

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1922.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER FAIL AT PONTYPOOL.

MILLINGTON'S PENALTY GOAL ONLY SCORE FOR THE CITY.

Gloucester had to journey to Pontypool minus the valuable services of Smart and Holford (on the injured list), Dix and Voyce, and little hope was entertained that the City would prove strong enough to cope with the powerful Monmouth Valley Club.

The kick-off did not take place till 4.30.

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : R. H. James.

THREE-QUARTERS: S. Brown, R. Hughes, F. Webb, and S. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS: T. Gough and T. Millington.

FORWARDS: F. Ayliffe, Major Roderick, J. Harris, A. Hall, H. W. Collier, M. Evans, G. Bishop, and A. Wright.

PONTYPOOL.

BACK: R. Vaughan.

THREE-QUARTERS: T. Probert, G. Morgan, P. J. Skym, and C. Richards.

HALF-BACKS: George Lewis and S. Lewis.

FORWARDS: G. Veater (capt.), J. Williams, F. Phillips, E. Bullock, A. Richards, O. Oram, H. Upcott, and T. Vaughan.

## THE GAME.

Ideal weather favoured good football. Gloucester opened by attacking with clever passing, but a great tackle by Webb prevented the movement from developing, and Pontypool were soon within a few yards of their opponents' line. There the ball was passed rapidly from the left to Richards, who went over in the corner with an unconverted try.

Gloucester did not then show the determination expected, and were kept on the defensive. While the Pontypool backs threw the ball about freely, the Gloucester backs displayed a tendency to take the "dummy" easily, and when in a good position Stanley Lewis, the Pontypool inside half, twice gave the "dummy" and then passed to Tom Vaughan, for him to score. George Lewis failed to convert.

Try as they would Gloucester could not gain a position in the Pontypool half, and Pontypool generally kept play within a few yards of the Gloucester line. There Gloucester made the mistake of paying too much attention to Richards and allowed George Lewis to cross and get behind the posts. The same player converted.

For the first time Gloucester then got moving nicely, and obtained a footing in the Pontypool half, where they were awarded a free kick. Millington placed a beautiful goal.

The venue of play was changed by a great run by Hughes, who ran half the length of the field before being tackled by Vaughan, but the next moment Richards scored after perfect passing.

Joe Williams added another try. Then Webb was injured and had to be carried off.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
PONTYPOOL ..... 1 goal, 4 tries  
GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal (p)

In the second half tries were scored for Pontypool by Skym and Hayes[*sic*], both after passing movements.

The one-sided nature of the game robbed it of interest. Gloucester were everywhere outclassed, particularly behind the scrum, and very rarely looked dangerous.

RESULT :

PONTYPOOL ..... 1 goal, 6 tries (23 pts.)

GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal (p) (3 pts.)

Next week Gloucester play Leicester at Kingsholm, and as the whole of the proceeds go to the Gloucester Royal Infirmary it is hoped that there will be a really good attendance.

EASY WIN FOR GLOUCESTER A

BROMSGROVE BEATEN POINTLESS.

Owing to the calls of the premier team, Gloucester A were able to put only a weak side into the field at Kingsholm this afternoon to meet Bromsgrove, who, however, were not strongly represented.

Teams : –

Gloucester A. – J. C. Collett; N. Daniell, A. E. Hopcroft, S. Bayliss, and F. Wadley; E. Abbey and F. Meadows; F. Mansell, J. Rea, T. Coulson, H. G. Mountford, H. Pitt, H. Jones, E. Curtis, and W. Manns.

Bromsgrove. – W. S. Figures; F. L. Lambert, P. Huins, E. G. Wilson, and B. Weaver; R. Appleby and H. Jeffries; D. Drury, C. Waldrick, A. R. Allday, D. Mason, R. Jefferies, W. Jefferies, J. Morris, and P. Lyde.

Referee : Mr. Lawrence.

Mansell kicked off and there was a poor return, but the visitors secured from a line-out and carried play to the centre. Bromsgrove heeled and handled, but the Gloucester forwards set up an attack which ended in a couple of scrums in the visitors' 25. Heeling again the Midlanders handled and ran to the home 25, but they were eventually pulled up.

The City backs handled for the first time, Bayliss cutting through and sending out a wide pass to Wadley, who kicked ahead, the ball going to touch in the corner. A keen struggle on the visitors' goal line resulted, but the defence was sound, and good footwork brought relief. Bromsgrove were unable to go far, and a cross-kick by one of their players was fielded by Bayliss, who ran strongly but was pulled down.

Gloucester continued the pressure by strenuous loose forward work, but beyond forcing a minor were unable to do anything. The visitors were getting the ball from the scrum and Appleby and Jefferies gave the three-quarters plenty of work. The Gloucester tackling was too keen for them, however, and although they put in one run which took them to the home quarter they were unable to turn the heeling of the forwards to account.

Gradually the visitors improved and began to have a share of the game. A penalty against the City lost a slice of ground, and further heeling by the Midlanders led to Gloucester being forced back to their quarter. From a line out Meadows broke away and looked like getting clear, having kicked past Figures, but Weaver got back and pulled him down. His run had again changed the aspect of the game and the home three-quarters again showed up, Bayliss making a fruitless attempt to drop a goal. The home forwards narrowly missed a scorer, Lambert touching down just in time.

A score was not long delayed, the ball being punted across the field to Wadley, who picked up and ran over. Collett added the goal points from a difficult angle.

Following this reverse Bromsgrove came away and worked to the Gloucester 25 where a good, but unsuccessful attempt was made to drop a goal. The visitors were unable to maintain their position, and after Daniell had cut through strongly the home forwards again attacked strongly. The ball was kicked back to Collett who dropped badly for goal and a good return left play at mid-field at the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A ..... 1 goal  
Bromsgrove ..... Nil

On the resumption Gloucester immediately attacked, and Collett had another unsuccessful try to drop a goal. Then Figures kicked strongly, but Collett fielded, and dashing through the opposition ran to within ten yards of the Bromsgrove line, where he yielded to Hopcroft, who failed to cross.

Daniell next came into the picture with a fine run, but he was brought down just on the line. The same player put in another dash just afterwards but was again pulled down. Collett was the next to make for the line; his dash was irresistible, but he kicked ahead and Figures fielded.

The pressure upon the visitors was too heavy and continuous, and another score came as a result of Abbey securing from a scrum near the line and dashing over with a solo effort. Collett covered the cross-bar with another fine kick.

The Midlanders were deprived of the services of Weaver who having previously had his knee injured was unable to continue. A penalty in favour of Gloucester led to Collett's trying yet another drop for goal – a poor effort. A smart bout of handling by the home backs saw Wadley carried into touch. Then, after continued pressure on the visitors' line the ball was kicked over and there was a general rush for it, but while it was obvious that one of the Bromsgrove men had touched down, Gloucester were awarded a try. Collett failed this time.

Then Bromsgrove had another narrow escape, Hopcroft, Wadley, and Meadows seeming to have an easy run in, but they took things too comfortably and one of the visitors got across and pulled Hopcroft down just in time.

Bromsgrove were by no means finished, and continued to put up a vigorous defence, tackling strongly and handling when possible. Then after Hopcroft had crossed, but had been brought back, the home backs handled beautifully, the movement allowing the ball to travel across the field to Daniell, who scored smartly. Collett failed at goal.

Gloucester were now having things all their own way, and Meadows, who was unmarked, grounded behind the posts – a very soft try. Hopcroft converted.

Figures was prominent with a fine kick to touch, and then the visiting forwards carried out a useful dribble, but they were pulled up before reaching the half-way line. The end came after the visitors had made practically their only incursion into the home territory in the second half.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 3 goals 2 tries (21 pts.)

Bromsgrove ..... Nil

#### REMARKS.

Although Gloucester A secured an easy victory, Bromsgrove put up a good fight and were game to the end. A feature of the early stages was the failure of the home forwards to heel, the visitors getting the ball back every time. After their halves had finished with it, however, they lost all advantage, for the City pack playing dashing football in the loose were altogether too smart for the visiting threequarters and robbed them of possession every time.

Mansell, Coulson and Curtis were prominent in the front line. Abbey put in several smart moves, his try being the result of good headwork, but on the whole his display was moderate.

Meadows was lively as fly half. The home threequarter line showed a sad lack of finish, some of the passing being very wild. Several times excellent chances were thrown away in consequence of bad transfers. Bayliss as a stand-by did not do at all badly.

The visiting centres were a failure, and the wings had no chance. Collett was again remarkable for his tremendous kicking, but Figures had by far the harder task, and generally played splendidly.

JC