

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1922.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. CLIFTON.

CITY EASY WINNERS IN MODERATE GAME.

After a long absence, Clifton once more appeared on the Gloucester fixture list for one match, which was decided at Kingsholm this afternoon, in beautiful weather. Gloucester fielded short of Hughes, Webb, Holford, Voyce, Hall, and Roderick; whilst Clifton missed the services of three of their best men in Arkley, Esbester, and Waters. There was a fair attendance for a mid-week game.

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : R. H. James.

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

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

FORWARDS: S. Smart (capt.), F. Ayliffe, J. Harris, H. W. Collier, S. Bayliss, F. Mansell, M. Evans, and G. Bishop.

CLIFTON.

BACK: G. A. Rose.

THREE-QUARTERS: J. L. W. Evans, S. B. Organ, F. Curtis, and C. N. Hatcher.

HALF-BACKS: J. Bromhead and R. C. Organ.

FORWARDS: R. W. Whitelaw (capt.), E. G. Everett, V. R. Rogers, G. S. Castle, E. O. Lambert, L. H. Hatcher, D. McArthur, and A. Carruthers.

Referee : Mr. R. A. Roberts (Gloucester County Union).

THE GAME.

Clifton started with the strong sun in their faces, and the visitors with smart footwork carried play to the home 25. The City quickly changed the venue, and Rose being pressed was forced to kick straight to touch well inside his own half. Gloucester opened out nicely, but Crowther just failed to beat the defence. A minute later, however, Millington broke through to the line, where he lost possession, but Meadows was handy and scored easily. Millington failed at goal.

Clifton restarted, but they were at once forced to defend, and after a dash by Crowther, Meadows took a difficult pass and dodged over cleverly with his second try. Millington added the goal points.

Ensuing play was fast and keen, but the players found the ball lively and difficult to handle. Collier and Harris both shone with individual efforts which only just failed to develop, and then a Clifton forward, taking the ball in the line-out, broke clean away and past James. Evans, however, got back and effected a good tackle. So far there had been little in the way of handling, Gloucester failing to command the ball in the scrum. Loose footwork was mainly indulged in, and though Gloucester had the better of the exchanges, Clifton by no means did badly.

Clifton, gaining a footing in the home half, resorted to passing, and with a bit of luck they might have got through. The Gloucester backs responded immediately with a nice bout of passing, ending in Brown racing to the full-back. Daniell, however, knocked on, and a certain try was lost. Clifton with useful kicking got down to the other end, but the visitors showed poor attacking ability. In a scramble Smart was injured and had to leave the field. Continuing with seven forwards, the City took up the aggressive, and Daniell made a fine run down touch. He was partially checked by Rose, and before he could recover he was tackled from behind. Gloucester, however, kept up the pressure, and from an opening by Dix, Brown notched the third try. No goal resulted.

Clifton resumed pluckily, and with the City making numerous mistakes, the visitors had one or two openings. They failed, however, to accept them, and the best they could do was to force a minor.

Subsequent play was very scrambling, and was chiefly noticeable for the mistakes in handling by home players. Millington once cut through beautifully from inside his own half right to the full-back, but Crowther failed to accept a clean transfer with an open line.

After Millington had failed with a shot at goal from a penalty, Dix opened out from a scrum, and Millington yielding to Brown. The latter raced away and, beating the full-back easily, scored behind the posts. Millington goaled, giving Gloucester a 16 points lead.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
GLOUCESTER 2 goals 2 tries
CLIFTON Nil

Smart was still absent when the game was restarted. Gloucester early got the ball out, but Brown sent a lobbing pass to Daniell which was fumbled with a good opening. A little later a similar happening occurred. The Gloucester forwards rushed well, and Dix went close, but Clifton saved. The visitors cleared to the centre, where Hatcher fielded a high punt, and running strongly, scored near the posts amidst encouraging cheers. The kick at goal hit the cross-bar.

Gloucester played up strongly after this, but with the ball amongst the backs, the fumbling continued, with the resultant loss of tries. It was poor football, and very little interest was taken in the game. Gloucester eventually set up an attack, and a clever move by Millington gave Meadows a soft try, which Dix failed to convert.

There was no improvement in the play of the home men later, the players appearing to take the game very casually. Dix caused amusement by tricking several opponents very neatly, and shaking off the attentions of a big forward, but there was little of interest to record.

Clifton, however, kept at it, and they caught Gloucester napping again, Hatcher securing an opening and racing home easily. No goal resulted.

After this second reverse the City entered seriously into the contest, and Evans, picking up after a loose rush, scored behind the posts, for Millington to add the extra points.

Then came a really spectacular try – the one brilliant incident seen so far. Brown received from the kick-off and started passing. The home players were in position for the transfer, and after a series of seven or eight exchanges Crowther finished up by running behind the posts. Millington again converted.

Gloucester were pressed for a brief period after the resumption, but they eventually cleared, and Millington making a fine opening sent Bayliss over with the eighth try. No goal resulted.

Clifton attacked again following the restart, but they were beaten off, and Brown added another unconverted try to Gloucester's score.

The City started passing from the kick-off, Dix finally punting ahead. Millington came along and carried the ball on, and it was eventually kicked over the line, where Collier beat an opponent for the touch and scored. Millington converted with a grand kick. Clifton played up pluckily to the end and prevented any further scoring.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ... 5 goals 5 tries (40 pts.)

CLIFTON 2 tries (6 pts.)

REMARKS.

The game calls for little comment. Clifton, who had one or two good individual men in their ranks, played a plucky and sporting game, but as a combination they were outclassed.

Gloucester's display, despite their big win, was by no means satisfactory, and not until the last ten minutes did the side handle with any degree of accuracy. Smart is suffering with damaged ribs, though nothing serious is anticipated.

JC