

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1921.

FOOTBALL.

GLO'STER'S GREAT VICTORY AT BRISTOL.

FORWARDS AND BACKS IN BRILLIANT FORM.

CORBETT'S CLEVER TRY FOR THE HOME TEAM.

Gloucester made acquaintance to-day for the first time of Bristol's new memorial ground at Filton-avenue, and a large number of supporters accompanied the team by train and char-a-banc, in full expectation of witnessing a close struggle.

Last season each club won at home; the scoring in the second match, on the Bristol Rovers' ground at Stapleton-road being : Bristol, 3 goals (2p, 1d), Gloucester 1 goal (p).

Following Bristol's fine win over Cardiff on the new ground, the side lost to Blackheath by 10 points to 3, but only after a greater contest. Gloucester were unbeaten to date, and on the City's form against the Harlequins and Devonport Services there was hope that the record would survive untarnished this afternoon.

Gloucester turned out as selected, C. E. Hughes (who made his debut in first-class football on Monday) partnering Fred Webb at centre, and J. F. Lawson returning to the pack in place of Wright.

Bristol were short of Wring (scrum half) and Williams (forward); whilst Harold Feltham was doubtful for the right wing position in the three-quarter line.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : J. C. Collett.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. A. Brown, C. E. Hughes, F. Webb, and N. Daniell.

HALF-BACKS : W. Dix and T. Millington.

FORWARDS : S. Smart (captain), J. F. Lawson, T. Voyce, F. W. Ayliffe, A. Hall, G. Holford, J. Harris, and Major Roderick.

BRISTOL.

BACK : W. B. Wregg.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. G. B. Quick, L. J. Corbett, C. W. Pickles, and J. Witherspoon.

HALF-BACKS : S. H. Budd and T. Spoor.

FORWARDS : M. Shaw, J. S. Tucker, J. K. Crawford, E. Kibbey, A. T. Hore, F. J. Coventry, F. Cummings, and W. G. Bryant.

Referee : Mr. A. E. Freethy (Neath).

THE GAME.

The weather was brilliantly fine, and there was a splendid attendance, the stands and banks round the ground presenting an animated spectacle. The playing pitch appeared to be in capital condition, though naturally on the hard side.

Gloucester started with the sun in their faces, but Smart failed to send the ball ten yards and a scrum was ordered at the centre. Bristol got the ball out, and Pickles punted to Collett, who misfielded, but managed to get a flying kick to touch. Gloucester early got two penalties, but a fine touch-finder by Corbett put Bristol well down.

The home forwards were carrying the scrums, and twice they went dangerously close, Collett being tackled in possession. Clever relief punts by Millington changed the venue, and then Ayliffe and Holford led the City forwards in a fine burst, which Wregg checked.

Bristol opening out, Corbett brought off a capital run, but was effectively checked by Webb, and his pass spoiled. Hughes and Brown shone with some smart work, which gave Gloucester a territorial advantage. Pickles punted back, but the visiting forwards, with a terrific burst, carried all before them, Spoons and Corbett being pulled down in great style. From the next scrum a beautiful bit of combination between the Gloucester half-backs, and a re-pass from Millington to Dix, enabled the latter to score a nice try, but Millington's shot for goal went wide.

Resuming, play continued fast and fierce, both teams working desperately. Ayliffe, with pretty work, put Gloucester on the attack, and Bristol were sorely pressed. Gloucester heeling smartly, Dix sent out a sweet pass to Millington, but Daniell's cross-kick went astray. Immediately after there was another lovely bit of combined work between the Gloucester backs, ending in Daniell scoring a clever try wide out. Millington failed to goal. Gloucester were thus six points up, and both tries were well deserved.

On resuming, Bristol had a short spell of attacking, but Ayliffe, Holford, and Lawson broke away with a passing run, the latter only being tackled from behind well inside the home quarter. In falling Lawson damaged his ankle and had to leave the field.

Handicapped with a man short, Gloucester were pressed on their line, but the defence held out. For pushing Spoons, Ayliffe was penalised, but Pickles failed to kick a goal. However, a minute later Gloucester were again penalised, and this time the Bristol captain successfully covered the cross-bar.

Lawson now came back limping, and Gloucester, playing finely together, attacked with grim determination. Millington and Webb were only held up on the line. Millington placed a penalty goal just before half-time.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
GLOUCESTER 1 goal (p) 2 tries
BRISTOL 1 goal (p)

Gloucester's superiority was manifest in the first half, the whole team playing splendidly together. The forwards dominated the scrums, and the combination behind was well-nigh perfect. Bristol, indeed, were lucky in being only six points behind, for both Millington and Webb experienced hard lines in not scoring tries.

Bristol re-started, Dix marking from the kick-off cleverly. When he took his punt, however, the Gloucester man was off-side, and a scrum took place on the visitors' 25. Gloucester cleared from this position in great style, but Bristol soon worked back, Voyce saving capitally when danger threatened.

Up and down the field the game progressed at a great pace, and the tackling, especially of the Gloucester men, was tremendous. Near the centre the Bristol backs did some passing, and Quick, receiving possession, executed a smart dash and punt. The ball went over the line, but Collett took the risky game of punting out, but only got the ball to touch a yard from the line. Gloucester did some good passing afterwards, and Daniell twice cross-kicked nicely, but neither resulted in anything.

Fouling by the Gloucester forwards gave Bristol a penalty, and with his kick Pickles gained relief for his side. Bristol improved with good forward work, and reached Gloucester quarters, where play was fiercely contested. At length Corbett seized an opportunity from some loose play, and after a brilliant effort beat the defence and scored a glorious try. Pickles missed the goal kick, and the game now stood nine points to six points.

On the restart Gloucester had the better of the exchanges, Voyce forcing Wregg to kick dead following a forward rush. There was a spell of strenuous forward work, with little advantage to either side. Bristol tried to open out, but Spoors missed, and the Gloucester forwards, carrying on, were nearly through. A penalty against Ayliffe enabled Pickles to clear to the centre, where Lawson knocked on, and a scrum followed.

Excitement was intense as Bristol worked down to the visitors' goal, but Millington eased the pressure with a judicious kick. Bristol heeling out, there was a series of exchanges, until Dix intercepted, and punting ahead the ball went to touch in goal.

Gloucester confined operations to the home quarters, and from a beautiful opening by Millington Hughes cut through cleverly and scored behind the posts. Millington goaled, and Gloucester held an eight points' lead.

To the end Gloucester held the advantage, and Daniell raced over splendidly from a pass by Dix, but was recalled for stepping over the touch line.

RESULT ;

GLO'STER 2 goals (1p) 2 tries (14 pts.)

BRISTOL 1 goal (p) 1 try (6 pts.)

REMARKS.

It was a great and glorious victory, with Gloucester clearly superior. The City forwards played right on top of their form, beating the Bristol men in the tight and in the loose, and tackling like demons. There were occasions when, in the excitement of the play, several fouls occurred, but the game as a whole was contested in good spirit.

Dix and Millington outshone Spoors and Budd, the Gloucester half-backs exhibiting perfect understanding and making openings in finished style.

All the tries were the result of extremely clever moves, Hughes breaking through beautifully and slipping the full back in the most approved fashion. The recruit shaped splendidly all through, tackling and saving well, and exercising judgment and resource. In a word, Hughes made a most auspicious start in his first strenuous game.

Webb played clever football all through, and both Daniell and Brown were capable and efficient wings. Collett was guilty of several errors of judgment, and was not particularly prominent, and Corbett left him badly when the latter scored.

The Gloucester forwards finished in a style reminiscent of their best form. Voyce was ever in the picture, and Holford, Lawson, Ayliffe, and Hall also did great things, but the whole eight put up a noteworthy game.

For Bristol, Corbett was easily the pick of the backs, and his try was a great individual effort. Pickles kicked well, but was not seen much otherwise. Tucker, Cummings, and Shaw were the best forwards.

Next week : Gloucester v. Guy's Hospital, at Kingsholm.

W.B.

GLOUCESTER A OUTCLASS MONMOUTH.

POINTS PILED UP IN SECOND HALF.

Monmouth were the visitors to Kingsholm on Saturday afternoon, when almost tropical conditions had to be contended with. Gloucester A had an entirely experimental three-quarter line, and several of the regular forwards were away.

Teams : –

Gloucester A. – G. Smith; S. R. Crowther, R. James, S. R. Allen, and J. W. Gibbs; T. Gough and H. T. Burns (captain); S. Bayliss, J. H. Webb, F. Mansell, E. Richardson, M. Evans, E. Curtis, T. Bridges, and F. Ward.

Monmouth. – W. Richardson; W. James, W. Kidley, L. Lewis, and F. Morgan; J. Pembridge and G. Beard; T. Arnott (captain), J. Davies, A. Davies, C. Fennell, H. Bennett, G. Pembridge, P. Jenkins, and W. Vedmore.

Referee : Mr. Ivor Brain (Drybrook).

Gloucester kicked off, and the visitors mis-fielding, play was carried to their quarter, where Allen picked up in the loose and smartly dropped a goal, Gloucester thus gaining four points in the first two minutes.

The Welshmen rushed to the Gloucester line, but off-side by their scrum half deprived them of their advantage, and a bit of smart handling by the home threes took play into the visitors' 25. Feet up in the scrums was the cause of a couple of penalties against the home team, but fortunately they occurred near midfield. Gloucester were well up when from a line-out the ball was kicked across to the further corner, where, after a scramble, Crowther went over with an unconverted try.

The home team continued to test the Monmouth defence, but play was of a scrambling nature, little good combined work being seen on either side. Then the visitors woke up, and working to the Gloucester 25, made a couple of dashes for the line, the second of which was successful, J. Pembridge scoring a try which went unconverted.

Gloucester answered this effort with another determined rush, and although Monmouth put up a stubborn defence, the City added to their score through Evans, who went over with a try, which Burns failed to improve.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 1 goal (d) 2 tries
Monmouth 1 try

The resumption was signalled by a rush to the Monmouth goal but the visitors worked free and carried out their best passing display, the effort gaining considerable ground. A strong forward rush led by Webb made Gloucester again dangerous but the ball went to James, whose punt over the goal line was too hard and a drop out ensued.

Monmouth were having hard work to hold the Seconds, who were constantly in their quarter but the scrummaging was not good and the threes had few chances.

Crowther received from a punt by the visitors and put in a pretty run but the opposition was too strong and he had to relinquish the ball. Smith made an excellent effort to kick a goal from a penalty but the distance was too great. Crowther made another fine sprint and then punted forward but in the ensuing rush for the touch one of the Monmouth men struck the rails and had to be carried off. The Reserves were now having things their own way and in the course of a melee Bridges fell over with a try, which Smith converted.

Getting the ball out from the scrum Gough fed the threes and James made a useful run but his pass to Allen was low and the inside right had to kick forward. He followed up well, however, and scored a try well in, Smith again adding the necessary points.

The best try of the afternoon was credited to Gibbs, who made a brilliant run, and grounded behind the posts after the threes had put in a series of nicely-timed passes. The visitors lost yet another man injured. Just before the end Bayliss scored a try which James converted.

RESULT :

Glo'ster A	5 goals (1d), 2 tries (30 pts.)
Monmouth	1 try (3 pts.)

REMARKS.

In the early stages of the game Monmouth put up a good fight, but they were outclassed in all departments and collapsed after losing Kidley in the second half. The home forwards played a strenuous game, but their scrummaging left much to be desired, and they were several times penalised. Webb was the pick of the bunch. Gough was quite good again, and the captain was useful as a substitute for Hughes.

The three-quarters, other than Crowther – who is rapidly improving – was quite experimental, but they did quite well considering, Allen and James working well in the centre. Allen should be seen more of as a centre, and Gibbs shaped very promisingly on the wing. George Smith, the old Gloucester back, was a tower of strength.

Kidley was taken to the Royal Infirmary suffering from, it was feared, a broken rib, injury to the back, and concussion.

JC