

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1903

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL

KEEN RIVALS AT THE COUNTY GROUND

SECOND MEETING OF THE SEASON

CITIZENS BEATEN BY SEVEN POINTS

Gloucester and Bristol were engaged at the County Ground, Bristol, to-day, in the second of the four fixtures arranged between the clubs this season. As usual great interest was taken in the meeting of these keen rivals, and with every prospect of another close game a fair crowd of spectators assembled to witness the contest, a good number of Gloucester supporters taking advantage of the excursion run by the Midland Railway.

Bristol won three out of the four games played between the teams last season, and in the first match this year Gloucester also had to acknowledge defeat, though they were very unlucky in being on the losing side in this instance. On the season's work Bristol held the better record, but the home team were very uncertain about the result of to-day's game.

Two of the best forwards on the side – Mathias and Moore – were playing for the South in the International trial, and their absence was expected to seriously weaken the pack.

Outside the scrum the regular players were operating with the exception of Lamond, who met with a severe strain in the match against Oxford University. In his place Scott, of the A team, was introduced.

The Gloucester team was not definitely settled until late in the week, and then it was found several changes had been made from the original selection. Goulding was called upon as reserve for the South, and J. Thorne (suffering from a bad cold) was also an absentee. These two vacancies were filled by the inclusion of G. Vears and C. Gent. The latter player is a member of the Cheltenham Training College Fifteen, and several times has played for scratch teams under Romans' captaincy.

The most important alteration, however, was at centre three-quarter, in which position J. Harrison (Lydney) appeared. Harrison has obtained employment in the city, and being available the Gloucester club gladly accepted his services. Romans, who was chosen for the three-quarter line, accordingly went to full-back, and Lindsay Vears stood down.

Generally the match was regarded as a very open affair, with but very little scoring either way.

The following were the teams : —

GLOUCESTER	Positions	BRISTOL
G. Romans	Backs	J. Oates
C. Smith	Three-quarter	R. G. Vaughan
J. Harrison	Backs	M. S. Scott
J. Stephens	"	H. Shewring
A. Hudson	"	R. M. Bell
G. Williams	Half-Backs	W. Needs
C. Gent	"	T. White
B. Parham	Forwards	T. Webb
G. Vears	"	E. Myer
A. Hawker	"	A. Stubbs
W. Johns	"	W. H. Needs
A. Purton	"	G. Paul
J. Gough	"	J. Vinnicombe
G. H. Smith	"	E. Kibbey
F. Pegler	"	J. W. Jarman

The weather turned out very wretched, which considerably affected the attendance. J. W. Jarman filled the vacant position in the Bristol forwards. The home team started against the wind, and play opened in the Gloucester half.

Bristol early started in a bout of passing, but it broke down, and a good kick by C. Smith enabled Gloucester to reach the centre. Midfield play followed till Williams, from a pass by Gent, found touch close to Bristol's 25. Williams after this made a strong burst but he was collared, and Bristol cleared by marking.

A good bit of work by Gent took Gloucester very close, but Hudson by a wild pass, let Bell away. The latter kicked to Romans, who sent to touch nicely. Williams put Gloucester in a good position again, and Parham and Hawker dribbled clear to Oates. Needs badly fouled Parham, and Bristol were penalised, but nothing resulted.

Ensuing play was mostly forward, Bristol showing up well with a couple of good rushes. A Gloucesterian kicked smartly to Oates, who only made a moderate reply. The visitors were doing well in all departments, and had the better of play, but could not gain an opening.

A dashing burst by the City forwards looked promising, and Bell mis-kicking, Gloucester were dangerous. Williams getting possession, worked out a nice opening, but Harrison threw forward when he was practically through. After this lucky escape Bristol worked hard and reached the centre. Harrison was twice prominent with smart efforts which kept Bristol at bay for a time. The home team, however, returned to the attack, and a clever run by White placed Gloucester under their posts. Here Needs secured and passed to Shewring, who dropped a goal amidst great enthusiasm.

Gloucester re-started and at once attacked. Bristol cleared slightly, but Williams ran back beautifully to Oates and passed to Hudson, but the latter missed. Immediately after Harrison was only held a yard outside.

Gloucester were now having all the game, but could not get any luck. Bristol defended well against wind and rain, and eventually rushed to mid-field. Clever play by Harrison sent them back, and then the interval was called.

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

Gloucester re-started in a terrific storm of wind and rain. There was only a weak reply, and Gloucester had a fine chance to score in the corner. The forwards handled, but a transfer was dropped at the final moment. From this point Bristol wheeled and rushed out of danger, Romans kicking to touch.

Some exciting forward work followed, but there was not much in it. Cross-kicking by Vaughan looked promising, but Shewring missed. Bristol pressed for a brief period, but Williams broke away grandly and fed Smith. The latter, however, was upset by Oates when looking dangerous. Hudson was injured in a tackle and had to retire.

Gloucester resuming with fourteen men, Bristol at once took up the running, and were nearly over near the posts. Immediately after Shewring missed dropping another goal, the ball going wide of the posts. Gloucester only played three three-quarters, but despite this disadvantage the City team did well. A fine rush by the forwards took the ball well down, but Oates saved near the line. Bristol kicked out, but Williams, with a tricky bit of work, returned play to the home quarters. Bristol came away with big kicks and attacked, but were beaten off. Oates, however, forced a minor from a long kick over the line.

Resuming, the Gloucester forwards showed up with some grand work, which gave them an advantage. Twice they went close to the line, but the defence was safe. Some long kicking, aided by the wind, enabled Bristol to remove the situation, and ensuing play was fought out in the Gloucester half.

The game was confined principally to the forwards, and both sides showed good form on the treacherous ground. In the last ten minutes Bristol pressed severely, and from a bout of passing along the three-quarter line Bell scored in the corner, but Oates failed to convert.

Gloucester were kept on the defence, but the visitors offered a bold front. Rushing the scrums, Bristol once went right to the line, but Gloucester managed to save. Amidst excitement Gloucester worked out to the 25, where the game was being contested at the close.

#### RESULT :

Bristol ..... 1 goal (d), 1 try (7 points)  
Gloucester ..... Nil

#### REMARKS

The match was played under the worst possible conditions; but despite the vile state of the ground the game was splendidly fought out. Gloucester ought to have made the game safe in the first half, for with the wind helping them they had much the better of the game. Williams, too, made a couple of beautiful openings, whilst Harrison threw away a certain try through passing when he could easily have gone in himself.

In the second half Gloucester were handicapped by the absence of Hudson, who injured his shoulder. It was some time, however, before Bristol gained the upper hand, but the last ten minutes were certainly in their favour. Forward there was a great fight between the rival packs, and there was no great advantage to either side. Williams and Gent did splendidly at half for Gloucester, and Harrison was clever and resourceful at three-quarter. It was not a day for back play, and there was consequently little combination.

On the whole Bristol just about deserved to win, but with fair weather conditions the result might have been reversed, for Gloucester showed great improvement behind the scrum. Oates and Romans were about on a par at full back, and the three-quarters Smith, Stephens, Vaughan, and Shewring were the pick.

GLOUCESTER A v BRISTOL A  
CITIZENS' SECOND STRING SUCCESSFUL  
A REGRETTABLE ACCIDENT

These old rivals renewed acquaintance at Kingsholm, before a small attendance.

The teams were : –

Gloucester A : F. Pugh, back; F. Carr, H. Cook, E. Hook, and T. Curtis, three-quarter backs; B. Baldwin and A. Goddard, half-backs; T. Spiers, H. Critchley, Howard Harris, F. Westbury, H. Taylor, F. Pyart, R. Sly, and T. Webb, forwards.

Bristol A : W. Nott, back; West, Babbington, Chick, and W. Tily, three-quarter backs; Aven and Rimington, half-backs; Yeomans, Baker, Kerslake, Moxey, Phillips, Hamilton, Hopkins, and Davis, forwards.

About twenty minutes late Bristol started against the strong wind, one man short. Pugh put in a good return, and this being followed by good passing, Gloucester at once pressed. Curtis made a good attempt at a drop-goal, the ball striking the upright.

Bristol got the ball out, and Chick and Tily showed good passing, but Cook collared the latter and stopped the movement. Carr received from Goddard, but failed to gather properly. However, the Gloucester forwards rushed the ball on and over the line, and Pyart was credited with a try in the corner. Pugh failed at the kick.

Gloucester returned to the attack after the drop-out, and Bristol's fifteenth man now arrived. Bristol worked up to the centre, and a three-quarter punted up to Pugh, who was bowled over. However, the Bristolians knocked-on, and were soon after called back 20 yards for off-side.

The visitors were now playing up strongly, and reached the home 25, but the forwards and Carr carried the game to beyond the centre. The Gloucester forwards heeled nicely, but Goddard held too long, and the passing of the home outsides was faulty. However, with a fine rush the Gloucester forwards carried the ball over the line and Westbury scored, Pugh failing at the awkward angle.

Following the drop-out, some tight scrimmaging was seen, but the Gloucester men failed to appreciate the help the wind was giving them, and did not kick so frequently as they should have done when they got the ball.

Westbury made a mark, and Pugh made an excellent attempt at goal, the ball striking the post. Gloucester attacked again, but Bristol relieved with a free.

Phillips got possession, and when tackled by Pugh, he passed to Rimington at the half-way line, and the latter ran right away from all opposition and scored a splendid, well-deserved try right under the posts. The kick, however failed. Gloucester again returned to the attack, and were near the line at half-time.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester .....2 tries  
Bristol ..... 1 try

The game was resumed in the gathering darkness, and it was very difficult to distinguish the players. Curtis put in a splendid run and kick to touch, putting the home team in a good position. A clever movement initiated by Baldwin, in which Goddard and Curtis participated, ended in the latter scoring a capital try in the corner. Pugh's kick failed.

Owen and Rimington were working the scrums very smartly for Bristol, and the visiting three-quarters showed pretty passing, but they lacked finesse, and the defence was equal to the occasion.

The Gloucester forwards responded with a telling rush, which was by far the best tactics, as the rain made the ball very treacherous to handle. A Bristolian was laid out with an injured leg, and had to be attended to by the St. John Ambulance men.

Nott saved from a dangerous rush headed by Westbury. Immediately after Pugh had to touch down from a long kick over the line. Bristol returned the drop-out to touch within a yard of the line. However, Gloucester worked out of danger. Bristol were not to be denied, however, and after a tricky run Chick score a smart try, which was not converted.

It was now too dark to distinguish one man from the rest and the referee would have been quite justified in stopping the game.

Curtis made a good dribble, and carried the game to within a yard or two of the Bristol line, but Nott saved in the nick of time, and there was a fierce struggle near the home line for a moment or two. Bristol eventually broke away, and the game was being contested on their 25-line when no-side was called.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 3 tries (9 points)  
Bristol A ..... 2 tries (6 points)

#### REMARKS

It was feared that Kerslake, the Bristolian who was injured, had broken his leg, and after receiving first aid he was conveyed to the Gloucester Infirmary under the superintendence of Mr. M. G. Matty.

As to the game itself, little need be said. It was contested for the most part in semi-darkness, and the ball and ground were made in a very slippery state by the rain. This may have been responsible for many of the mistakes made.



But even with this drawback taken into consideration, it cannot be said that the home team made the most of all their opportunities. The passing was poor, and in the loose the men repeatedly over-ran the ball, but they were the holders of the whip hand throughout and deserved their victory. Pugh was not in his best form at back, and kicked weakly for him. The three-quarters were on the whole good, with the exception of the handling, and Baldwin and Goddard, although there were misunderstandings between them, played a good game.

Westbury and Spiers led the forwards well, and their rushes were carried out with force and dash, Harris and Taylor being generally prominent.

For the Bristolians, Rimington, who is a fast runner, played an excellent game, and Phillips in the forwards worked hard.

On enquiry at the Infirmary we learn that Kerslake fortunately escaped a breakage, but his leg was badly bruised, and he was detained.