

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1922.

FOOTBALL.

GUY'S REVENGE.

FORWARDS' GALLANT FIGHT AT HONOR OAK.

CITY BEATEN IN PACE AND CLEVERNESS BEHIND.

Gloucester paid their one and only visit of the season to London to-day, when they appeared at Honor Oak Park for the return fixture with Guy's Hospital, regarded as the strongest of the Metropolitan clubs. Last year the City were defeated in a very unsatisfactory game, but with the team's better record in away matches this season it was hoped that result would be reversed this afternoon. When the Hospital visited Kingsholm in October, Gloucester gained a handsome victory by 13 points to nil, and the Londoners were also beaten at the City headquarters the previous season, so that the record of games between the clubs gave Gloucester two victories to one.

Guy's fielded a powerful fifteen, all the back division, with the exception of Sprong, being South African players. They had plenty of pace and cleverness behind, and the forwards, too, were a strong lot. In view of England's failure in the first International, the contest was viewed with more than ordinary interest as likely to furnish candidates for the next test with Ireland.

Late changes in the Gloucester team weakened the combination. Kerwood again had to cry off, and Dix (complaining of an injured leg) was unable to make the journey. A further disappointment was the inability of Frank Ayliffe to get away from business. The reserves called on were James, Poole and Evans respectively, the latter's place as spare man being taken by Bayliss.

Gloucester had to make a still further change in the team. Sid Brown was unable to get away, and S. R. Crowther filled the vacancy. After heavy rain during the night, the ground was very muddy in places, but the weather was fine overhead. The attendance was about 3,000, including a contingent of Gloucestersians resident in London, who sported the City Club colours in their coats.

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : H. R. James.

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

HALF-BACKS: G. Poole and T. Millington.

FORWARDS: S. Smart (captain), M. Evans, T. Voyce, Major Roderick, G. Holford, J. Harris, A. Hall, and H. W. Collier.

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

BACK: A. K. Van Neikirk.

THREE-QUARTERS: C. L. Steyn, P. K. Albertijn, J. G. Van Schalkwijk, and A. Daneel.

HALF-BACKS: F. W. Bekker and E. B. Sprong.

FORWARDS: W. D. Doherty, W. H. Taylor, E. H. Fouraker, L. K. Watson, E. E. Nesar, F. G. Hutchinson, F. J. Biddle, and B. G. Harvey.

Referee : Mr. C. S. Bongard.

THE GAME.

Guy's kicked off, the ball going to Collier, who passed to Voyce for the latter to dash ahead and gain some 20 yards before being upset. Gloucester made further ground with a loose rush, and from a kick down Neikirk was forced to carry over his line. The Hospital relieved with a penalty, but a minute later Sprong had a kick charged down by Millington, who raced on and scored a good try, the same player converting.

This was less than five minutes from the start, and was most encouraging for the visitors. Guy's, however, quickly replied, for, having gained a footing in the Gloucester 25, the home backs handled cleverly and Steyn scored wide out. The kick at goal failed.

Resuming, the Hospital had the better of the exchanges, and Gloucester were hard pressed for a couple of minutes, but the forwards broke away with a relief rush, and useful kicks further improved matters. Guy's were getting the ball in the scrum, but twice the passing broke down, and Gloucester benefited. From a cross-kick by Schalkwijk, however, the home forwards were placed in possession, but Taylor knocked on with a dangerous opening.

Hot forward work, in which Gloucester held their own, characterised ensuing play, but penalties against the City gave the Hospital territorial advantage. Hall was playing extra back for the visitors, who were called upon to defend hotly. A forward pass lost Steyn a try, but the Hospital continued to press, and for feet up in the scrum five yards out Gloucester were penalised, and Daneel placed an easy goal, giving the Hospital a point lead.

Play on the restart was hotly contested, but was mostly forward. Gloucester were awarded three penalty kicks in succession, and Millington each time found touch nicely. What back play was attempted was done by Guy's, who were dangerous when on the move. The Gloucester tackling was none too sound at times, the men going far too high for their opponents. Following a kick by Schalkwijk, Albertijn charged into James badly and knocked him out, but the latter was able to resume.

Exciting play ensued, and just before the interval Steyn ran in a fine try for Guy's. Daneel missed the goal kick.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

GUY'S 1 goal (p) 2 tries
GLOUCESTER 1 goal

Guy's had shown superiority, and deserved their lead at half-time. The forwards were well matched, but behind the Hospital had a distinct advantage both in pace and cleverness. The Gloucester backs had scarcely seen anything of the ball, and consequently nothing was done in attack.

Restarting, the City showed up at once with smart open work, but Webb was collared on receiving an inside pass from Hall. Immediately after, Sprong broke through finely on his own, and cross-kicked. Webb knocked on, but Albertijn was allowed to pick up and pass to Daneel, who scored in the corner. The goal-kick failed.

After this Gloucester attacked resolutely, and got very close, but Neikirk relieved finely. Guy's, with big kicking and fast following-up, changed the venue, and some even play ensued; but Gloucester, though their forwards worked hard and well, were not clever enough behind to turn any possible chance to good account. James was doing useful work at full back, and gave nothing away.

Gloucester, with dashing footwork, gained a footing at mid-field, but a penalty sent them back to a few yards from the line, where some hot work took place. A fruitless drop at goal by Albertijn, however, sent the ball over the bar, and Webb conceded a minor. Resuming, Guy's opened out, and Schalkwijk, running strongly, gave Steyn a brilliant try behind the posts, which Schalkwijk converted.

This was a very fine effort, and the best of the match so far. Guy's now took the game in hand, the forwards heeling and the backs handling beautifully. Albertijn worked out a nice opening by giving the dummy, and finally cross-kicking right under the goal. Schalkwijk was well up, and an easy try resulted. The goal points were not obtained.

Guy's were now leading 20 to 5, and they deserved every point. The Gloucester forwards distinguished themselves with a splendid loose rush on the restart, but Albertijn checked. Big kicking placed the City lines again in danger, but off-side by some of the home forwards enabled Millington to send to touch at the centre.

Gloucester struggled hard to effect a score, but the attacks were beaten off, and Guy's nearly scored again after a fine passing movement. Guy's attacked strongly to the end, but the City's defence held out, though a couple of minors had to be conceded.

RESULT :

GUY'S 2 goals (1p) 4 tries (20 pts.)
GLOUCESTER 1 goal (5 pts.)

REMARKS.

Guy's won handsomely, as they deserved to do. The Gloucester forwards made a gallant fight of it in all except the scrums, where, with seven against eight, they were beaten for possession. Play was vigorously contested all through, with both packs doing capital work.

Outside the scrummage Gloucester were outclassed. Poole was beaten again and again by Bekker, and Millington had very hard luck. But the vice-captain rendered all round service, and his kicking was well gauged.

The Gloucester three-quarters were beaten for pace, and could not cope with the opposition. Steyn's sprinting was very effectual, but the other players in the line all performed with distinct credit, handling smartly and getting in some fine runs.

At full-back James did very well, and could not have stopped any of the tries. Both sides were frequently penalised for infringements, mostly for feet up in the scrums. It was a decent game to watch, but the result was disappointing from the Gloucester point of view.

W.B.

CINDERFORD TOO GOOD FOR GLOUCESTER A.

KEEN GAME AT KINGSHOLM.

Cinderford journeyed to Kingsholm to-day to meet Gloucester A. The home team was somewhat disorganised, but the visitors came with a good side. There was an exceptionally good attendance for a Second team match.

Gloucester A : J. C. Collett; S. Langston, H. Adams, Sid Brown, and T. Wadley; G. Hawker and E. H. Hughes; H. Mountford, F. Mansell, J. H. Webb, J. Rees, L. Coulson, A. Wright, C. Mumford, and E. W. Curtis.

Cinderford : W. Beddis; W. Johnson, M. Penn, P. Gabb, and G. Davis; R. Milliner (capt.) and S. Burford; F. Coombes, T. Coombes, S. Weaver, W. Phelps, S. Madley, H. Clark, S. Dubberley, and A. Redding.

Referee : J. T. Curtis.

Gloucester started and at once set up a forward attack. Cinderford checked but the Gloucester pack heeled and Hughes ran well and sent to Wadley, who knocked on. The visiting forwards having settled down, began to dominate the scrums and their backs put in a fine run and Johnson was going strongly when pulled up for an infringement. A smart dash by Hughes saw the fly half tackled in possession and Gabb getting the ball put in a kick to touch, which took the game to the home quarter.

The game was being keenly contested with Milliner working hard at the base of the scrum. The home backs got going and Wadley, with a well-judged kick, initiated a strong attack, but the defence of the Foresters was staunch and again the Seconds were pressed back to their goal line. Hughes and Brown, with a pretty bit of combined play, worked out of danger, and a free against Cinderford let Gloucester into their quarter.

Off-side by the visitors saw Collett take a kick for goal but he failed to cover the cross-bar. Cinderford were doing well. Milliner, who was playing a particularly good game, fed his three-quarters, and Gloucester were defending for some time. Johnson put in another good run but was checked, and in an attack by the Reserves Cinderford were again penalised for off-side. Collett's kick was a good effort but just failed. An ugly rush by the visitors was stopped by Adams making a mark, but the Foresters were again pressing strongly.

The Gloucester forwards were quite unable to hold the Cinderford pack in the scrums, and again the visiting backs put in a splendid bout of passing initiated by Milliner. A forward pass spoiled what looked likely to be a certain try and then Cinderford lost Redding; ordered off apparently for arguing the point with the referee.

Following this Gloucester set up a hot attack, but the defence was too keen and the Cinderford forwards came away with a strong burst.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	Nil
Cinderford	Nil

On the resumption Cinderford pressed to the Gloucester quarter, where their forwards heeled well, but Milliner knocked the ball back and they lost ground. A punt by Gabb was fielded by Collett, who marked; little ground was gained, however, the ball failing to go to touch. Then the home forwards fed Hawker, and the threes gave the best round of passing of the afternoon, Langston sending to touch well up. The Seconds were now playing up better, and the forwards made a dash for the visitors' line, but the defence held.

The home backs were now seeing more of the ball; but they were by no means comfortable together, and mishandled badly at times. Play was too keen for accurate work, and the tackling was severe. Langston almost got in after a sharp passing movement, but he slipped and a possible try was missed. Collett was fielding well and putting in some tremendous kicks, but he was missing the touch-line.

Then Cinderford, who had worked to the Gloucester end, had a beautiful opening, the ball being kicked across to Davis, who had a clear run in but knocked on. The Reserves were hard pressed and one of the Cinderford backs narrowly missed dropping a goal.

The visitors were doing their best to avoid a draw and it was all Gloucester could do to keep them out. The Foresters were not making the best of their chances and twice Burford ought to have done better by letting the ball go.

Conceding a minor, Gloucester gained relief, and after a dribble by Mountford, the threes handled nicely, but Brown was quite out of luck and was quickly floored. The home attack was a flash in the pan and after the Cinderford forwards had rushed to the home goal the Reserves were penalised and Burford kicked a goal with a fine effort.

Following this reverse the home team worked up an attack and Brown ran strongly up the line, but he was not supported and his pass went astray. Clean heeling and judicious kicks to touch by Burford placed Cinderford again on the attack, but twice Collett saved well.

RESULT :

Cinderford 1 goal (p) (3 pts.)
Gloucester A Nil

REMARKS.

Cinderford well deserved their win, and were really good value for a bigger margin. With better combination behind the scrum they would have made a fine show, for their forwards were rarely beaten for possession in the scrummages, and in the loose they played a strenuous game.

Milliner was more than a match for Hawker, and put in some sterling work, being well supported by Burford. Johnson and Gabb were useful on the wings, but generally speaking the three-quarters lacked combination. Beddis was passable.

With the forwards beaten for possession Hawker had an uphill fight, and did not show up well, while Hughes was not up to form in the fly-half position.

Wadley played the best game at three-quarter, putting in some really useful work. The others were only moderate, Sid Brown being quite out of luck. Collett would have been more helpful if his touch-finding had been more reliable.

JC