

THE CITIZEN

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1906.

MONDAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. NORTHAMPTON.

CITY WIND UP WELL AT HOME.

NORTHAMPTON WELL BEATEN.

The ground had been well watered – a very necessary requirement, for it was extremely hard. Gloucester, winning the toss, deputed the visitors to face the sun. From the kick-off Hawker marked, and put in a big punt, which was fumbled. The City forward again got possession and cross-kicked, but the ball was knocked on.

The visiting forwards made headway with a rush, but C. Smith picked up and passed back to Romans, who found touch nicely at the centre. From the throw-out Parham got away and kicked over his opponents' heads, but the two Smiths over-ran the ball.

Ensuing play was fought out in the Northampton half, where Hawker was prominent with a fine bit of work. Leigh, however, saved well, and with a strong burst got to the 25 line before being upset. Harrison, who was working the scrum, got the ball away to A. Hall, who handed to F. Smith, but the Second teamer was held in trying a plucky break through.

Northampton kicked out to Hudson, who returned to Miles, and the latter slipping the ball went to touch. Here Johns was laid out in a forward burst, but was soon able to resume. From the subsequent scrum Gloucester had a good chance of scoring, but E. Hall dropped for goal with two men on his right. Gloucester still attacked, and in some loose play in front of goal Holder secured and dropped a goal amidst cheers.

Hawker was to the fore with a good kick. Northampton, however, worked to the home half, where Gardiner put in a cross-kick to Hudson's wing. The International failed to field, and Miles, coming up, took the ball on the bounce and ran over easily. The place-kick failed.

Even play followed the drop-out, but from a shot at goal from a penalty Romans forced a minor. On the re-start Northampton tried to open up the game, but Harrison upset Harding before he could get clear. Exchange kicks ended in favour of Northampton, but from a mark by Hudson Romans punted to the centre. Miles received and ran across the ground, but being pressed he kicked to A. Hall. The latter replied to Leigh, and F. Smith, running down touch, threw his man to touch in fine style. Gloucester worked to near the 25, where A. Hall broke through beautifully and handed at the right moment to C. Smith, who transferred to his namesake for the latter to run over with a good try. Romans added the extra points.

Play on the resumption was fast and interesting. Gardiner got in a useful run through the Gloucester forwards, and Harding later punted to Romans, who took the ball splendidly and got in his kick with Miles almost on top of him. Gloucester gradually reached more favourable quarters, and Harrison at once started A. Hall. The latter did his work all right, but Hudson dropped his pass.

Clever combination by the Northampton backs took them inside the Gloucester 25, where Palmer made a big effort to score in the corner, but he was pushed to touch. E. Hall, with a useful dribble, gained relief, and ensuing exchanges were fought out in even territory.

A stupid pass by Holder from a line-out was missed by the City backs, and a visitor, picking up, punted to right under the Gloucester posts. There was a rush for possession, but a knock-on luckily saved Gloucester. The home team worked out of danger, but the Northampton backs handled splendidly, and the City defence was sorely tried. Craddock, with a nice kick to touch, brought the game to the centre, and later further headway was made with kicks, a minor eventually resulting.

Gloucester confined play to their opponents' half, but faulty handling spoiled some promising movements. Romans had a shot for goal from a penalty, but the ball fell short, and the visitors kicked out. Miles marked from the return, but his kick was charged down, and Gloucester gained a footing in the Midlanders' 25.

A well-judged punt by A. Hall put the City close to the line, where Harrison got the ball away to A. Hall. The latter sent to Hudson, who threw out wide to C. Smith. F. Smith was the next to receive, and re-passing to "Whacker," the latter dashed over and scored. The place-kick failed. The interval was then called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 2 goals (1 d), 1 try
Northampton 1 try

Hawker resumed for Gloucester, and after an exchange of kicks the ball went to touch just inside the Northampton half. Gloucester got the ball from the first scrum, but the passing was too slow to be effective. Northampton retaliated, but Gardiner was smothered by C. Smith, and his pass went astray.

Good work by a visitor in a line-out carried play to the Gloucester 25, and then A. Hall missing a pass from Harrison, Jenkins and Palmer dribbled to Romans on the line. The City custodian fielded and put in a punt, which luckily bounced to touch. A. Hall and Harrison combined in some neat work down the touch-line, but mistakes by the home backs lost considerable ground. A splendid run by West gave Northampton practically a clear opening, but hesitation lost a certain try.

Northampton returned to the attack sharply, and the Gloucester line had a narrow escape. For off-side by Harrison Gloucester were penalised, but a drop for goal was unsuccessful. A well-judged kick put the East Midlanders in a good position on the restart, but Gloucester cleared through a big punt by Hudson. The home team followed up well, and Hudson again securing looked likely to score, but he was pulled down from behind.

Working strenuously, Gloucester came near scoring through Craddock, who was only pulled up on the line. A minute later, however, the ball came out to C. Smith, and, following a clever bit of footwork by E. Hall, Hudson picked up and scored. No goal resulted.

Hudson retired after this, and Johns came out to three-quarter. The City captain distinguished himself with a strong run, which was heartily cheered, but he was collared from behind just before reaching Leigh. Hudson now returned, and Hawker showed up with a good effort, but his pass was taken by Palmer, who dodged through to Romans. The latter, however, upset his man in good style.

Northampton played up strongly, but Gloucester again took up the running. F. Smith executed a brilliant run, working out a lovely opening for C. Smith, but "Whacker" knocked on with an open goal. Gloucester continued to have the better of the exchanges, and following a smart run by E. Hall, Hudson had a go for the corner, but he was collared a few yards from the line.

Northampton kept pluckily to their task, but Gloucester were going well and did all the pressing. Mistakes in handling, however, were too frequent. At length next passing[*sic*] gave E. Hall possession, and the City centre, beating Miles for pace, ran right up to Leigh, when he transferred to Hudson, who literally threw himself over in the corner. From the touch-line Romans landed a grand goal.

Just before the end Northampton made a burst, and from a cross-kick over the line a forward was credited with a corner try. The place-kick failed. F. Smith could have saved the score, but he only bounced the ball down on the ground, being evidently under the impression this was sufficient. The rule, however, distinctly states the player must put his hand on the ball on the ground.

RESULT :

Gloucester 3 goals (1 d), 2 tries (20 points)
Northampton 2 tries (6 points)

REMARKS.

It was a satisfactory wind-up of the home season on the part of the City team. Northampton played a hard game, and their backs at times showed flashes of brilliance. Gloucester, however, always held the upper hand, and were deservedly returned winners.

Hawker, Matthews, and Johns did splendid work forward for the City; and Harrison and A. Hall, for a first time together at half, shaped creditably. There were mistakes made in passing, but two or three of the tries were fine efforts.

F. Smith made a satisfactory debüt at three-quarter for Gloucester. He is small and on the light side, but he showed nippiness and pace.

GLOUCESTER A *v.* SOUTH END.

Played at Tuffley Crescent on Monday morning.

Gloucester A	2 tries (6 points)
South End	Nil