne started the home backs, but Hudson missed and nearly let his opponents in.

Some close and exciting play followed near the home line, but eventually a player punted out to Oates well outside the 25 line. Taking a good aim the Bristol custodian dropped for goal and covered the cross-bar with a really fine kick, thus giving four points to the visitors.

Gloucester re-started, but for getting in front of the ball a scrum was ordered at the centre. Getting well away the home backs tried hard to effect a score, and pretty combination let Smith over, but he was called back for an infringement. Not to be denied the home forwards attacked strongly, but for an infringement they were pulled up. Bristol effected a clearance with a loose rush, but Hudson picked up and narrowly missed dropping a goal, a minor resulting.

On the drop-out, Vaughan was prominent with a clever dribble down touch and centred towards the home goal, but Foulkes saved. The effort, however, led to a hot attack on the Gloucester line, and following a series of passes initiated from the scrum, Shewring ran over with a smart try. Oates failed at goal.

Romans dropped out, and a spell of even play followed. A useful bit of work by Stephens led to Gloucester finding a footing in their opponents' end, and Vears, from a mark, found touch at the 25 with his kick. From thence the City forwards dashed through, and Lamond was hard pressed. The ball eventually became loose, and Bell picking up he screwed to touch nicely.

Gloucester had the best of subsequent play, but by sharp forward dashes the visitors got to the centre. Here Thorne got away smartly from a scrum, and started Stephens on the move, but Vears, who was the next to receive, was stopped by Vaughan. The visiting backs, Lamond and Vaughan principally, replied with a smart effort, but the tackling was effective. Then the interval was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Bristol ..... 1 goal (d), 1 try  
Gloucester ..... Nil

Bristol re-started, Pegler replying to touch at the centre. From the first line-out Johns and Westbury burst away, but a knock on spoiled the movement. The Bristol forwards replied with a strong rush, but Foulkes fielded neatly and got in a kick to touch.

The visiting forwards, pushing the home men off the ball, reached the Gloucester 25 before being stopped. Stephens and Thorne were prominent in changing the venue, and then Westbury, by getting off-side, spoiled a promising movement initiated by Goulding from a line-out. By the aid of the kick Oates found touch inside the Gloucester 25.

Play was not particularly brilliant but was in favour of Bristol, who were stronger forward. Gloucester at length relieved with a rush, and "Whacker" Smith, with a deadly tackle of Shewring, enabled his side to reach the centre.

Heeling by the City forwards enabled Thorne to show his ability to get the ball away, and the young Yorkley player gave a good account of himself. Twice in quick succession he set Stephens going, and from the latter's pass Foulkes cut through beautifully. He ran some distance, but essaying a wide pass to Vears the ball went astray.

A magnificent rush by the Gloucester forwards, Westbury, Purton, and Goulding being to the fore, took a lot of stopping, but Lamond fearlessly dropped on the ball when matters looked dangerous. Gloucester, urged on by the shouts of their supporters, further improved their position. From a scrum Thorne broke through nicely and reached Oates, when he passed wide to Smith. The latter fielded the ball on the bounce, and cutting inside a couple of opponents scored a good try. Romans failed at goal.

On the re-start, Gloucester played up vigorously, and for a few minutes were all over their opponents. The Bristol defence, however, was very steady. In a collision a player on each side got laid out, but only a short delay occurred.

Resuming the City forwards made a great effort, and Bristol were sorely taxed. Receiving a pass from Thorne, Stephens cut through grandly and worked out a fine opening, but Hudson was too slow to take advantage. However, Gloucester stuck to their work, and following a series of passes the ball got across to Smith. The latter shook off a couple of opponents, but was again collared near the line. He, however, let the ball go, and after exciting work Johns secured and scored amidst frantic cheering, which was renewed when L. Vears kicked a goal, and gave the home men the lead of a point.

Bristol resumed, but they were at once forced back to their half. Both sides now worked with tremendous energy, but Gloucester were on top.

The visiting forwards were prominent with loose footwork, but the home defence was safe. Thorne was mainly responsible for relieving the home team, the Yorkley man dribbling clear and tackling Lamond at midfield. Then in the loose Foulkes dashed through and kicked past Oates. There was an exciting race for possession, but the Bristol custodian managed to get back and save on the verge of the line.

Gloucester made a great effort to increase their lead, but the defence was great. White brought Bristol the necessary relief, but it was only for a brief period. Oates, receiving from a kick by Stephens, ran and punted to Hudson, who attempted a cross-kick. The ball, however, got amongst the Bristol men and White securing he obtained a clear opening with the exception of Romans. He passed when reaching the City full-back, and the ball was kicked to near the Gloucester line, where Romans saved. Now followed an exciting period ending in the ball being sent over the line, for Romans to touch down.

Re-starting, Gloucester went right away to the Bristol quarter, where Oates was floored in possession, and thrown to touch. Immediately after a mistake by the home team let Bristol into their 25. Here Stephens got a kick charged down, and White was nearly over in the corner.

Bristol pressed after this, and a brilliant bout of passing saw Vaughan make a great effort to score in the corner, but he was held outside. The ball, however, became loose and out of a general scramble a Bristol forward was credited with a try. Oates failed at goal.

With only a few minutes left to play, Gloucester's chances of getting on terms again were not promising, but the City team did not relax their efforts. Bristol, however, held their own, and the finish came with the score unaltered.

#### RESULT :

Bristol .... 1 goal (d), 2 tries (10 points)

Gloucester ..... 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)

#### REMARKS

The game was remarkable for its evenness, for though Bristol had the pull in the first half the home team, by determined and well combined efforts, took a strong lead after the change of ends. Having once got in front, we looked forward to Gloucester recording a victory, but the tactics employed in the last ten minutes did not make for safety, and Bristol seizing an opening were not slow in taking advantage. Thus Gloucester for the third successive Saturday had to acknowledge defeat on their own ground.

In their latest performance, however, the City team showed great improvement on recent displays, and though beaten in points, they had the satisfaction of crossing the line the same number of times as their opponents. Oates' dropped goal – a very fine effort – was the means of giving the Bristolians their victory; otherwise there was really very little between the teams, and a drawn game would have best represented the run of play.

Without being a great game to watch, there was plenty of excitement, due to the dash and vigour imparted into the contest. At the outset the Bristol forwards asserted superiority in the scrums, and with their extra weight were often able to push the home men off the ball.

The visitors were undoubtedly the better side up to the interval, but from that point there was a reversal of things. Playing with desperate energy, the Gloucester pack for a long period in the second half were practically all over their opponents. They controlled the ball in the scrums, and in the loose brought off a number of superb rushes.

It was a little bit of the old form, and the crowd did not forget to show their appreciation. These special efforts were rewarded with a couple of tries, and Bristol were decidedly lucky in escaping so lightly, for at times they were desperately hard pressed. Individually on the Gloucester side, Goulding, Purton, Johns, and Westbury performed brilliantly in the open, though the latter was too prone to get off-side occasionally.

The other men worked their hardest, and it was a creditable performance to hold up so well against the powerful set opposed to them. Mathias, Moore, and Webb were a trio always to the fore for Bristol, the former using splendid judgment in the loose.

The work of both packs in the line out was good, and the tackling all through was very close and sure. At half, Gloucester found a really capable substitute for Morgan in Thorne, of Yorkley. It was Thorne's first appearance in first-class football, but he shaped like a workman, and created a most favourable impression. When the Gloucester forwards heeled, he showed real smartness in getting the ball away, and occasionally he got away cleverly all on his own. Stephens at once dropped into his style, and as a pair they were more effective than Straker and White, though the Bristolians were very active at times.

The Gloucester three-quarters were not, perhaps, so finished in their movements as their opponents, but much good work was accomplished both in attack and defence. Foulkes was an improvement on Rooke, the old St. Catherine's man being sharp on his man, and doing some effective tackling. Hudson was useful, but he attempts too much cross-kicking.



On the right wing, "Whacker" Smith showed all his old dash when he scored, and he was very useful in breaking up the Bristol passing. Vears missed gathering once or twice, and was hardly so prominent as against Swansea.

For Bristol, who got the ball very rarely in the second half, Lamond and Vaughan formed the strongest wing, the Scottish International frequently doing splendid service. Shewring did not distinguish himself, and Bell, except for an occasional run down touch, did not get a deal to do. The visitors passed prettily at times, and were a dangerous set when on the move. Coming to full back, both custodians were severely tested, and neither failed when called upon. Both players got in a number of fine kicks, but taking the whole game Oates was, perhaps, the safer of the two.

## GLOUCESTER A v. BRISTOL A

### A DRAWN GAME

Played on the County Ground, Bristol, in wet weather. Curtis and Spiers scored for Gloucester, and Owen for Bristol.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)

Bristol A ..... 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)