

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1922.

## FOOTBALL.

MOSELEY BEATEN BY TWENTY POINTS.

DISORGANISED TEAMS AT KINGSHOLM.

CLEVER FOOTBALL BY F. MEADOWS.

For this return match at Kingsholm both Clubs suffered severely from absentees owing to illness and injuries, and the fixture attracted very little attention. Gloucester had some difficulty in fixing up a side, only three of the regular forwards being available; whilst Dix, Millington, and Kerwood, of the back division, were also absent. Moseley played several youngsters, one of the forwards (Stanley) only being 15 years of age.

The revised teams were : —

### GLOUCESTER.

BACK : H. R. James.

THREE-QUARTERS: N. Daniell, S. R. Allen, E. Hughes, and S. Brown.

HALF-BACKS: G. Poole and F. Meadows.

FORWARDS : S. Smart (capt.), H. G. Mountford, G. Bishop, F. Ayliffe, A. Hall, H. W. Collier, M. Evans, and S. Bayliss.

### LEICESTER.

BACK : Pritchard.

THREE-QUARTERS : McDowell, Denaro, W. H. Hill, and Rose.

HALF-BACKS : Thomas and Chubb.

FORWARDS : H. W. Hill, Hubbard, Abbott, Coales, Walker, Whittingdale, Jefferies, and Stanley.

Referee : Mr. J. H. Babbage (Cheltenham).

## THE GAME.

The "gate" was the smallest of the season for a First team match when Smart started the game. There was no reply to the kick-off, but the ball getting loose a visitor picked up and punted to Hughes, who slipped through the opposition smartly, but fell a victim to W. H. Hill.

Moseley heeled from the first scrum, and Thomas getting the ball away smartly, H. W. Hill brought off a strong run down the centre of the field. His wing man was waiting for the pass with a good opening in view, but Hill held on and was tackled – a lucky thing for Gloucester.

Pool was instrumental in changing the venue, but Moseley were holding their own well in front and tackling keenly. Good kicking gave the visitors territorial advantage, but the Gloucester backs getting possession Daniell ran and punted, but Pritchard gathered and saved.

Near the centre the Gloucester halves were badly beaten by Chubb, who got through splendidly, but served a bad pass to a colleague. Gloucester responded with a neat movement, in which Meadows shone, but Brown was well tackled. He parted with the ball to Allen, who cross-kicked, but failed to put his forwards on-side, and the latter was penalised. The kick gained ground, and a little later Rose made further headway with a nice touch-finder.

The City forwards had not yet warmed to their work, and were having none the best of matters in the tight. A sharp loose rush sent the ball to Pritchard who, though tackled, got in his kick to touch. The same player made a fine tackle of a Gloucester forward with a possible chance of scoring.

Gloucester now put some energy into their work, and Brown was only just stopped in time twice after sharp dashes. Scrums followed in close proximity to the Moseley goal, and eventually a forward passed out to Meadows, who scored the first try. James failed at goal.

Resuming Daniell brought off a long dribble down the touch-line from half-way, but the visitors saved very close in. Gloucester handled smartly after this, but the Moseley defence was very sure. Penalties to the Midlanders brought them out to midfield, where Poole opened out nicely. Meadows, Hughes, and Allen in turn handled, but the latter sent an impossible transfer to Brown, with practically a clear opening. A couple of minutes later Meadows received from Poole, and dodging and cutting beautifully beat the defence and scored a fine try. James again missed the goal points.

On the restart the City backs were soon put on the move by Poole, but the referee pulled up the movement for a forward transfer – a very doubtful decision. Another passing movement was spoiled by Allen, and then Poole shone in a [word unreadable] effort which carried him a long way, but [word unreadable] transfer was captured by an opponent.

A [word unreadable] dribble by the visiting forwards gave them a good slice of ground, but Gloucester recovered as the result of a fine run by Hughes, who ran to the full back, but his low pass to Daniell was knocked on – a certain try being [word unreadable]. The City kept up a warm attack on their opponents' line, but Moseley's tackling was exceptionally good. After Brown had been stopped on the left, the ball was kicked across from the loose to Daniell, who ran round Pritchard and scored a good try, which James converted. Gloucester were now leading by eleven points.

Resuming, there was a spell of even play at the centre, Moseley playing pluckily and well, and taking advantage of any loose work by the home players. Once the visitors looked likely to score, but Denaro essayed a kick instead of going straight on, and thereby bungling it. From this point Gloucester, aided by capital work by Bishop, went away with a strong burst, in saving which Pritchard (who had previously been laid out) was again damaged, and had to leave the field. Resuming with 14 men, Moseley were prominent with some good work, but lacked finish.

Gloucester broke away strongly, but Brown was brought down by Hill when looking dangerous. From a line-out Ayliffe gathered and went over with the fourth try. James failed to add the extra points. Soon after the interval was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal, 3 tries  
MOSELEY ..... Nil

Moseley were still short of Pritchard when they restarted. From the first line-out Gloucester started passing, the ball going out to Daniell, who tried hard to get clear, but failed. Immediately after Brown, taking a difficult pass from Allen, executed a fine effort, cutting and beating several men in great style. He eventually secured the desired opening, and was going straight for the posts, when Hill just managed to pull him down a yard from the line.

Moseley cleared from a dangerous position with useful kicks and sharp forward rushes. Mistakes in passing spoiled a couple of promising bouts by Gloucester, and then a penalty to Moseley enabled the Midlanders to gain a footing in the home half. The City soon worked down, and a clever bit of passing and inter-passing by Meadows and Brown gave the former a god try behind the posts. Pool took the easy shot, but missed.

Following the resumption there was a spell of scrambling play in which Moseley held their own, using their feet well. In the home 25 Poole broke away and passed to Meadows, and Allen and Brown in turn had possession. The wing man raced down the field and passed back inside to Allen, but with the defence practically beaten the centre sent a forward transfer to Poole.

A penalty against Gloucester gave the visitors a nice slice of ground, and after this Moseley played up strongly, gaining a good position in front of the home posts. They got the ball out, but Chubb's pass was intercepted by Poole, who punted to touch beyond the 25 line.

Pritchard had now returned to the field of play. Following up a punt by Brown, Meadows snatched the ball cleverly from an opponent, but his pass was intercepted and centre play followed. Gloucester at length got away on the right, and Daniell made a great effort to score, but was tackled outside. Gloucester had a couple of scoring chances in the next minute, but they failed to materialise. However, from a scrum close in, Poole was credited with a try. James' shot for goal hit the posts.

Pritchard had to leave the field again, and Moseley continued one short. By smart work the Midlanders rushed to the other end, where Rose made a gallant attempt to score, but was collared outside. Moseley had the better of the exchanges in the next few minutes, but scoring ability was lacking. Ayliffe brought play out with a dashing run, but his pass to Daniell was too low to accept.

Moseley quickly worked back to mid-field, where Hall, securing from a line-out, started Meadows going. The latter made a fine run, but in trying to cut inside the full back he slipped and fell to the ground. Gloucester should have added to their score easily after this, but Allen held on with a man each side of him and was tackled.

During the next few minutes there were several amusing incidents, and the game did not appear to be taken seriously. Hughes before the end was conspicuous with a remarkably fine individual effort but after having beaten nearly the whole team he was collared from behind in attempting to beat the full back. Soon after the end came.

#### RESULT :

GLOUCESTER .... 1 goal, 5 tries (20 pts.)

MOSELEY ..... Nil

#### REMARKS.

Moseley put up a class, sporting, and plucky game, and though well beaten on the play, they made a better fight than the scoring would suggest. The game contained a few bright interludes, but there were many patches of scrappy and uninteresting play, and for a First team match it was very moderate football.

The disorganised character of both teams no doubt accounted for much of this, and little interest seemed to be taken in the contest. Gloucester ought to have appreciably added to their score with the chances they were provided; and Moseley, too, might easily have opened their account had there been any finish to attacking movements. But ill-timed and often wild transfers spoiled a number of openings.

The Moseley forwards, after the first ten minutes, were beaten for possession, but the visiting pack played resolutely in the loose, and several times gave the City anxious moments.

The Gloucester front did not always work to the best advantage, but on the whole they performed creditably, with Smart, Ayliffe, Hall, and Bishop often conspicuous for good work. Poole, against weaker opposition, did much better than at Leicester, but the "star" turn of the afternoon was Meadows, at outside half. The Second teamer was credited with three tries, but apart from these scores he did a lot of excellent work in attack. He was very quick away, and showed a nice turn of speed and ability to clear opponents. Meadows should be kept in this position, for he has a safe pair of hands and knows what to do in the way of making openings.

The three-quarter line did not always handle accurately, but Hughes, Daniell, and Brown put in some capital solo efforts which pleased the crowd. The defence was at fault more than once, and the visitors in the opening half slipped through very easily several times. At full back James did not shine to the extent he did at Leicester, and I should say he is best when given plenty to do.

Moseley had a young side doing duty, but they were workers all. The backs tackled remarkably well, Rose and W. H. Hill being very prominent in this respect. Pritchard, too, did well until disabled.

The half-backs worked energetically, and the forwards, if not particularly clever, were a resolute set, and played with great determination.

Tom Voyce, who acted as touch-judge this afternoon, informed me his arm is progressing satisfactorily, and he hoped to be fit to play for England next week. He had had his arm under X-Rays four times, and the doctor's report has been forwarded to the Rugby Union Committee.

Next Saturday : Gloucester v. Swansea, at Kingsholm.

W.B.

JC