

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1922.

FOOTBALL.

GLO'STER'S BRILLIANT ACHIEVEMENT.

LEICESTER OUTCLASSED AND WELL BEATEN.

CITY BACKS IN GREAT FORM.

For the return match with Leicester, at Kingsholm, the City Club set aside the fixture for the benefit of the Royal Infirmary, the whole of the gate receipts and collections, without any deduction for expenses, being devoted to the funds of the institution.

Tickets were on sale during the week, and it was hoped that, with the day's takings, a record sum would be available for the Infirmary.

Unfortunately, the weather took an unpleasant turn. A bright, Spring-like morning was followed by a sudden change, a heavy hail-storm being succeeded by drizzling rain. These conditions affected the attendance, but when the game started there was a very good crowd present.

Members of the Rugby Supporters' Club were busy inside and outside the ground with collection boxes "for the good of the cause," and the Wagon Works Silver Band kindly abstained from their weekly collection for the same object.

Gloucester fielded as advertised, the absentees being Holford and Smart forward, whose places were filled by Evans and Bayliss. Leicester were also strongly represented. The ground was not greatly affected by the rain.

The teams were : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : H. R. James.

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

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

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

LEICESTER.

BACK: L. C. Sambrook.

THREE-QUARTERS: Norman Coates, H. L. V. Day, A. D. Godfrey, and E. Haselmere.

HALF-BACKS: J. C. Russell and F. M. Taylor.

FORWARDS: G. Ward, F. Taylor, C. W. Cross, W. Buckler, F. Lawrence, W. C. Hicks, R. H. C. Usher, and A. Adams.

Referee : Mr. J. H. Burge (Somerset).

THE GAME.

Dr. Alcock kicked off, and the game opened brightly. Leicester got away from the first scrum, but the passing went astray, and Gloucester easily checked. The City then heeled twice in succession, and nice passing resulted. Cook, in the second instance, cut through beautifully and fed Crowther, but the wing man was tackled by Haselmere. Gloucester, working well, rushed to the line, where the Leicester backs were at fault. Voyce pounced on the ball over the line, but there had been some infringement and a scrum was ordered five yards out.

Gloucester just after had a fine opening, thanks to Harris, but Brown slipped just as he gathered the ball, and a pass went into touch. Leicester came away with a good loose rush, which Cook stopped in good style. A loose kick, however, sent the ball to James, who gathered cleverly, and, racing round, fed Hughes. The centre transferred to Brown, who dashed off down touch. When confronted by Sambrook he gave a pass to Hughes, who had come up on his left, but the centre was bundled to touch.

Exciting play followed at midfield, where the Leicester forwards broke away with a dangerous loose rush, which Hughes checked in daring style. A big punt by Day put Leicester in the home half, but Cook relieved cleverly, and sent to touch. Then Gloucester opened out through Dix, and the ball was handled nicely along the line. Brown, the last to receive, tried hard to get clear, but Day brought him down with a good tackle.

Gloucester continued to show bright football, the forwards heeling well, and the backs displaying good combination. Fielding a kick by an opponent, Crowther showed his pace by beating Haselmere, but he was legged from behind when a likely scorer. Cook had come up in position for a pass, but the transfer was forward, and nothing resulted.

Gloucester maintained the pressure, and there was a possible chance on the left wing, but the pass to Brown was low, and though the wing man picked up the ball he was too quickly surrounded to do anything. A passing bout by the Leicester backs changed the venue, Haselmere finally kicking to touch inside the home half.

Dix, with smart work in the scrum, sent Hughes away nicely, but Brown was too well watched by Day to get far. Leicester responded with a series of exchanges which left the ball with Haselmere, but Crowther tackled his man and forced him to pass forward. A good rush by the City front, Ayliffe, Roderick and Harris being in the van, carried the home team beyond the centre, but a wild pass by Dix lost the position, Russell kicking down to James, who was closely pressed, but nevertheless got the ball to touch.

Leicester were now very close, but an attempt to open out was foiled, and the ball getting to Cook, the latter found touch with a nice kick. Close forward play ensued for a few minutes, with little in it, until Gloucester dribbled away to Sambrook, who made a feeble effort to check the rush. The ball was carried on to the 25-line, where Coates came across and turned it to touch.

Leicester worked out 20 yards, where Russell, who had been putting the ball very unfairly in the scrum, was caught at last by the referee and penalised. Millington put in a good touch-finder, and from the line-out Gloucester rushed the ball over the line and forced a minor.

Subsequent play, which was scrambling, had deteriorated considerably from the standard set up in the earlier stages. Gloucester were holding their own well, but could not gain an opening. From a line-out Hall secured and passed out to Cook, but the latter was tackled by Coates, and the ball getting loose Tim Taylor kicked through and over the line, scoring in a good position. Day, however, missed the goal points from the easy place.

Resuming, the Gloucester backs were to the fore with a capital passing run, in which Cook and Crowther shone. The right winger made a good effort, but succumbed to the attentions of Haselmere and Sambrook. Gloucester had the better of the exchanges to the interval, but there was no further scoring.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
LEICESTER 1 try
GLOUCESTER Nil

Leicester were decidedly fortunate in being three points up at the interval, for Gloucester had shown the better football, and had certainly had more of the play. The City's luck, however, was out when scoring chances occurred.

Leicester restarted, and the City initiated an attack from the kick-off, but with the players well in position after several transfers, a forward pass spoiled the movement. Leicester heeled from the first scrum, Godfrey punting down the field. Brown, however, fielded, with Day close on him, and ran to the centre, where he passed to Voyce. The International, however, was too near touch to do anything. Stanley Cook getting a kick charged down, the Tigers got dangerous, and Gloucester were hard pressed. A drop at goal by Haselmere fell short, but James was pulled down in front of the posts.

Matters looked ugly for the City when the ball was rushed over the line, but Cook was at hand, and cleared beautifully with a kick to touch. Here Dix opened to Millington, who ran down and fed Brown. The latter travelled some 20 yards, and then gave a return pass to Millington, who yielded to Voyce. The forward could not quite clear, and was tackled from behind.

Loose kicking by Leicester gained them some 20 yards, but Gloucester came back through Brown, who ran and punted, only just failing to get clear of Coates after regaining possession.

Gloucester now set on the attack with great spirit, and Leicester were seriously pressed. From a kick out Brown fielded, and with admirable judgment punted across to the opposite wing. Here Dix secured, and passed to Crowther. The latter was tackled a few yards outside, but he managed to get the ball away to Millington, who crossed the line amidst great cheering. Millington kicked a fine goal, and gave Gloucester the lead.

Following this success Gloucester played up with great spirit, and gave the Tigers a trying time. A brilliant round of passing saw Crowther make a fine dash for the line, which only just failed. From the succeeding scrum Russell was penalised for an infringement, and from a difficult place Millington landed a lovely goal, making the score 8-3 in favour of the city. More cheering, loud and prolonged.

From the re-start Gloucester started passing – a lovely movement. Roderick, the last to receive, punted down the field, but Sambrook marked and stopped a likely score, for the City forwards were well up. Leicester, however, continued to remain on the defensive.

Hughes was conspicuous with two clever runs, but he was eventually collared. However, Gloucester persevered, and Cook, fielding the ball in the open, ran and served Brown, who raced away from the opposition and scored a great try. Millington missed the goal points.

Leicester were now clearly outplayed, and they were lucky in not having another score against them almost immediately. From a big rush the ball was kicked into the open, where Voyce fielded whilst going at full pace. Facing Sambrook, the International yielded to Ayliffe, who ran over, but had the mortification to find the whistle had gone for some infringement.

Gloucester, however, continued to exhibit fine form, the backs especially playing excellent football. Crowther had another splendid dash from passing which put Gloucester in a good position. From a scrum Dix and Millington got the ball away, and after beautiful passing and inter-passing between the outside half and Brown, Millington scored a good try. The same player missed the goal.

Leading by 14-3, Gloucester did not relax their efforts, and more fine combination by the home half-backs only missed a score through the final pass to Voyce being slightly forward. This was one of the best movements of the game and deserved reward.

Leicester did a lot better in subsequent play, but they never looked like scoring. Once the backs got away, and Day ran strongly, but James pushed him to touch. A flying kick sent the ball to Sambrook, who tried a drop at goal, but it was charged down. Hughes gathered the ball neatly and made a fine opening, but with Haselmere pressing him he passed to Harris. The latter ran almost to the line when he transferred to Hughes, for the clever centre to score behind the posts – a very fine try. Millington failed at goal, the ball being touched by an opposing player and directed out of its flight.

The football continued fast and open, with Gloucester showing their best form of the season. From a high punt by James the City full back followed up and put his men on side with a fine chance. The referee, however, ruled off-side, and Gloucester had to go back. Just before the end Leicester pressed, but the game ended with no more scoring, Gloucester gaining a brilliant triumph.

RESULT :

 GLOUCESTER 2 goals 3 tries (17 pts.)
 LEICESTER 1 try (3 pts.)

REMARKS.

Gloucester's victory was worthily obtained, and the margin of points between the teams in no way more than represented the City's superiority. Gloucester played brilliant football in the second half, and in no match this season has the team displayed such combination. The passing and interpassing fairly bewildered the "Tigers," and the defence was fairly left at times. The four tries scored by Gloucester were all the result of efforts in which judgment, pace and clean handling were distinguishing features. There were other occasions when Leicester were clearly beaten, and only a faulty transfer at the critical moment stopped tries being scored.

Except for several periods when Leicester went in for loose footwork and made play somewhat scrambling, the game to-day was fast and exhilarating, and the spectators had full value for their money. The Gloucester forwards were up against a hefty front, but in the scrums the City eight, despite the packing of the visitors, did famously, heeling well and working resolutely throughout. They all responded splendidly to the lead of Ayliffe, who had taken over the duties in the absence of Smart and Holford, and there was not a weak spot anywhere.

In the open Gloucester had the measure of their opponents in all phases of play, especially in the second half, when the forwards took their share in some of the most delightful movements witnessed during the game. In the strenuous work – and there was plenty to be done this afternoon – the home forwards did not shirk their duty, and Leicester found they were up against a combination fully equal to anything that was necessary. Voyce was brilliantly effective in the open, and was never out of place to take part in attacking movements. The International was closely watched by several opponents, but their attentions only served to make the Gloucesterian keener than ever. Ayliffe, Roderick and Hall did splendid work; Harris was always prominent, and Collier, Bayliss and Evans fitted in splendidly with the general scheme. All praise to the forwards on a very fine performance.

Outside the scrum Gloucester were always on top. The presence of Stanley Cook in the ranks made a wonderful difference, and the whole division touched a standard of play not exhibited for months past. It was the "old Gloucester," and the large crowd of spectators were simply delighted with the display.

Well served by their forwards, Dix and Millington combined perfectly at half-back, and they opened out with a facility that contributed a good deal to the success attained. Russell, Dix's big opponent at the scrum, had a way of his own in putting the ball in, but even with this advantage he could not cope with the Gloucester men. Once or twice Dix's passes went wide of his colleagues, but his all-round cleverness easily wiped out these minor failings. Millington's judgment was never at fault, and he proved an ideal pivot. He worked out some beautiful openings, and the inter-passing between him and Brown on several occasions was perfectly carried out.

Not since the earlier part of the season have the Gloucester three-quarters shown such form. In the centre Stanley Cook and Hughes cut out openings in a manner that the Leicester men could not approach, and we saw to-day the wing men given a fair chance. The Old Cryptian always does well with Gloucester, and this afternoon he was a treat to watch. It is to be hoped he will be prevailed upon to lend his assistance for the remainder of the season. His personality alone is an asset to the side; his value as a player cannot be over-estimated. Hughes is a clever little player, and he did fine work in attack, whilst his defence was on the same high level. The way he brought down Norman Coates on one or two occasions was great.

On the respective wings, Brown and Crowther gave a most encouraging display, both making several fine runs and playing with splendid dash. It was a smart move on the part of Brown that led to Gloucester's first try, and later he was conspicuous for several efforts – all of the best class. Crowther put some ginger into his work to-day, and though he was not among the scorers it was not for the want of trying. He wants to be kept at it, for the more work he gets the better he shapes.

Gloucester were well served at full back by James, who gave an exhibition fully in keeping with the rest of the team. Once or twice he showed enterprise and initiative in starting an attack, and followed the play with good judgment. His kicking and fielding were excellent, and he was never flurried by the Leicester forwards.

Leicester were a well-beaten side on the play, and the "Tigers" would probably be the first to admit this fact. Only three times previously had the team been beaten away from home, so that Gloucester's pronounced win this afternoon was all the more creditable.

And be it remembered that it was Leicester's full strength that went under. Smallwood certainly was away, but the International is not regarded as indispensable to the side.

The visiting forwards played a hard game, and in loose footwork they did a lot of damage, but did not always use their feet with discretion. In general cleverness the advantage rested with the City.

At half-back, Russell was moderate, and he would have been still less effective had he been penalised for all his infringements. Tim Taylor did some smart things, and he was credited with Leicester's solitary try. The third line could not compare with the City four, either individually or in combination. Coates was good in defence, and Day kicked strongly, but few real openings were made. Sambrook was only fair at full back.

Next week : United Services, at Kingsholm.

I understand Kershaw and Davies, the English Internationals, have promised Tom Voyce to come to Gloucester, so that there should be another fine, open game next Saturday.

W.B.

GLOUCESTER A BEATEN AT CINDERFORD.

A GOOD GAME.

Gloucester commenced down the slope, and their forwards took play to the Cinderford quarter. Daniell flung out a long pass to Ball, whose kick was charged down. Thomas brought relief with a nice kick to touch, but Gloucester heeled, and from a nice round of passing Daniell scored a splendid try in the corner. The kick for goal failed.

Cinderford were awarded a free, and Meek found touch in the corner. Play remained in the visitors' 25 for a time, but for off-side play Cinderford were penalised, and with the kick Collett gained a little ground. The Gloucester forwards rushed down the field, where Greenman saved well. Meadows broke away but did not get far, Weaver bringing him down from behind. Cole intercepted and scored behind the posts, the same player failing with the kick.

Then the home forwards broke away, Daniell saving. For off-side play Gloucester were penalised, Meek failing with the kick, and Beard had hard luck in not scoring for the homesters. The visiting forwards took play into the Cinderford half, Greenman saving. A penalty to Cinderford was taken by Milliner, who found the touch-line at half-way. Collett brought relief with a huge kick.

The visitors indulged in passing, Young saving. Nice passing between Young and Thomas ended in Young scoring wide out. Milliner failed to add the points.

From a scrum Meek received and dropped a beautiful goal from amongst a host of opponents. Play was very fast, both sides attacking in turn. Meek was injured in stopping the Gloucester forwards, but resumed.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Cinderford	1 goal (d), 1 try
Gloucester A	2 tries

From good passing Meek scored for Cinderford, Milliner kicking a fine goal. Collett kicked finely for Gloucester, and the visitors tried hard to increase their lead, but failed.

RESULT :

Cinderford 2 goals (1d) 1 try (12 pts.)

Gloucester A 2 tries (6 pts.)

JC