

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1922.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER'S ONE-POINT VICTORY.

HEADINGLEY GIVE CITY A CAPITAL GAME.

CLEVER TRIES BY BOTH TEAMS.

Headingley, the crack Leeds amateur team, were opponents of Gloucester at Kingsholm to-day, this being the opening match of the Easter tour of the Yorkshiremen.

On two previous occasions – 1909-10 and 1913-14 – Headingley had appeared at Gloucester on Good Friday, and against City teams much below full strength gained decisive victories by 15 points to 8, and 17 points to 4 respectively.

This afternoon Gloucester had great hopes of avenging previous reverses, despite the fact that Millington could not play owing to the injury to the face he sustained at Llanelly.

The vice-captain was replaced by Hughes at outside half, and Fred Webb filled the vacancy at centre.

The weather was threatening, and a strong, gusty wind blew across the ground.

The attendance was disappointing.

Teams : –

### GLOUCESTER.

BACK : R. H. James.

THREE-QUARTERS: N. Daniell, F. Webb, S. A. Brown, and S. R. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS: W. Dix and E. H. Hughes.

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

### HEADINGLEY.

BACK: H. J. Wenban.

THREE-QUARTERS: A. Platts, V. Dixon-Marshall, S. Wilson, and W. A. Foster.

HALF-BACKS: G. Hoyle and A. S. Hamilton.

FORWARDS: J. Hilton, H. J. White, G. Senior, J. W. Huggins, S. L. H. Jones, Flt. Lieut. Whitworth, E. U. Hindle, and D. S. Winters-Gill.

Referee : Mr. W. H. Vanstone (Bath).

### THE GAME.

Gloucester lost the toss, and Smart kicked off, but his kick went to touch, and a scrum followed at the centre. The City heeled from the first two scrums, but nothing of note occurred. Then Hall opened out from a line-out, and Daniell fielding a low pass from Brown dashed ahead, but was brought down. Hughes serving Voyce, the International made a dozen yards, but was too near touch to get an opening.

The Gloucester men handling, the ball came across nicely to the right wing, where Dix passed inside, but a good tackle stopped the movement. More clever work by the City backs looked promising, but a free to the visitors stopped the home men from getting dangerous.

Brown shone in a good bit of play at midfield, and then Crowther, getting possession, broke through splendidly, but was caught from behind on nearing the full back. The City forwards, dribbling well, the ball was carried over the line, and Headingley conceded a minor.

On the drop-out Dix smartly opened out from the scrum to Webb, who kicked down, but the ball rolled to touch. Gloucester went very close after this, but useful kicking by Hamilton and Hoyle, changed the venue. Further headway was made with loose footwork, and for the first time play was contested in the home 25.

Hughes cleared with a useful touch-finder, and a smart dash by Dix carried the game to the centre. Scrambling play followed, the wind playing a lot of tricks with the ball. More kicking by the visitors led to Gloucester being pressed, but Webb pluckily punted out on his line.

The City forwards came away with a lovely loose rush, but Headingley retaliated, and the game was contested in the home 25 again. Here Dix slipped away from a scrum prettily and punted down the field. Wenban missed the ball but got back, though upset by Voyce. The ball was carried by several Gloucester forwards, but though getting close the City could not score.

Subsequent play was keenly contested, with Headingley doing very well. A brilliant dribble took the visitors well down, and the ball was eventually sent over the line, but Crowther easily beat the opposition for pace and touched down.

On the drop-out Headingley again forced matters, and a dashing forward burst was not stopped until within a few yards of the home goal. Here the Gloucester men were penalised for not playing the ball, but the easy place was missed – a lucky escape for the City.

Gloucester played up strongly on the restart, and a brilliant move by Dix and Hughes led to a nice opening, but the re-pass to Dix was not accepted with practically a clear run-in. Headingley worked out, and indulged in some neat exchanges.

Gloucester saved, but immediately the visitors were placed in possession again. The backs handled cleverly on the right, and then a series of inside passes amongst the forwards led to White racing over the line and behind the posts with a fine try, which was heartily applauded. Marshall landed a goal, and the visitors were five points up.

Restarting, Gloucester set to work to wipe off the deficit, but Headingley held their own splendidly. At length from a kick into the open Smart fielded, and passing sent Hughes down to the full back. A timely transfer was well taken by Brown, who dashed clear and scored wide out. James made a poor attempt at goal.

On the restart there was a spell of even play at the centre. Then the home backs were served by Dix, Webb finally cross-punting. Holford and Voyce were up, but they failed to take, and the ball was again kicked to Webb, who again essayed the cross-kick. Off-side, however, stopped a possible chance of scoring. Gloucester pressed severely, and after a sharp attack on the left, the ball came out to Dix, who nipped away in smart style. Hughes handled, and then gave possession to Brown, who romped over with his second try. Voyce took the kick at goal, but a gust of wind caught the ball and drove it right away from the posts.

Having obtained the lead, Gloucester made strong efforts to increase their points. A clever move by Dix put Crowther in possession, but the centre after running some 20 yards was collared. He, however, managed to get the ball to Brown, who put in a good kick, but the visitors saved.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
GLOUCESTER ..... 2 tries  
HEADINGLEY ..... 1 goal

From the restart the Gloucester forwards started passing, and they reached the centre before a transfer went astray. Headingley punted back, but James replied, and a scrum ensued in the visitors' half.

Brown, receiving from Hughes, brought off a clever run, in the course of which he beat several opponents cheaply. He then cross-punted over the line, but the ball went dead before Daniell could get up.

Following the drop-out Headingly gained a footing in the City half, but they were soon beaten off, and Gloucester in turn attacked. Hall, Hughes and Webb with neat handling gave the right wing a chance, the latter finally cross-punting in front of the posts. Holford secured but lost the ball, and a visitor securing he touched down. But he had gone back from the field of play, and a scrum was ordered five yards outside. The City forwards heeling, Dix got hold and attempted a drop at goal, but his effort failed.

Ensuing play was fast, with Headingley showing good form. Gloucester had the ball behind several times, but the attack was not strong enough to beat the defence. Then in some loose play the visitors picked up, and after a series of neat exchanges Dixon-Marshall secured and scored a capital try. The place kick failed.

Headingley had now regained the lead – 8 points to 6 – and the game became very interesting. Gloucester restarted as if they meant business, and at once obtained a footing in their opponents' half. Dix opened out to Brown, and the centre dashed through and passed. The ball was missed, but Brown pounced on it, and with a determined effort forced himself over the line near the posts amidst cheers. Dix this time took the place and converted, and Gloucester were ahead again.

Gloucester had now reorganised their backs, Hall coming out from the pack, and Crowther going on the wing. The City were still able to get the ball in the scrums, but the combination behind was not altogether satisfactory.

From some clever work by the backs and forwards, Gloucester gained an opening. Daniell kicking past the full-back, raced up and gathered, scoring a fine try. Voyce failed to convert.

Both sides did well in subsequent play. The Gloucester backs twice passed very neatly, but the final transfer went astray. Headingley dribbled clear of danger, but Voyce following up at a fast pace twice pulled down opponents in great style. Headingley persevered and some loose kicking gave the visitors a footing at midfield. Here Hoyle brought off a great dash, and shaking off would-be tacklers, finished a splendid effort by scoring a good try. The place was successful, and the score stood 14-13.

Play to the end favoured Gloucester. Voyce, with a splendid dash, got clear to the full-back, but his pass was not accepted. Right at the end Dix attempted to drop at goal, but failed, Headingley saving by touching down.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal, 3 tries (14 pts.)

HEADINGLEY ..... 2 goals, 1 try (13 pts.)

Gloucester just about deserved to win, but there was precious little in it. Headingley fully deserved all the points they got, the three tries scored all being fine efforts. The wind played a good many nasty tricks with the ball, and a number of movements were spoiled as a consequence, but the game as a whole was splendidly contested and very interesting to watch.

Headingley fielded a very serviceable set of players, and the team worked well in unison. Gloucester had the pull in the scrums, but in loose footwork the visitors were superior. They were fast on the ball, too, and quick to open up from mistakes in handling by home players. Gloucester were best represented by Voyce, Collier, Holford and Hall, whilst White, Hilton, and Hindle showed good form for the visitors.

On the whole the Dix-Hughes combination at half-back worked well. The former displayed skill and resource to a marked degree, and he gave Hamilton, the old Scottish International, a lively afternoon. Hughes accepted most of his passes in finished style, and he showed enterprise and judgment in opening out.

From several of these movements Gloucester ought to have scored, but Crowther, tried in the centre, though playing with plenty of dash, did not have much idea of serving his wing, with the result that he was pulled down in possession. Sid Brown, on the other hand, did splendidly, and had the satisfaction of scoring three capital tries. Daniell made several praiseworthy attempts to clear the opposition, but he failed in his efforts. With Hall assisting the backs, and Webb at centre, Gloucester did some smart work in the second half, and only bad luck robbed them of a couple of tries.

James was not so successful at full back as in recent home matches, and on the day Wenban, the Headingley custodian, was the better man. The Yorkshireman was highly tried at times, but he was rarely at fault, and saved daringly under great pressure.

The Headingley back division did not get so much of the ball as the home men, but they were not afraid to open out when opportunity served. Individually, Hoyle and Dixon-Marshall were seen to great advantage, but the whole set tackled well and kicked with judgment.

Easter Monday : v. Bradford, will be : – H. R. James; H. Goring, S. Brown, E. Hughes, and S. Crowther; W. Dix and T. Millington; S. Smart (capt.), G. Holford, T. Voyce, F. Ayliffe, A. Hall, J. Harris, M. Evans, and A. Wright.

W.B.

GLOUCESTER A DEFEATED.

GORDON LEAGUE WINNERS BY THREE POINTS.

Gloucester A, who visited Hempsted for the return match with Gordon League, were weak forward. The League were well represented. The conditions were all against good football, the ground being very greasy and a hurricane of wind having to be contended with.

Gloucester A played with the wind in the first half, but while they naturally had all the game territorially, they failed badly to take advantage of the conditions. The visiting forwards gave Gough a good share of the ball, but the close marking by the League was an outstanding feature, and except on one occasion, when Wadley and Meadows executed a beautiful move down the wing, ending in a try for the latter, Gloucester A were not really dangerous. Burns failed with the kick for goal.

In the second half the tables were completely turned, and the League, pressing continually, showed considerably more dash than their opponents, and after several attacks Dangerfield cut through and scored a good try. Hopcroft failed from a good position. Miller scored the winning try, Burns having taken a flying kick which the wind carried across his goal line, the wing man dashing up and touching down. Hopcroft again failed.

RESULT :

Gordon League ..... 2 tries (6 points)  
Gloucester A ..... 1 try (3 points)