

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1922.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER HANDSOME WINNERS.

UNITED SERVICES WELL BEATEN AT KINGSHOLM.

With the exception of J. C. Collett at full back for R. H. James (who is down with influenza), Gloucester fielded the same team for the return match with the United Services as did so well against Leicester last week.

Smart and Holford were both in the original selection, but the Internationals had not sufficiently recovered from their injuries to play, and they were replaced by Evans and Bayliss.

The Services, who were beaten in the first game at Portsmouth by 2 tries to 1 goal, brought a strong side, including three Internationals (Davies, Stephenson, and William-Powlett).

Great disappointment, however, was felt that Kershaw was unable to partner his famous colleague at half-back.

The weather was fine overhead, and the ground was in capital condition.

The attendance was not up to expectations for such an attractive fixture.

Teams : –

#### GLOUCESTER.

BACK : J. C. Collett.

THREE-QUARTERS: S. A. Brown, E. H. Hughes, Stanley Cook, and S. R. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS: W. Dix and T. Millington (captain).

FORWARDS: T. Voyce, F. Ayliffe, A. Hall, J. Harris, H. W. Collier, Major Roderick, S. Bayliss. and M. Evans,

#### UNITED SERVICES.

BACK: Lieut. Grimwade.

THREE-QUARTERS: Lieut. Hill, Lieut. Walkley, Lieut. Stephenson, and Lieut. Rayner.

HALF-BACKS: Lieut.-Commander Davies (captain) and Lieut. Brodie.

FORWARDS: Lieuts. Westall, Loriston-Clarke, William-Powlett, Agnew, Benson, Andrew, Pearce, and MacBride.

Referee : Mr. H. E. Shewring.

#### THE GAME.

The visitors kicked off, and a home forward who received passed back to Voyce, who, however, was immediately pulled down, the ball going to touch. The Services opened out to Davies from the throw-out, the International putting in a big punt, which Brown returned.

An attempt at passing by the visitors broke down at Stephenson, who was upset by Hughes. Gloucester did better a moment later, but Cook could not break through, and though Crowther made headway, the movement was checked at midfield.

Even play followed at this spot until Dix got away and served Millington beautifully. The acting captain, however, failed to hold the ball, and nothing resulted. The City forwards continued to heel, but the marking was very close and little ground was gained.

The Services, too, were keen to give the ball air, and Rayner getting the ball in the loose ran across the ground and passed. The transfer was intercepted by Hughes, who broke clear away, but in trying to cut the full back slipped and fell. Just afterwards the Services were penalised for off-side at the scrum, Millington making a praiseworthy though unsuccessful shot at goal, a minor resulting.

On the drop-out Gloucester opened out, but Hill snapped up a pass and ran straight up the field. Faced by Collett he put in a short punt, but Roderick got back and cleared in fine style.

The Services, with some smart work, set up an attack on the left, but the tackling was safe and sure. Then Gloucester showed up with neat play, Cook kicking hard and past Grimwade. The visiting custodian, however, dodged a couple of opponents and got in a capital clearance.

The City, working well together, tried hard to gain an opening, but things did not go kindly. Eventually one of the best movements came along, in which Dix, Millington and Brown took part. It was initiated on the short side of the scrum, and passing and interpassing between Millington and Brown gave the former a fine try, which Millington converted.

The Services resumed, and play was fought out in the Gloucester half. Hill was prominent with a sharp dash on the right, but was well tackled and thrown to touch. Then the ball was kicked down to Collett for the first time, and the reserve custodian, with a mighty punt, found touch more than half the length of the ground.

Fast and keen play followed, with both teams showing good form. Davies, from a pass by Brodie, ran a few yards and essayed the short punt, but Cook received, and beating the International captain cleverly, sent the game back to midfield. Here the City backs were given possession from the scrum, and Cook raced away merrily. He, however, passed too soon to Brown, and the wing man just failed to get through. Rushing the ensuing scrum, Gloucester took the ball over the line, but only a minor resulted.

The Services held their own for a period on the drop-out, but they were aided by mistakes on the part of the home players, who could not seem to handle with the accuracy that distinguished their efforts the previous week. However, another score soon came. Collett, fielding a kick, came up to the three-quarters and passed to Cook. With a brilliant run the Cambridge Blue beat the defence in fine style and ran to Grimwade, when he transferred to Voyce, who scored behind the posts, for Millington to add the goal points.

From the restart Sid Brown received, and brought off a capital run and kick, which placed the Services line in danger again. Useful kicking eased the pressure, but at length Dix robbed Brodie of the ball after the Services had heeled, and slipping Davies cut out a lovely opening. A timely pass to Ayliffe enabled the latter to go close, and then another transfer to Harris enabled the latter to complete a clever movement by scoring the third try. Millington missed the goal. Thirteen points to nil was good for the City, and all the tries were well worked for and thoroughly deserved.

Gloucester continued to have the better of the exchanges on the resumption, and Voyce breaking away from a line out looked a scorer. He eventually passed, and though another player handled it did not quite succeed.

The City exerted great pressure to add to their lead, and the forwards and Dix went very close. Davies brought relief by kicking out, but Collett, with a good touch finder, gave his side the advantage again. Play worked to the left wing, where Dix, Millington, and Brown tricked the defence neatly, enabling Dix to score a good try. The goal kick failed.

Gloucester had all the play afterwards, and Collett putting his three-quarters in motion, Crowther had a dash, but he was brought down.

HALF-TIME:

GLOUCESTER ..... 2 goals, 2 tries  
SERVICES ..... Nil

Though Gloucester had not been free from mistakes, the home team had clearly established their superiority in the first half, and thoroughly deserved their 16 points' lead. Soon after the resumption, following a good kick by Collett, Davies was at fault in handling, and Dix gathering there was a fine opening with Voyce in close attendance. The pass, however, went astray, and the visitors cleared.

Gloucester, getting the ball from the scrum, Dix started his backs on the move, but fumbling spoiled it. A free to the Services was only poorly returned by Collett, and Davies, getting possession, put in a clever piece of work, Millington finally making his mark. Gloucester soon came away, Hall serving Cook well from a long line-out. The centre, however, passed too low, and neither Hughes nor Brown could accept. Subsequent play was scrambling, relieved by a smart clearance kick by Collett under pressure.

Play hovered at midfield for a few minutes until Brodie snapped up the ball in the loose and fed Walkey. The latter, however, was finely tackled by Hughes, and his pass went to touch. An attempt at passing by the Services broke down at Stephenson, and then Crowther was sent away on the right wing. After going some distance he kicked ahead, and Voyce dashing up gathered the ball on the bounce and rushed ahead, but he was ruled off-side.

Just after Gloucester had a good chance after passing, but Hughes cut inside and was tackled. In some scrambling play Davies got hold at midfield and punting, again secured possession, finally running over the line near the posts. He was, however, called back for a knock-on – very hard lines, for the effort deserved reward.

A brilliant dash by Cook put Gloucester up again, but Voyce, to whom he passed on reaching the full back, was collared from behind. The City continued on the attack, where Dix and then Millington were nearly through. Useful kicking eased things for the Services, but Cook came into the picture with another lovely effort, and subsequent passing gave Ayliffe a try, but he was called back for a forward transfer.

The Services forwards were proving very useful with their feet, but behind, with the exception of Davies, the backs were very erratic. It was due to a big kick by Davies that enabled the Services to reach the centre, where Rayner snapped up a Gloucester pass and only had Collett to beat. The City custodian, however, brought his man down, and the ball getting loose, he picked up and got in a good kick.

After this the City backs were several times started by Dix and Millington, but though some clever work was accomplished something went wrong before the desired opening could be obtained. From a penalty kick by Davies, Brown received and raced across the ground, finally passing to Cook, but the centre was soon tackled. Following this the home backs handled prettily, but Hughes was brought down in trying to cut inside.

Gloucester made repeated attacks after this, but they could not add to their score, judgment being at fault on several occasions with the defence practically beaten. All the play centred in the Services half, and Collett, from a loose kick, tried a drop for goal, but the ball fell a trifle short.

The Services played pluckily and well, but could not make headway. Just before the end the City set up a strong attack, and Collier scored a smart try, which Millington failed to convert.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER .... 2 goals 3 tries (19 pts.)  
SERVICES ..... Nil

REMARKS.

The United Services proved no match for the City to-day, and Gloucester's 19 points victory might easily have been augmented had the home players displayed the same accuracy and judgment in handling as was witnessed against Leicester. Mistakes were much too frequent this afternoon, and spoiled, to a large extent, what might have proved a highly spectacular game.

No single player was absolutely immune from errors, and it might be said the Services' men were equally at fault. Gloucester held a commanding lead forward in all the finer points of the game. The Services eight occasionally shone in loose footwork, but they were beaten badly in the scrums, and it was rarely they were able to command the ball.

The City pack gave another capital all-round display, being very fast on the ball and setting a pace which severely tested their opponents. Voyce, as usual, was here, there, and everywhere, and the International did a remarkable amount of individual work. He had admirable support from his colleagues, all of whom finished strongly.

Collier showed a nice turn of speed when he scored, and at other times was prominent for good work in the open. Ayliffe had the misfortune to miss another try owing to a slight infringement, but he did his part of the business all right. Roderick, Hall and Harris were a distinguished trio in some capital movements, and Evans and Bayliss were well up to standard.

Dix had quite an afternoon out at the expense of Lieut. Brodie, who was continually baffled by the varying tactics of the Gloucester scrum worker. Dix's service was beautifully timed, and Commander Davies must have envied the numerous chances that went the way of Millington. The latter was not always happy in the acceptance of his transfers, but taking the game through he played extremely well, and worked out some clever openings.

The Gloucester three-quarters did not reach the high standard set up last week, but at periods there were some bright and clever movements, in which Stanley Cook was the particular star. Hughes was inclined to do a little too much cutting through, with the result that Sid Brown was "left" at times, but the centre was great in defence, and again tackled with unerring deadliness. Brown's best work was in conjunction with the half-backs, and the try which opened the scoring by Millington was a beauty.

It was the first time I had seen Collett at full back for a long time, and he has certainly improved. Once he made the mistake of dashing into the ball and missing it, but apart from this error he did splendidly. Two or three times he showed enterprise in coming up and starting passing – one try resulted from his initiative – and he generally fielded with success; the one bit of tackling he had to do he brought down his man. Collett's kicking with the right foot was immense, and, further, he found the touch-line better.

The Services were greatly indebted to Davies for escaping with a less severe defeat. The English captain did not get much of a show from Kershaw's deputy, but his beautiful kicking was the means of staving off severe pressure on several occasions; whilst once or twice he proved very elusive. It was a very slight knock-on that occurred which led to Davies being disallowed a try, and might easily have escaped the notice of a less vigilant referee.

The visiting three-quarters were not much in the picture as an attacking force, Rayner being the pick. Stephenson, who was "capped" for Ireland this season, did not show International form, and Cook had him guessing repeatedly. Forward, the Services proved a bustling lot, but not over clever at any point, and could not compare with the City eight as a combination. Grimwade gave a useful display at full back.

Next week : Llanelly, away; followed by Neath on Monday.

W.B.

#### GLOUCESTER A's GOOD WIN.

#### SIXTEEN POINTS TO ELEVEN AT CHELTENHAM.

Played on the Athletic Ground, Cheltenham. Gloucester A kicked off and after a few fruitless scrums the ball came to Gough, who passed to Meadows and on to Daniell, the latter putting in a nice run. This took the play to the home 25, where Hughes, the Cheltenham three-quarter, kicked to Adams, the visiting full back, who found touch.



Gough opened out again, but the pass to Meadows was forward. The visiting scrum half next tried the left wing, and the leather travelled inside until it reached Ball, who, however, could not get it to Wadley.

The home forwards then took play into the Gloucester territory, where Stephens threw wide to Fennell, who, however, could not get through, though Gloucester, as a result of the movement, were forced to touch down. A knock-on by Wadley spoiled another beautiful movement started by Burns. The mistake mattered little, as the visiting forwards rushed the ball over the line for Rea to score. Burns failed with the place kick.

Gloucester being penalised, Stephens had a shot for goal, but the ball went wide. More pressing by the visitors looked promising until Ball knocked on. The home forwards rushed to the home 25, and took the ball over the line for Neale to score a try, which Burns converted.

Stephens made a grand run, but a knock-on spoiled the movement. Cheltenham now played up much better, and were rewarded, Fennell crossing with a try, which Hughes converted.

Fennell next ran well to within a few yards of the Gloucester line, where he passed to Hughes, the three-quarter, who scored a try, which his namesake improved upon.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Cheltenham A ..... 1 goal 1 try  
Gloucester A ..... 1 goal 1 try

Gloucester attacked on the restart, and the home line had a narrow escape. A smart run by Hall, however, changed the outlook and Cheltenham got into the visitors' 25. Not for long, however, for within a minute the home defence was again severely tried, Hughes eventually bringing relief. The Gloucester backs were set in motion by Gough, Meadows this time spoiling with a knock on. Hawker was here carried off the field with an injury.

The ball going to Daniell he put in a strong burst and cross-kicked, but nothing happened. A fine rush by the home forwards was followed up by Edwards and Fennell, the latter transferring to Hall, who, after a great effort, managed to cross. Stephens' kick failed.

The Gloucester forwards then took a turn and Coulson got over for Burns to convert.

The visitors continued to have the best of matters and before the end Gough crossed, the place kick failing.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 2 goals 2 tries (16 pts.)

Cheltenham A ..... 1 goal 2 tries (11 pts.)

JC