

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1903

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM

MATCH OF THE SEASON AT CHELTENHAM

THE TOWN'S RECORD ACHIEVEMENT

FIRST VICTORY OVER GLOUCESTER

GREAT ENTHUSIASM

Cheltenham's wonderful run of success this season, coupled with the fact that Gloucester are weaker than usual, added considerably to the interest arising out of the meeting between the rival teams at Cheltenham to-day. Twice last season Cheltenham gave the City team cause for anxiety, and few will forget the surprise they created at Kingsholm in the first match, when they actually led at the interval by 11 points to 5. There was a falling off, however, in the second half, and Gloucester ran out winners by 13 points to 11.

The return resulted in a draw of six points each, so that it may be gathered from this that Gloucester had nothing to give away. This season Cheltenham have performed with great credit, and the only blot on their record was the defeat sustained from Lydney. At Bristol last week the Town gained a decisive victory by 11 points to nil, but with only two or three regular players doing duty Bristol fully anticipated a reverse.

To-day Gloucester had three good forwards away in Hawker, Parham, and Johns (doing duty against Cornwall), but the side which Romans had at his command was a useful one, and included G. Williams, of Chepstow, who having obtained work at Gloucester, will regularly assist the City club.

G. H. Smith and F. Westbury (forwards) also re-appeared in the team, whilst to allow of Williams' inclusion at half-back Stephens returned to his old position at centre three-quarter.

Cheltenham had practically full strength out, and amongst their supporters there was a feeling of confidence that the team was capable of beating Gloucester.

The City were not sanguine, but whilst fully expecting a keen contest were hopeful of success. Unfortunately for the match from a gate point of view the weather turned out very unpleasant, a drizzling rain commencing to fall about an hour before the game was advertised to start. There was, however, a capital crowd round the enclosure, including a large contingent of Gloucester supporters.

There were no changes in the teams, and the players lined out in good time in the following order : –

GLOUCESTER	Positions	CHELTENHAM
G. Romans	Backs	E. Boite
L. Vears	Three-quarter	F. Fry
J. Stephens	Backs	F. H. Champain
G. Foulkes	"	G. Cotterell
C. Smith	"	C. Clifford
G. Williams	Half-Backs	G. T. Unwin
F. Keys	"	A. Goddard
F. Goulding	Forwards	L. Cook
G. H. Smith	"	J. Charlottes
A. Purton	"	G. Cossens
H. Taylor	"	G. L. Martyn
F. Pegler	"	C. Bennett
G. Vears	"	F. Jacob
F. Westbury	"	J. Dallimore
J. Gough	"	W. N. Unwin

Referee : Mr. F. Gill (Bristol)

Cheltenham won the toss, and Goulding kicked off for the visitors amidst great excitement. The Town captain failed to gather, and the City forwards kicked to touch in the home half. The Cheltenham forwards carried the first scrum and dribbled away but Vears fielded cleverly and punted back. A smart bit of work by Cheltenham in a line-out gained ground, but Williams replied with a nice kick, and mid-field was the scene of operations.

Goddard and a colleague, by a tricky bit of combination, caused Romans to handle, and from the latter's reply Clifford marked, finding touch inside the Gloucester 25. Wheeling the scrum in fine style the Gloucester forwards got going, and Fry missing, the home end was visited.

Cheltenham quickly cleared with a loose rush, and Romans had to save a dangerous movement, which he did effectually, and some lucky kicking on both sides followed, ending in C. Smith sending to Champain, who punted to touch.

Even play ensued, and then Cheltenham got well away with some clever footwork. Romans gathered, but the City captain had his kick charged down, and the visitors' lines narrowly escaped. From the scrum which followed, Goddard received, and passed to Unwin, and the ball going smartly along the line to Fry, the latter, with a determined effort, beat Vears and Romans and scored a fine try amid great enthusiasm. Unwin failed at goal.

Gloucester dropped out, and exciting play was witnessed in the City half. Champain put Cheltenham in a good position with a nice kick, but Stephens cleverly cleared and sent to Clifford. The ball was followed up, and off-side play by Cheltenham gave Gloucester a dozen yards. Keys, throwing out from a scrum to "Whacker" Smith, the latter handed to Williams, who kicked through and had the line at his mercy, but knocked on.

Gloucester worked hard now, and attacked desperately. Romans, with a well-judged kick, sent the ball to touch close to the Cheltenham line, where some exciting scrummage play ensued.

Keys and Williams robbed the home half-backs, and G. Smith and Westbury dribbled to the line, where Clifford took the ball over. A scrum was formed five yards out, and the ball coming out to Fry, the latter kicked clear. Cheltenham were now penalised, but Romans' shot for goal went wide, and only a minor resulted.

The Town resumed, and after an exchange of kicks Goddard found touch at mid-field. Carrying the scrum, the Cheltenham forwards looked dangerous until checked by Williams. The ball, however, getting loose again, Foulkes tried to kick, but the ball was charged down, and it went to touch. A brilliant bit of work by Goulding led to a sharp attack on the Cheltenham line. Boite let the ball slip from his grasp, and there was an open field, but Westbury mis-kicked and tuned the ball out of play.

With a big effort Cheltenham came away, and Champaign receiving possession at the centre brought off a brilliant run. He outpaced the Gloucester backs, and ran on to Romans, where he passed to Fry, for the latter to run round behind the posts. Unwin kicked an easy goal, and Cheltenham thus had a lead of 8 points.

Gloucester resumed, and some good kicking by Romans gave his side an advantage. Keys, however, was weak at the scrum, and twice in succession failed to get the ball away, after it had been heeled. A penalty to Gloucester saw Romans find touch inside the Town half with a lovely kick. The Gloucester forwards heeling, Keys fed Williams but the latter slipped.

Immediately after the City half-backs were away again, and Williams cut through nicely. Being hampered by an opponent, Williams sent out wide, and Vears took the ball beautifully, but failed to beat Boite. Gloucester, however, immediately after had a splendid chance of scoring, but Foulkes knocked on when there was a clear field for C. Smith.

Some loose play followed in Cheltenham's quarters, and Williams charging down a kick he took the ball over the line, only to see Boite send dead.

Resuming, Cheltenham found a footing in the Gloucester end, but Westbury and Goulding dribbled half the length of the field, and only just failed to score. To the interval Gloucester pressed, but there was no more scoring.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Cheltenham 1 goal 1 try
Gloucester Nil

W. N. Unwin re-started, and Stephens found touch nicely with his return. Cheltenham were immediately prominent, and Stephens mis-kicking the home forwards rushed away, only to be stopped daringly by C. Smith. A wild pass by G. T. Unwin lost Cheltenham ground, and Gloucester reached mid-field.

Here Keys received and put in a cross-kick, but the ball went to Clifford, who replied. A home forward, however, tackled off-side, and a scrum was ordered well inside the Cheltenham half. The home forwards heeled, and Goddard passed to Unwin, the latter's kick being charged down by Stephens, who ran and picked up. When faced by Boite he essayed a pass, but the ball was knocked on.

Cheltenham attempted passing in their 25, and failing to handle accurately, Gloucester were nearly over. The Town forwards relieved, but C. Smith fielding made a dash through, but was pulled down on the quarter line.

The home forwards were again prominent, and C. Smith being at fault, Cheltenham had a good chance, but Vears saved and put in a fine kick to touch. The Town changed the venue, and play for the next few minutes was of a give and take character.

Gloucester at length took up the running, and with a determined forward burst took the ball right to the Cheltenham line, where Champain effected a good save. Williams tried to break through from a pass by Keys, but he was smothered. Then W. Unwin, with a flying kick, sent to Boite, who missed.

Again Cheltenham's line was open, but Gloucester failed to make the best use of their chances. For two or three minutes Cheltenham were desperately hard pressed, but Gloucester could not penetrate the defence.

W. N. Unwin marking, he kicked down to Romans, but the City back replied with interest, and Gloucester were having slightly the better of the exchanges now. Champain, snapping a pass, executed a fine run, and only a bad transfer robbed Cheltenham of a try.

Gloucester made headway with a loose rush, but lost ground through mistakes by the backs, and Cotterell kicking on Romans only saved on the line. Cheltenham struggled hard to increase their score, but the defence prevailed.

Then good work by Keys started Gloucester on a capital movement. The forwards, Purton and Gough leading, took the ball past all opposition, but at the critical moment Champain dashed up and touched down. After this Gloucester again had a glorious chance of scoring, but Westbury over-ran the ball when about a dozen yards from the line.

The last five minutes proved very exciting, and after Cheltenham had nearly scored, Gloucester, through Williams, attacked with vigour. Vears scored in the corner after a smart effort, but the goal kick failed. In the last minute Gloucester nearly scored again, but Boite saved.

RESULT :

Cheltenham 1 goal 1 try (8 point)
Gloucester 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

After years of waiting Cheltenham have at last achieved their great ambition, and here we may offer our congratulations to the Town representatives on their triumph. It was deservedly obtained if only for the manner in which they took advantage of the openings which came their way.

Both tries scored by Fry were the outcome of brilliant back play, and there could be no question that behind the scrum Cheltenham held the advantage. They played a better combined game, and the men had the pace of the Gloucester line all through.

Disappointing as the result must be to the City, the visitors had themselves largely to blame for the defeat. They had the opportunities of scoring, but somehow the men failed miserably when near the line.

In the last few minutes there was a great improvement, and just at the end it looked possible for Gloucester to save the game. Boite, however, made a fine save right on time, and Cheltenham maintained their lead to the great delight of their supporters.

The game was exciting, and there was plenty of good football despite the unfavourable state of the ground and ball. Forward, Gloucester were the stronger eight, and the only fault that could be urged against them was lack of judgment when in a scoring position.

The City pack worked desperately, and with good effect, in the tight scrums, and in the loose some splendid work was accomplished by Goulding, Gough, Westbury, and Purton.

Cheltenham stuck to their task splendidly, and at times they were clever and resourceful in the loose. Martyn, Jacob, Unwin, and Charlottes were a hard working quartette, but their colleagues were not far behind, and the whole pack tackled well.

At half-back G. T. Unwin and Goddard made a smart pair, and were more effective than Keys and Williams. Keys, though doing useful work, was not consistent, and was slow in giving out passes. This handicapped Williams, who was closely marked by the opposition. The Chepstow man, however, used his feet cleverly, and twice he almost cleared the defence.

At three-quarter, Cheltenham had the better line. Champain stood out as the most brilliant player on the field. He was equally successful in attack and defence, and to him Cheltenham owed a great deal for their victory. Fry proved a strong and dangerous man to stop when set going, and his first try was well deserved. Cotterell played a dashing game, and Clifford, with fewer chances, made no mistake.

It was not until the last ten minutes that the Gloucester backs did anything worthy of notice. All were at fault in handling, Foulkes being an especial offender. Stephens was useful in the centre, but he was not properly supported.

On the wings Vears scored his try in smart fashion, and on the day's play he was better than "Whacker" Smith, who was below par. Romans, except for an occasional mistake, gave a satisfactory display, though he failed in his attempt to stop Fry when the latter scored his first try.

The Gloucester captain kicked well, but might have found touch more often. The same remark applies to Boite in this connection. The Cheltenham custodian was at fault several times in fielding, and he was extremely lucky in getting out of difficult positions more than once.

At the close of the game great enthusiasm prevailed, and the Cheltenham players were accorded an ovation. Outside the ground a band struck up "See the conquering hero," and headed a cheering crowd through the streets.

The inevitable "mourning card" was on sale after the match, and the vendors plied a good trade.

GLOUCESTER A v. CHELTENHAM A
CITY SECOND STRING SUCCESSFUL

There was only a small crowd at Kingsholm to witness the meeting of these teams. The sides lined out as follows, Gloucester only playing fourteen men : –

Gloucester A : – A. F. Pugh, back; T. Curtis, F. Carr, H. Cooke, and F. Hook, three-quarter backs; J. Romans and A. Goddard, half-backs; T. Spiers (captain), J. Webb, R. Sly, H. Quixley, F. Pyart, H. Lane, and H. Aston, forwards.

Cheltenham A : – B. Daunter, back; F. Crisp, T. Crisp, S. T. Smith, and W. Wheeler, three-quarter backs; C. Fisher and S. Speary, half-backs; A. Neulbrook, B. V. Fisher, H. Cooper, L. Seage, W. Ward, F. Juggins, H. Bunstone, and H. Pearce, forwards.

Referee : Mr. H. Jones.

Gloucester kicked off from the Worcester-street end, and play of a somewhat scrambling nature ensued. The ball was kept for a time dangerously near the home line, Pugh at one time just saving a try. Carr checked a forward movement of the visiting forwards by a kick into touch. Pugh relieved by a clever kick, as the result of which the local men visited the Cheltenham half. Cooke kicked cleverly up field, and a moment later, as the result of a visitor failing in an attempt to "mark," the home forwards got away. A pretty bit of passing among the three-quarters brought the home team into the Cheltenham 25, and a moment later a touch-down robbed the Gloucester men of three points.

Following on the drop-out Cheltenham got into Gloucester territory. Relief was brought by a forward rush, but the Gloucester three-quarters mulled a capital opportunity of getting away. Play was now in the home 25 again. Romans turned the leather cleverly into touch. Cooke got away from a line-out, but was tackled by the visiting custodian, whom alone he had to pass.

The same player made another likely effort, and the prospects of the home team, who were now hovering around the Cheltenham goal, were considerably brightened. Gloucester were awarded a free for a foul, but nothing came of the attempt. Smith bolted away down the field for the visitors, but was collared in time.

Pugh mulled in the face of a rush, but Cooke saved the situation. Romans put in a long kick, for which the Cheltenham back was obliged to race, but he succeeded in securing and returning smartly.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A Nil
Cheltenham A Nil

Re-starting, the home team got off in grand style. Daunter was prominent for capital defence, and the inviolability of the visitors goal was chiefly due to his efforts. Gloucester were now making strenuous efforts to score.

A capital round of passing among the three-quarters resulted in Cook having the ball; he bolted cleverly across the field, and at the right moment transferred to Carr, who scurried across with a well-earned try. The attempt at conversion was unsuccessful.

Gloucester continued to press hotly, and a few minutes later Aston popped over in the left-hand corner. Pugh took the kick, and landed a beautiful goal, whereat there was great rejoicing.

The light was growing bad when Cheltenham got up into Gloucester country again. Pugh was winded, but soon resumed his place, and the home forwards gave the visitors an anxious moment, which, however, they survived.

The ground was very sloppy and the ball greasy, which put accuracy at a premium. Curtis made off with the ball, but with only Daunter to pass found the Cheltenham custodian all there.

The home fourteen were now in a winning mood, and continued to press, and Carr almost secured another try. Daunter showed up well, saving the situation again and again. F. Crisp got away in his own 25, and racing magnificently ahead, successfully eluded Pugh and planted the ball behind the Gloucester posts, securing a splendid try, which Daunter converted.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 1 goal 1 try (8 points)

Cheltenham A 1 goal (5 points)

JC