

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1906.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

THE COUNTY CUP.

FINAL AT KINGSHOLM.

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL.

The chief attention of Rugby enthusiasts in Gloucestershire to-day was directed to Kingsholm, where Gloucester and Bristol met in the final for the County Cup.

In the preliminary rounds Gloucester defeated Bream (68 points to nil) and Cinderford (9 points to nil); whilst Bristol scored 23 points to nil against Lydney, and 24 to nil against Stroud.

This was the second year of the competition, the cup last season being won by Gloucester, who triumphed over their opponents of to-day by 12 points to nil. Form pointed to another victory for Gloucester this afternoon, for as against the City's record of 21 wins and 6 losses, Bristol had only won 12 contests and lost 14. Cup-tie football, however, is very uncertain, and Gloucester recognised that Bristol would put forth a special effort to wrest the trophy from their possession.

Gloucester, with the exception of Gent, were able to place their full strength in the field, but Bristol unfortunately were deprived of the services of J. Spoons (half-back) and D. Llewellyn (three-quarter).

The weather was dull and cold, but the rain kept off. Half an hour before the advertised time of the kick-off there was a good crowd of spectators on the ground, and visitors continued to roll in. Bristol brought a goodly contingent of supporters, and the attendance was augmented by enthusiasts from Cheltenham, Stroud, the Forest, etc.

The teams took the field punctually to time, the players being heartily received. The men lined up as follows : –

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	BRISTOL.
G. Romans	Backs.	L. Cranfield
C. Smith	Three-Quarter	F. S. Scott
E. Hall	Backs.	H. Shewring
J. Harrison	"	M. Neale
A. Hudson	"	G. Parkhouse
J. Stephens	Half-Backs.	T. Lempriere
A. E. Wood	"	J. Larcombe
W. Johns (capt.)	"	J. L. Mathias
A. Hawker	Forwards.	T. Webb
B. Parham	"	F. Meyer
G. Matthews	"	L. G. Meyer
G. Vears	"	N. Moore
H. Collins	"	A. Manning
W. Holder	"	P. Downs
J. Merchant	"	G. Phelps

Referee : Mr. J. Games (Welsh Union).

Linesmen : Messrs. J. H. . Tratt (Stroud) and C. J. Woolf (Lydney).

### THE GAME.

Gloucester won the toss, and the City captain deputed the visitors to kick off from the Worcester-street goal. Mathias started, and Romans mis-judging the ball, it went to touch on the 25 line. From the throw-out Bristol attempted a rush, but Harrison cleverly fielded, and punted out to the centre. There was a reply to Wood, who returned with interest, but the Gloucester forwards got off-side, and some 20 yards were lost as a consequence.

The home team, however, quickly recovered the ground, and play was fought out in the Bristol half. Here Larcombe sustained an injury to his hand, which had to be bandaged, causing a brief delay.

Resuming, the Gloucester forwards heeled, but Wood was prevented from getting the ball away, and the Bristol forwards dribbled to Smith, who made a mark. Romans took the kick, and Shewring fumbling the ball went to touch.

For off-side play by Larcombe Bristol were penalised. No charge was given, but Romans failed to land a goal, a minor resulting. The drop-out was missed by Wood, the ball going out of play at mid-field. Gloucester heeled from the subsequent scrum, but Bristol smothered the passing, and no ground was gained.

A useful rush by the City forwards was stopped by Neale, who punted to Romans, the latter sending to touch. Ensuing play was scrambling and slightly in favour of Bristol. Larcombe at length got the ball away to Parkhouse, who attempted to break through, but he was checked and his pass spoiled.

Near the centre the Gloucester backs put in a fine bout of passing, and Hudson getting across took Smith's re-pass, but he was pulled down by Neale. Bristol got out of danger by the aid of a penalty, but Holder, with a brilliant burst, ran some 20 yards before being stopped. He then passed, and several Gloucester players handling smartly, the ball got to Hudson, who, however, was well tackled by Neale.

Bristol worked out to more favourable quarters, and play was fast and keen at the centre. Wood at length opened out, but the home backs could not get far. Hall saved a dangerous rush by the visiting forwards, picking up and sending back to Romans, who cleared nicely. Bristol, however, retaliated with a pretty passing bout, which ended in Neale racing down to Romans. He then passed back inside, but the ball was not taken.

Bristol, playing strongly, went close after this, Larcombe making a bold dash for the line. He was held up, and Stephens, receiving a pass, punted out to beyond the 25. Gloucester made further headway, and Collins, with a big punt, kicked past Cranfield. Shewring got back to field, but he failed to gather and the ball went to touch.

Gloucester were now in a good attacking position, but they lost the advantage through faulty play, and Bristol reached mid-field. So far the game had been very moderate, lacking sadly in the finer points. For an off-side tackle Gloucester were penalised, and by the kick Bristol made a lot of ground. Then a kicking duel took place between Shewring and Romans, ending in the former finding touch beyond the centre.

From a throw-out Merchant secured and passed to Johns, who broke through and sent a nice transfer to Hudson, but the International missed the ball. Bristol took advantage of the mistake and dribbled to Romans, who feebly punted the ball on, a mistake which might have ended in disaster. Lempriere fed Shewring nicely, but the Bristol centre was smothered almost immediately. Stephens and Smith combined in a pretty movement which gave Gloucester a good slice of ground, and Wood further improved matters with a long kick. Gloucester were here penalised, a decision which did not please the crowd, who showed their disapprobation. The referee stopped the game, and would not allow play to continue until the demonstration ceased.

Continuing, the Bristol forwards carried a couple of scrums in fine style, which Gloucester had all their work cut out to check. Eventually the home team obtained the upper hand, and following good work by Smith and Stephens a minor was forced.

Gloucester kept the advantage for a few minutes after the drop-out, and Wood started a bout of passing. Hall, however, essayed a stupid pass over his head, and Neale intercepted and raced clear. He only had Romans to beat, and this he did successfully, and though pressed by Hudson in the race for the line he got there all right, and scored a fine try amidst the cheers of the visiting supporters. Moore kicked a good goal.

Gloucester restarted, and even play followed at the centre.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Bristol ..... 1 goal  
Gloucester ..... Nil

Hawker restarted, the ball going to Manning, who knocked on. The Bristol forwards wheeled the first scrum, but Stephens picked up the ball from their feet and burst through the opposition cleverly. He gave a pass to Hudson, but the latter failed to take it. Shewring was instrumental in enabling Bristol to clear, the International following up a kick and upsetting Hall. Stephens regained the ground with a useful punt, but Cranfield replied to Romans, who ran across the ground and punted almost straight into touch.

Wood, with a dribble down touch, made headway, but the Bristol forwards retaliated with fine footwork. Mid-field play followed until the Gloucester backs were set going from a line-out. Harrison, Hall, and Smith handled smartly, and the latter re-passed, but it was not taken. Phelps picked up near his line and attempted to punt out, but he missed the ball, and Wood being on the spot touched down for a try amidst great enthusiasm. Romans took the kick at goal, but failed to add the extra points.

Bristol dropped out, and play became fast and furious. Stephens was noticeable for a smart bit of work, kicking to Scott, who only got rid of the ball to touch in the nick of time. A minute later Parham whipped out a long pass to Hall, who fed Harrison. The latter sent to Hudson, but Parkhouse brought off a grand tackle.

After this Wood and Stephens with good footwork went close to the Bristol line, but the visitors cleared effectively with useful kicks. From a scrum Wood got away with Stephens, but Hudson missed the sharp pass. A minute later, Harrison was at fault in handling when there was a decent chance, and the Gloucester backs again failed immediately afterwards in passing.

Play was exceptionally keen and vigorous, but there were numerous mistakes on both sides. Gloucester were special offenders, and the backs could not seem to do the right thing. Wood was prominent with a fine tackle on Lempriere, and the ball getting loose, Hall dribbled down nicely, but lost the ball when there was every chance of a score.

Bristol relieved by kicking, but Gloucester returned to the attack with an irresistible rush, which only just failed of a score, a touch-in-goal being given.

Shewring cross-kicked with his drop-out, but Gloucester got the ball, Stephens starting a nice passing movement. The ball was handled beautifully, and a score seemed imminent, but the final transfer went astray. Gloucester looked dangerous in the next minute, but they were beaten off, and Larcombe punted to touch at mid-field. From here Hall, receiving from Stephens, dashed through and passed to Harrison, who again failed to take the pass.

Bristol reached the centre by strong forward play, but at length Wood started Stephens going nicely. Harrison made further headway, and then yielded to Hudson, who got off down touch at a great pace. Larcombe checked him somewhat, but it was Cranfield who stopped a score with a splendid tackle.

Gloucester worked desperately hard in the concluding stages to pull off the game, and the backs combined in a grand effort. Smith, the last to receive, dodged Shewring and made a final plunge for the corner, but he was bundled into touch. Bristol worked out of danger, but Gloucester came again, and Hudson had a dash for the left corner, but the International was stopped by Parkhouse ten yards from the line.

Gloucester confined play to their opponents' end, but all attempts to gain an opening were foiled by Bristol's keen defence. A long kick by a visitor went to Romans, whose return was taken by Moore. The latter ran a short distance and passed to Manning, who just crossed in the corner. The place-kick failed, and the end was sounded immediately.

RESULT :

Bristol ..... 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)  
Gloucester ..... 1 try (3 points)