

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1921.

FOOTBALL.

CHELTENHAM BEATEN POINTLESS.

FINE DISPLAY BY GLOUCESTER AT KINGSHOLM.

With three players attending at Bristol in connection with the International trial match, and five other regular premier teamers unavailable, Gloucester fielded a weak team to oppose Cheltenham at Kingsholm this afternoon. Cheltenham had brought a strong team, and there were expectations of a close game. The attendance numbered about 3,000.

Teams :

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : A. J. Kerwood.

THREE-QUARTERS : N. Daniell, W. Washbourne, E. H. Hughes, and S. A. Brown.

HALF-BACKS : G. Poole and A. Robbins.

FORWARDS : S. Smart (captain), A. Hall, H. W. Collier, A. Wright, J. Harris, H. G. Mountford, M. Evans, and S. Bayliss.

CHELTENHAM.

BACK : W. Watson.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. Fennell, E. Moore, S. Bloodworth, and E. Eden.

HALF-BACKS : J. McLellan and M. Meek.

FORWARDS : H. T. Stephens (captain), H. Wixey, Major W. G. Hewett, W. Burford, G. Taylor, H. Cooper, W. Jackson, and H. Brown.

Referee : Mr. G. L. Jones.

THE GAME.

Cheltenham kicked off against the sun and wind, and picking up in the loose after a scrum attacked strongly and penetrated to the home 25, where Kerwood sent to touch. Gloucester were not long on the defensive, for Hughes secured and raced three-parts the length of the field before he was overhauled and pulled down. The City forwards dribbled the ball on, but the defence held. The home team were awarded a penalty in a favourable position, but Robbins' kick was not quite good enough. The Garden Towners initiated another attack and there was a bout of exciting play, in the course of which the visitors punted over the City line but were beaten for the touch.

Back to the other end Gloucester rushed, Washbourne in the van. Watson managed to clear, but only found touch in the corner. The visiting forwards worked into a better position with some energetic footwork and were pressing, when Brown fielded neatly and gained a large slice of ground with a splendid punt to touch. Hughes who had been prominent with several sharp dashes, again dodged and cut through finely. Cheltenham again got off-side just outside their quarter, and Robbins this time made no mistake, covering the cross-bar and opening Gloucester's account.

Keen forward play ruled for a time, and then Daniell secured and dashing up the wing cross-kicked. The movement broke down, and then Cheltenham came again, traversing the field with the ball at their forwards' feet. Poole, who had been working well, got the ball out nicely to Robbins, who sent to Washbourne. The inside right punted forward, but Watson fielded and frustrated a very pretty attempt. It was a keen close struggle, with little in it. The visiting pack were doing their utmost, and there were few chances for the backs on either side to handle. It was a case of rush and kick, with brown well in the picture. Gloucester worked to the visitors' end, and Hughes made another beautiful dash. He was pulled down, but sent to Hall, who went over but was brought back. The City continued to press, and Robbins picking up in front of goal essayed a drop, but his effort was unfruitful.

Continuing their attack Gloucester pinned the Cheltonians on their goal line, and Robbins seizing the chance romped over with the first try of the afternoon. The same player failed to majorise.

Gloucester were now going great guns, and a lovely opening initiated by Poole and carried all along the line to Brown saw the wing man round the opposition and score a pretty try. The position was not an easy one, and although Robbins kicked well he missed the goal points.

The visitors were by no means disheartened, and again attacked hotly by their forwards, but the home team were going strongly and again handled, Brown being surrounded but managing to get in a kick which took the game to the Garden Towners' touch line. Their defence was strongly tested but held out. Robbins made another spectacular attempt to drop a goal, putting in a fine long kick, the ball striking the upright and rebounding into the field of play. Another rush by the home backs saw Washbourne pass to Collier, who, showing a wonderful turn of speed, raced through a bunch of opponents and was only taken by the heel just outside. Gloucester were now besieging the Cheltenham line, and Washbourne nearly beat the defence.

HALF-TIME SCORE ;
GLOUCESTER 1 goal (p) 2 tries
CHELTENHAM Nil

The Cheltenham forwards had played a very good game, Hewett and Stephens leading successive rushes. Gloucester quickly added to their lead on the resumption, Brown receiving near midfield and running through the opposition with the greatest of ease and grounding behind the posts, for Robbins to convert.

The visitors appeared to be tiring, and were now on the defensive. Poole, with a bit of clever work, fed Robbins, and the home threes again handled, Washbourne handing off Moore and sending to Brown, who made another dash for the line. He only just missed scoring, the corner flag being lowered and the ball going into touch-in-goal.

Following the drop-out one of the visitors was injured but resumed. A typical bout of passing enabled Daniell to make for the line, but the opposition was too thick and his pass back went astray. The City continued to attack, and Robbins ran well after Poole had beaten McLellan, but his pass was not accepted. Again and again the home backs handled, some pretty movements resulting, but the finish was hardly good enough for additions to the score.

Cheltenham now made an incursion into the Gloucester half, and their forwards were dribbling well when Wright went down at the ball and saved a dangerous rush. An unfortunate dispute in which Fennell exhibited pugilistic tendencies resulted in the Cheltenham wing being ordered off. Then came the try of the afternoon. Hughes received well inside the home half and ran, dodged and handed off several players, eventually rounding Watson and scoring well in, a performance which was accorded round after round of applause. Robbins made no mistake with the kick, and brought Gloucester's lead to 19 points.

The Garden Towners were not quite done, however, and worked up to the home goal line where they tried hard to get through. The defence held, and Joe Harris led a splendid forward dribble which transferred play to the other end. Kerwood, who had been giving splendid support to his side, put in a high punt, and, following up, tackled Watson in possession. A very fine dash to the home quarter was made by a couple of the visiting forwards but the effort broke down, and in the course of a rough and tumble near the visitors' end Bayliss accepted a pass and dashed over. Robbins was not successful this time.

Poole put in a pretty bit of work, and the Cheltenham line was again in danger as the result of a sharp dash by Washbourne and Brown. Cheltenham made one of their rare incursions into the home quarter, but their attack lacked sting, and they failed to score.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 3 goals (1p) 3 tries (22 pts.)
CHELTENHAM Nil

REMARKS.

Cheltenham were outclassed in all departments. The forwards put up a good fight in the early stages and tried hard to keep the game close. They also did some useful work with their feet, Stephens and Major Hewett being the pick of the pack. The home forwards, when they settled down to work, easily controlled the scrums and were also dangerous in the open. The old players were well up to form, and Collier, of the younger brigade, was well to the fore in several bursts.

Poole and Robbins had no difficulty in gaining the ascendancy over the opposing pair, the young scrum worker playing a capital game and using his head well.

The visiting three-quarters were not in it as compared with the home backs, who played a nice, open game and combined splendidly. Hughes was active all the time, and his try was a jolly fine effort. Brown put in some outstanding work, and Washbourne and Daniell were well up to form, but the last-named did not get many chances.

Kerwood was always safe, and Watson did well, but was hard pressed most of the time.

J.H.H.

GLOUCESTER A BEAT OLD PATESIANS.

At Cheltenham.

Gloucester outclassed the home team. The scorers for Gloucester A were : Crowther (2), Currie (2), Burns (2), Langston, Mansell, and Bridges.

RESULT :

Gloucester A	4 goals 5 tries (35 points)
Old Patesians	2 tries (6 points)

JC