

# THE CITIZEN

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1905.**

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL.

RETURN MATCH AT THE COUNTY GROUND.

After a heavy holiday programme, Gloucester appeared at the County Ground for the return match with Bristol. The first match at Kingsholm went in favour of Gloucester by 17 points to 6, but Bristol were handicapped in losing J. Oates (full-back) at the interval.

Owing to an injury to his back, sustained in the London Welsh match on Wednesday, D. R. Gent had to stand down from the Gloucester team to-day – a serious loss, for much of the success of the City Club in the holiday games was due to the splendid work of the International and Stephens and half-back. The vacancy was filled by A. Hall, of the Reserves. Hawker stood down in the Gloucester team. Bristol were weak behind, Shewring, Smith, and Larcombe being absent.

The Bristol fifteen was not finally constituted till Saturday morning, the teams taking the field as follows : –

Gloucester. – G. Romans, back; C. Smith, E. Hall, J. Harrison, and A. Hudson, three-quarter backs; J. Stephens and A. Hall, half-backs; W. Johns (captain), B. Parham, F. Pegler, G. Vears, H. Collins, G. Matthews, J. Merchant, and J. Jewell, forwards.

Bristol. – Nott, back; Llewellyn, Chick, Neale, and Scott, three-quarter backs; Spoons and Righton, half-backs; Mathias, Thomas, Moore, Neads, Manning, Meyer, Cooper, and Down, forwards.

Referee : Mr. Games (Abercarn).

## THE GAME.

Bristol won the toss and Johns started, and a return being prevented play opened in the home half. The Gloucester forwards were early off with a good rush, but off-side spoiled the movement. By the aid of a penalty Bristol found touch in the Gloucester half, but Hall sent them back cleverly. Meyer replied with a brilliant dribble to Romans who had to throw the ball to touch to save.

Bristol heeling, their backs tried passing, but it was too slow and was easily checked. Gloucester got out of danger with a penalty kick, and then Hall, taking a pass from Stephens, burst away beautifully, but hesitating he lost a good chance. Stephens made headway, and Harrison tried to feed Hudson, but the pass went astray.

The Bristol forwards responded with a dashing burst, and Romans was collared on his line. Another penalty brought relief to Gloucester, but Scott, with a fine run, beat Smith and was only stopped in the nick of time. Bristol looked dangerous with a dashing forward burst, but Stephens made a clever mark. Gloucester worked out, and Stephens started a bout of passing near midfield. A. Hall, Smith, Harrison, and Hudson handled in turn, and the latter with a clever run scored behind the posts. Romans goaled.

Bristol resumed, and even play followed. The home team attempted passing, but E. Hall intercepted and was nearly through. Good work by the Gloucester backs looked promising, but Smith's repass went forward with a splendid opening.

Manning, Moore, and Thomas were conspicuous with a good combined effort from a line-out, but Gloucester replied with a lovely bout, ending in Parham racing clear. Spoor, however, fetched the City forward back, and the situation was saved. A useful kick by Meyer gave Bristol a good position, and Gloucester were hard pressed. The visitors eventually saved by touching down.

Following the drop-out A. Hall broke away cleverly, but unfortunately passed forward. Matthews immediately after accomplished a similar defeat,[sic] but Johns lost the ball with the defence practically beaten. Bristol came away in some scrambling play, and Scott narrowly missed dropping a goal. Operations continued in the Gloucester 25, and Harrison fumbling nearly let Bristol in. Gloucester eventually cleared, and the City backs displayed smart passing, but failed to get an opening.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester ..... 1 goal  
Bristol ..... Nil

Mathias restarted, E. Hall replying with a lovely kick to touch well inside the home half. Moore dribbled away from the throw-out, and Spors took the ball on and over the line. There was a race for possession, but E. Hall kicked dead in the nick of time. Bristol showed up well on the drop-out, and after good passing the forwards rushed to Romans, who effected a grand save.

E. Hall was instrumental in gaining relief, and Hudson stopped Nott making a reply. Then, in the open, Parham fielded beautifully, and dodging several opponents gave to Pegler – a gift – but for some unaccountable reason the latter stood still, and allowed himself to be collared.

Gloucester got in a smart attack, but Stephens knocked on with a decent opening. Following this Harrison ran down and punted over the line, but the visitors kicked dead. The drop-out was well returned, and the Gloucester backs opening out Harrison cut through grandly, but Hudson missed his pass with a walk in. E. Hall had to retire at this point, and Pegler was brought out of the scrum.

The Gloucester forwards showed up nicely with passing, Parham and Johns making considerable headway. Bristol got back by the aid of a strong run by Down, but Smith tackled well.

Ensuing play was of a scrambling nature, Bristol doing very well in loose work. With one dashing burst the Gloucester defence was beaten, but Smith sent dead. E. Hall now returned, and play was fast and furious, but the football was very poor.

Gloucester, with clever forward work, gained a footing at midfield, where Hudson marked from a knock-back in the line-out. Romans made some twenty yards with the kick, but Moore regained the ground with a strong burst. Centre play followed, but there was no improvement in the play.

Bristol continued to control the scrums, but their back play was sadly lacking in finish. Gloucester, with clever kicking, got close to the Bristol quarter, and Stephens broke away, only to see his pass knocked on. Give-and-take play followed, each end in turn being visited. In the Gloucester 25 Stephens initiated a clever movement, and Hudson was given possession with a good opening, but Nott effected a grand tackle.

The last five minutes were hotly contested, both teams having chances but failing to accept them. Bristol made a final effort just before the end, and after a dash by Manning, Neale received and rushed over with a try. Moore failed at goal. Soon afterwards time was called.

RESULT ;

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

Bristol ..... 1 try (3 points)

GLOUCESTER A v. NAUNTON PARK.

Though advertised for 2.45, this match did not start till 3 o'clock.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – J. Watts, back; R. Craddock, H. Cook, F. J. Rust, and H. Hughes, three-quarter backs; F. Welshman and H. Smith, half-backs; F. Pyart (capt.), W. Holder, H. Taylor, T. Meadows, S. Hayward, C. Voyce, A. Purton, and F. Smith, forwards.

Naunton Park. – G. Clark, back; Poulston, F. Welch, C. Seabourne, and H. Newman, three-quarter backs; J. Bendall and Lewis, half-backs; Pat Beard, W. Day, G. Fisher, C. Willis, H. Cowley, Bob Smith, and A. Goodwin, forwards.

For the first ten minutes play was entirely in the home half, but as the result of all-round work Gloucester were enabled to recover their position somewhat. Naunton, however, gave nothing away, and taking advantage of the homesters' faulty passing, quickly worked back.

Then Gloucester in their turn had a spell at attack, and Hughes and Hubert Smith narrowly missed a score in the corner. The ground was very sloppy on top in places, and this no doubt accounted for the faulty handling. G. Clark in stopping a dribble was knocked out and had to retire.

As the result of an abortive attempt to drop a goal by F. Rust, Naunton touched down, and there being no reply to the drop out, the centre was the venue. Gloucester by good forward work quickly got back into the Park 25, and the injured man returned at this point amidst encouraging applause. The game was loose, scrambling and uninteresting.

Eventually, however, Watts gave to Hughes in the home 25, and the Gloucester wing made a fine run to the Park 25, where he was hauled down. Smith then broke away, and Gloucester pressed, but ill-judged passing lost possible openings, and Naunton relieved by the aid of a free for off-side. From a long line-out the ball came to Rust, who passed out swiftly to Cook, and the latter dropped a clever goal. Play was even to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A ..... 1 goal (d)  
Naunton Park ..... Nil

On resuming, play still hovered at the centre, and then Watts was called on, and he cleared smartly from a host of opponents. The Gloucester halves opened out the game nicely, and a good sequence of transfers followed, but Hughes failed to gather the last pass. Gloucester, however, got in a good position, and Cook marked, but the kick was charged down. Gloucester again attacked strongly, but frequent mistakes in handling lost golden opportunities.

Hughes made a strong dash for the corner, but was collared on the line, being temporarily laid out. Naunton Park worked out of danger, but Gloucester were quickly back again, and forced a minor. Uninteresting play in the neutral zone followed for some time, and then Naunton conceded another touchdown from a kick over the line.

Gloucester were having most of the game, but they failed to profit by the repeated openings which presented themselves. After several attempts the ball eventually came out to Smith, who cut up the ground nicely, and drawing off the opposition by missing the centre passed to Cook, who in turn handed to Rust, the latter running in near the posts. Hayward majorised.

The remaining stages were all in Gloucester's favour, and two minutes before the end Smith, after passing by Cook and Rust, dropped a lucky goal, the ball striking the bar and bouncing over.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 3 goals (2 d) (13 points)  
Naunton Park ..... Nil