

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1905.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. LEICESTER.

TABLES TURNED AT KINGSHOLM.

A POOR EXHIBITION.

The Midland champions appeared at Kingsholm for the return match with Gloucester. This was the opening fixture of Leicester's Easter tour, the other matches being with Plymouth on Monday, and Bristol on Tuesday.

Gloucester fielded full strength with the exception of Pegler, whilst the visitors brought a strong team, the sides lining out as follows : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	LEICESTER.
G. Romans	Backs.	P. Lockman
C. Smith	Three-quarter	A. E. Hind
E. Hall	backs.	A. J. Jackett
J. Harrison	"	J. W. Bainbridge
A. Hudson	"	A. O. Parsons
D. R. Gent	Half-Backs.	J. Braithwaite
J. Stephens	"	B. Hills
W. Johns (capt.)	Forwards.	S. Matthews (capt.)
B. Parham	"	S. Penny
A. Hawker	"	L. Bennett
G. Gough	"	A. Goodrich
J. Jewell	"	R. F. Russell
G. Matthews	"	D. B. Atkins
G. Vears	"	J. Jackson
H. Quixley	"	W. Dann

Referee : Mr. T. ENGLAND (Newport).

THE GAME.

There was a splendid attendance when at 3.55 the teams took the field, the delay in the start being occasioned through the late arrival of the visitors.

Leicester were successful in the toss, and elected to defend the Dean's Walk goal. Hawker sent the ball in motion, and both sides were early penalised. Little ground accrued to either team, and opening play took place at the centre. Wheeling the scrum, the visitors gained a few yards, but the ball was turned to touch by Hudson. Here another penalty fell to Gloucester, but the kick was well returned, and then for off-side the City came under the ban of the referee.

There was some misunderstanding between Gent and Romans as to who should take the ball, with the result that the Leicester forwards got up, and but for the smartness of Gent matters might have gone badly for the home team. Heeling by the visiting forwards saw Braithwaite given possession, but Gent tackled his opponent, and the ball getting loose the Gloucester forwards dribbled down until stopped by Parsons.

The Midlanders gained ground from a line-out, and then from a long pass by Parsons, Bainbridge ran down, with Hind on his left. The centre, however, held on too long, and was finely tackled by Smith and Hall. Play was taken close to the home line, where Gent secured possession and punted out to Lockman, who marked. His kick was taken by Harrison, who passed to Romans, but the latter only kicked straight to touch.

The referee's whistle was continually going for infringements in the scrum, and the game consequently was devoid of any incident. Leicester lost ground through passing, and the City team gained a footing near mid-field. Here the Gloucester forwards heeled nicely, but the passing went astray, and little headway was made. A big punt by Romans was taken by Hind, who raced across the ground, but with no advantage to his side, as the ball went straight to touch on the other side.

Leicester worked down by the aid of kicking, but Gloucester replied with a grand rush from a throw out, Lockman effecting a nice save at the centre. Stephens and Gent, with a neat bit of work, made a few yards, but the Leicester forwards sent the game back with a forward burst, Gent stopping them cleverly. Immediately after the visitors forced a minor as the result of a kick over the line.

On the drop-out there was an exciting scramble amongst the forwards, which caused the referee to interfere. Resuming, Jackett punted down to Smith, who was collared, but managed to pass to Hall. The latter got in a good kick, but there was a reply to the Gloucester end, where a most disgraceful scene took place. A City player was on the ground with a couple of Leicester players kicking him repeatedly. The referee interfered as soon as possible, and the visitors were warned. There were loud shouts for the men to be turned off, but the referee was satisfied with the warning.

Hudson was prominent just after with a good run, but the play was absolutely devoid of anything approaching decent football. At length E. Hall showed up with a clever dribble, which the forwards well backed up, with the result that the game was taken to the Leicester 25. The visitors worked out, and then a pass from Gent to Stephens was not taken, and Leicester reached mid-field. Soon afterwards the interval was taken.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester Nil
Leicester Nil

Matthews re-started, and Harrison replied well to just beyond the centre. Mistakes by Gent and Romans allowed the visitors to reach the home 25, but a neat passing movement and a good kick brought the City to mid-field again. Here the Gloucester backs were started, but the passing went wrong, and Hind kicked to Romans. The latter fielded all right, and kicked to touch beautifully. From a scrum near the line Stephens fed Hudson, who punted neatly, and following up spoiled the return.

The ball getting loose, E. Hall and Parham dribbled on, but Hind racing along kicked dead from the field of play. A scrum followed from the point where the ball was kicked. Leicester wheeled in fine style. Gent, however, picked up in grand style, and with a beautiful kick dropped a goal amidst great cheering.

Leicester resumed, but Gloucester playing up strongly had the better of the exchanges. Good work by Gent gave Gloucester the advantage, and Lockman was floored once in his own half. Penalty kicks followed in quick succession to either side, and the constant interruption spoiled the game entirely. From a long throw-out Parham secured nicely, but his pass was taken by Jackett, who punted to touch. Ensuing play was fairly even, but there was little back play, and the contest resolved itself into a fight forward.

Romans was prominent twice with lovely touch-finders, and again when he made his mark under great pressure. Leicester, getting the ball out, tried passing, and Jackett punted well inside the home half. E. Hall stopped a dangerous rush of the visitors very cleverly, and Hind did ditto when the Gloucester men got off. Leicester worked to inside the home half, where Hind was set going. The sprinter raced across the ground and transferred to Jackett, but Hudson intercepted and made off at a good pace. He was, however, overhauled by Hind.

The game was keenly contested, but Gloucester were going well, and a round of passing saw Hudson pushed to touch by Parsons. A kick-out by Lockman went to Romans, who cross-punted and put his men on-side. Lockman failed to gather, and "Whacker" Smith gathering neatly ran through a host of opponents and over the line with a fine try. Romans converted, and this placed the result beyond doubt.

Leicester resumed, but soon afterwards the end was sounded.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 goals (1d) (9 points)
Leicester Nil

REMARKS.

As a display of football the match was a huge disappointment, and the refereeing tended not a little towards the very unsatisfactory game which resulted. There was scarcely five minutes' consecutive play throughout the whole match, and at times the game was a veritable farce.

The continual whistle blowing led to the players getting out of temper, and there were several regrettable scenes. The worst incident was the deliberate kicking of a Gloucester man on the ground, and had the referee ordered the offenders off he would not have exceeded his duty. From this point it was continually a case of playing the man instead of the ball, and in this respect players on both sides were to blame.

Leicester, strengthened by Jackson, the powerful Falmouth and Cornwall forward, were exceptionally strong in the pack, and the much lighter Gloucester eight had a terrible grueling in holding the visitors in this department. Johns and his colleagues, however, showed a splendid front, and if beaten in getting possession of the ball, they displayed capital work in other directions.

Leicester did not profit much by the advantage forward, for the backs on the whole did not exhibit anything great in originality; whilst the passing was very erratic. Jackett kicked well, but Bainbridge displayed more resource in attack, and once nearly broke through. Hind did not get many chances, but his speed more than once was utilised to the advantage of his side in defence.

Considering the difficulties under which Gent operated behind the Gloucester forwards, he proved wonderfully effective, and his dropped goal was a beautiful effort. Stephens did a lot of sound work, but the Gloucester three-quarters did not combine with their accustomed brilliance. Harrison, owing to a weak ankle, was not able to do much, but Hall covered him splendidly, and played his usual smart game.

"Whacker" Smith's tackling all through was deadly, and his try just before the end was very neatly obtained. Hudson did not get many passes, but he put in one or two good runs, and gave nothing away.

On the Leicester side Braithwaite was pulled up several times by the referee, and the Leicester half was in a great measure responsible for a lot of the unpleasantness which took place. Hills, who partnered Braithwaite, was nippy, and kicked well.

At full-back both custodians gave a good display, but neither got much tackling to do.

GLOUCESTER A *v.* SOUTH END.

A POINTLESS DRAW.

These teams met on Saturday morning at Tuffley-crescent, neither side being fully represented. The South started against the wind, and "Tinker" Smith was early prominent with a pretty dribble, which Smith carried on and got over the line, but a scrum was called five yards out – distinctly hard lines.

The game was fast and vigorously contested. The South had the best of matters for some moments, but then Gloucester had a chance, and Pugh made a good attempt to drop a goal.

Both sides pressed in turn, but the defence was very keen at each end. The ball was given plenty of air, the forwards especially heeling well.

Gloucester had a good chance later from a line-out, but the ball was kicked too hard and went to the dead-ball line. Gloucester pressed severely just before half-time, but penalty kicks brought the South relief. At half time there was no score.

The second half opened evenly, both sets of forwards playing a splendid robust game. Each end was visited in turn, both sides trying desperately hard to effect a score.

Towards the end the South certainly had more of the game, but they were unable to penetrate the defence, and a good, even game ended in a pointless draw.

RESULT :

Gloucester A Nil
South End Nil

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