### THE CITIZEN

# SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1904.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL.

KINGSHOLM MEN ON TOP.

### A FIVE POINTS' VICTORY.

The return match between these clubs was played at Kingsholm. Bristol, unfortunately, were weak, the absentees including Oates, Lamond, Smith, Wood, Webb, and Moore.

Owing to the severe frost on Friday night the ground was on the hard side, but the teams decided to play, the players lining out before a fair attendance at 2.50 as follows:

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	BRISTOL.
G. Romans	Backs.	L. Cranfield
C. Smith	Three-quarter	F. S. Scott
E. Hall	backs.	H. Shewring
J. Harrison	11	G. Chick
A. Hudson	11	J. H. Inskip
D. R. Gent	Half-Backs.	J. Spoors
J. Stephens	11	A. Straker
W. Johns (capt.)	Forwards.	J. L. Mathias (capt.)
B. Parham	11	D. Brown
A. Hawker	11	A. R. Chichester
F. Pegler	11	W. H. Neads
G. Matthews	11	E. Meyer
G. Vears	11	H. Thomas
H. Collins	11	L. Meyer
J. Jewell	11	G. Paul

Referee: Mr. F. W. NICHOLLS (Leicester).

### THE GAME.

Bristol won the toss, and Johns started for the home team with a poor kick, which Chichester returned. Hudson took the ball in the field of play, but touch was given, and the first line-out took place in the Gloucester half. Loose play gave Bristol a slight advantage, but a home player punted down to Shewring, who fielded cleverly and sent to Romans, who only got in a weak return.

Several scrums followed at midfield, the Gloucester pack generally getting possession, but little ground was gained. From a punt by Stephens, Scott essayed a drop at goal from near the centre, but the ball went wide. Another nice kick transferred play close to the Gloucester line, where Stephens came away cleverly. A neat pass to Hudson saw the wing man dash down touch, but Brown effected a grand tackle.

Some smart work by Bristol gave the visitors an advantage, Scott doing a sharp run down touch. Stephens, with a short run and punt, gained relief, Scott being pulled down before he could get in a reply. Gloucester were now on the centre mark, where loose scrum work enabled Hawker to pick up and send to C. Smith, who transferred to Hall. The latter cross-punted, and there was a fine race between Cranfield and Hudson for possession. The Bristol custodian just got up in time and kicked to touch.

Gloucester playing well together attacked strongly, and some pretty passing looked promising for a score. Parham cut out a nice opening, and E. Hall ran right to the line, when he passed to a forward, who was pulled down, a few feet outside. From a scrum under the Bristol goal, the ball came out nicely to Harrison, who attempted a drop at goal, but it did not come off, a touchdown resulting.

Following the drop-out there was some nice kicking by Romans and Shewring ending in play settling at the centre. A mistake by Spoors let Gloucester inside their opponents' end, but a big punt changed the venue.

Fast following up by the Gloucester forwards and keen tackling by Johns, were prominent features of ensuing play, which was contested in the Bristol half. At length Spoors kicked away from a scrum and sent past Romans, but the City ex-captain managed to send dead from the field of play. A scrum followed five yards out, and Bristol were in a dangerous position. Intercepting cleverly, however, Hall broke clean away to the full-back, when he tried a lofty pass to Smith. The ball, however, went wide, and a fine chance was lost.

The Gloucester forwards heeling well, Gent and Stephens got the ball away smartly, but the handling was weak, and one or two fine openings were thrown away. Bristol eased the pressure somewhat, but from near the centre Hudson brought off a magnificent run, in which he cleared all the opposition except Cranfield. In attempting to cut inside the full-back, he was collared from behind, and a splendid effort went unrewarded.

Chichester made a strong burst for Bristol, but Vears threw him to touch in fine fashion. Bristol, however, made headway, until checked by Stephens and Gent, who dribbled nicely. Then a punt from a penalty by Romans found touch well inside the Bristol half, Scott misjudging the ball badly. Fielding the ball beautifully from the feet of the Bristol forwards, Gent set his three-quarters in motion, and another grand run was made by Hudson, but the defence was too strong.

Wheeling a scrum the City forwards, headed by Pegler, Parham, and Johns, dribbled in grand style straight for the goal. A score appeared certain, but Bristol saved in miraculous fashion. In the next minute Stephens secured and handed out wide to Hudson, who knocked on in taking the ball or a certain score would have been made. Gloucester continued to have all the game, but just prior to the interval Spoors cleared with some clever footwork, Hall saving by kicking to touch.

HALF-TIME SCORE	•
Gloucester	Nil
<b>Bristol</b>	Nil

Mathias resumed, the ball going to Parham, who put in a feeble punt to touch just outside the Gloucester 25. From a throw-out E. Meyer secured and punted to Romans, who made his mark and found touch with a nice kick. A penalty soon afterwards fell to Bristol for legs up, but Shewring only forced a minor from the kick.

The drop-out was returned by Shewring, but Stephens' reply was misfielded, and the Gloucester forwards took the ball down to Cranfield. The latter picked up and punted to touch, thus clearing a dangerous movement. The Bristol forwards rushed several scrums in dashing style, but they were checked on the 25 line, Romans making another mark.

Here Hawker, from out of some loose play put in a huge punt, and there was a big race for the ball. Hall got up in front of Cranfield, but the leather slipped out of his hands as he dashed through — hard lines. Bristol were penalised for off-side play just now, but Romans' shot for goal went wide.

Gloucester returned to the attack on the drop-out, and a magnificent bit of footwork by Matthews nearly ended in a score, Bristol saving on the line. From a good position Gent fed Stephens, but the latter's pass was dropped, and E. Meyer dribbled away cleverly to beyond the centre. The game was very fast and exciting, but the greasy ground spoiled some promising passing movements.

Bristol were not slow in profiting by the mistakes of the home men, and Romans was twice called upon in quick succession, which he did effectually. Hudson was conspicuous hereabouts with some dashing work, but he could not get an opening. Back Bristol came with a loose rush, and Spoors, with a cross-punt found touch near the Gloucester 25. The City team quickly changed the venue, and from some cross-kicking a fine opening came to Hudson. The City player, however, over-ran the ball, and another grand chance went astray.

Gloucester continued to go very well, and play was exceptionally keen. Gent and Hudson both did some fine work, but the attacks were always nipped in the bud. Hudson with a short run and punt sent to Cranfield, who marked. His kick went to touch, and from a short line-out Hudson secured from Stephens and raced over behind the posts, the Bristol men making no attempt to stop him. The referee appealed to Mr. Jarman (the touchjudge) if there was any infringement, but apparently nothing was wrong, and the try was allowed, Romans adding the extra points.

After the re-start Bristol found a footing in the Gloucester end, and from a penalty Shewring had a drop for goal, but it was not successful. There was a lot of scrambling play on the drop-out, but at length Stephens and Smith indulged in some beautiful inter-passing which severely tested the Bristol defence. To the end matters favoured Gloucester, but nothing further was scored.

#### **RESULT:**

Gloucester ....... 1 goal (5 points) Bristol ...... Nil

### REMARKS.

Considering their weakened ranks Bristol put up a plucky fight. Taking the run of play, however, Gloucester ought to have won by at least a dozen points. In the first half especially Gloucester were by far the superior team, and it was only the hardest of luck that robbed the City of two or three tries.

Bristol played a stronger game on the change of ends, and several dangerous forward bursts severely taxed the home defence. The winning try was a soft affair, and the Bristol players were evidently caught napping. Hudson and Stephens worked the short line between them nicely, and the former had practically an unopposed run-in.

The ground and ball were very slippery, and this handicapped the home players, who went in for rather too much passing. Some pretty work was witnessed at times, and Hudson brought off several fine runs, but a little more footwork would probably have led to more effective results.

The Gloucester forwards played a hard game, and in the scrums they had a distinct advantage over the Bristol pack. In the loose and line outs, matters were more even, Matthews, Pegler, Johns, and Parham being particularly prominent for Gloucester, whilst Mathias, E. Meyer, and Chichester were best for Bristol.

At half-back Gent and Stephens displayed clever combination, the former gathering the ball and getting it away in first-class style. Spoors was the more prominent of the Bristol halves, and he showed surprising pace on one or two occasions.

In the three-quarter line Hudson put in a tremendous amount of work, and outshone his colleagues. Two or three of his runs deserved better success, for he had clean beaten the opposition with the exception of Cranfield.

Harrison and Hall were both distinguished for smart efforts, but their transfers were not always well judged. On the right wing "Whacker" Smith did not get much of a show, and Scott on the opposite side was not overburdened.

Shewring was easily the pick of the Bristol back division, and his splendid kicking was of inestimable service to the visitors. Romans made no serious mistake to-day, and he improved in his kicking as the game progressed.

Cranfield made a fair substitute for Oates, and saved well when things looked very ominous for Bristol. Oates was a spectator of the match, and agreed that Gloucester deserved their victory. The county custodian who was greatly impressed with Hudson's display, does not expect to be able to play again for five or six weeks.

# GLOUCESTER A v. BRISTOL A.

## HANDSOME WIN FOR GLOUCESTER.

At Bristol, before a good attendance. Bristol started, and commenced attacking, Watts relieving well. A free brought Bristol up again, but a forward pass by Gloucester was unnoticed, and, Hughes beating his man, passed to Smith, who scored. The kick failed.

Bristol, following this reverse, played strongly, and Parsons scored, the kick failing. The Bristol forwards repeatedly obtained the ball, and following the Gloucester try did all the pressing.

HALF-TIME SCORE	Ξ:
Gloucester	1 try
Bristol	1 try

In the second half Gloucester did all the attacking. Hughes made a mark, but his kick hit the cross-bar. Following this Smith dropped a clever goal, Hyam scored a try, and Hughes dropped a second goal.

The Bristol passing was poor, and Gloucester again getting in their 25, Hyam scored, Hughes converting.

RESU	ILT:
Gloucester 3 goals	(2d), 2 tries (19 points)
Bristol	1 try (3 points)