

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1923.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. CLIFTON.

VISITORS OUTPLAYED ALL ROUND.

HOME BACKS IN SCORING MOOD.

Gloucester fielded practically a reserve team for their match with Clifton, at Kingsholm, this afternoon, owing to the calls of the County and to injuries. G. Poole (St. Mark's), who played for Gloucester A several times last season, deputised in the scrum-half position.

The Clifton team was not at full strength. F. M. Arkle, their captain, was engaged for Cheshire, and two other regular players were unable to turn out. The attendance was poor.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : R. James.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. Loveridge, R. Miller, F. Meadows, and S. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS : G. Poole and E. Hughes.

FORWARDS : S. Smart, T. Coulson, J. Merry, H. Collier, P. Carter, A. Rea, W. Hemmings, and J. H. Webb.

CLIFTON.

BACK : R. D. Evans.

THREE-QUARTERS : C. N. Hatcher, M. A. James, E. W. Thomas, and E. H. Esbester.

HALF-BACKS : H. Bromhead and C. Dunn.

FORWARDS : J. A. Dommett, L. H. Hatcher, V. E. Rogers, E. O. Lambert, G. S. Castle, W. M. Kendall, F. J. M. Cook, and D. McArthur.

THE GAME.

Clifton kicked off, and a knock-on by Coulson let them into the home territory. They were quickly evicted, and from a scrum at mid-field Gloucester got the ball away nicely, and the three-quarters handled. Miller punted ahead, and there was a race for the touch, but one of the home players had got off-side.

Clifton gained relief from the resultant kick and worked to mid-field again. There Clifton broke away from a scrum, and their forwards led a rush to the Gloucester 25. They were checked, but got the ball from a line-out and passed well until the ball came to Hatcher who missed a poor transfer. Miller dribbled down, but Thomas got back and, rounding the attackers, sent to touch well down.

Gloucester were dangerous again a moment later, Hughes cutting through smartly and sending out a wide pass to Crowther, who, however, could not get to the ball in time to prevent it going to touch. A score was not long in coming. Hughes again cut through beautifully, gave the dummy, and passed to MEADOWS, who grounded beneath the posts. James failed with the easy kick.

After a short visit to the Gloucester half, Clifton had to defend again. Poole got the ball to Hughes, who fed Loveridge, the wing man putting in a splendid run. He was tackled on attempting to cut inside to pass Evans, but passed, and the ball travelled along the three-quarter line to Crowther, who was floored by Esbester. The left winger was rewarded quickly, for the home backs handled again, and CROWTHER, receiving a pass from Hughes, ran in with Gloucester's second try. James again failed to convert.

Clifton were not doing well in any department. Their backs handled well, but failed to make ground. The visitors with good kicking invaded the home quarter but Poole got the ball from a scrum and gave to Crowther, who ran strongly until faced by Evans, who effected a grand tackle and spoiled the movement.

Gloucester were penalised for off-side play, but Evans failed to find touch, and Smart led a forward rush which took Gloucester well down. Clifton improved their scrum work and their three-quarters handled, but only Esbester seemed to have any dash. Poole, by off-side play at the scrum, was the cause of several penalties against Gloucester, but Clifton did not make the use they might of these advantages.

The visitors were getting the ball back quite well now, but their handling had deteriorated and they did nothing of note. Bromhead was passing wildly and did not give Dunn much chance. Gloucester at last broke away with loose forward work, and COULSON scored for James to add the goal points.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal 2 tries (11 pts.)

CLIFTON Nil

Gloucester used the touch line on the resumption, and worked down to the Clifton line. The visitors defended keenly, but they lost possession in a scrum in their 25, and Poole fed Hughes for the stand-off half to put LOVERIDGE in with a neat try wide out. James's kick was not successful.

Clifton now had a turn of attacking, their forwards heeling well, but the passing of the backs was wild and they were soon forced back beyond mid-field. There the [Gloucester] forwards set up a useful dribble, and POOLE carried it on, scoring near the posts. This time James made no mistake with the kick, and took the score to 19 points.

It was obvious now that Gloucester were able to do pretty much as they liked. The Clifton defence had slackened, and they seldom managed to get beyond half-way. However, play on both sides was ragged, and there were few incidents of note. Esbester found touch well from a penalty against Gloucester and gained relief for his side. Useful work in the scrum gave the Clifton backs another chance, and Dunn cut through nicely. Hatcher carried on but was tackled. Off-side against Gloucester gave Clifton a difficult shot for goal, but Thomas's kick went wide.

In another spurt Esbester ran strongly for the Gloucester line, but he was overhauled by Loveridge, and the ball went to touch. Some very smart dodging by Hughes was witnessed, and Loveridge was prominent with a nice run and punt.

After a period of brighter play on the part of the visitors they were again hemmed in and Gloucester became aggressive, but their play was not sufficiently finished for scoring. After a time the threes handled, Poole, Hughes and Miller executing a useful movement, which ended in MILLER crossing with a try which James could not improve upon. The same player scored the best try of the afternoon a minute later after Hughes had put Meadows into possession. Miller's run was a brilliant movement. He covered 50 yards successfully and shook off his pursuers. Poole was tried with the place kick but was not successful.

On the restart there was a promising rush by the visiting forwards but they were stopped by Carter. Esbester, however, secured and evaded Smart, but punted into touch in goal.

Play was transferred to the other end and Coulson carried the ball over but was held up and a scrum ensued. From this Poole fed HUGHES, who dashed through the opposition and scored. James failed.

HUGHES also secured the next try after a dribble half the length of the field. James' kick again failed.

RESULT ;
GLOUCESTER ... 2 goals 7 tries (31 pts.)
CLIFTON Nil

REMARKS.

To be beaten by 31 points by practically a reserve team was a very poor showing for Clifton. They were easily outclassed in all departments; indeed, it was only in the scrums that they had any share of the play.

Gloucester did not heel as effectively as they might have done, but in the loose Clifton did not have a look in. Dunn, who was tried by them in the fly-half position, shaped particularly well, but he was not served at all well by Bromhead, whose passes were generally badly judged. Esbester was the pick of the Clifton three-quarters, and at times showed speed and resource which would have been very valuable in better company. At back Evans was off colour, and kicked poorly.

Except for their weakness in heeling, the home pack did very well. Led by Smart, and with Carter, Collier, Webb, and Coulson working strenuously, they were irresistible in the loose, and made it impossible for the Clifton backs to make progress. In the emergency of Collins and Gough being unavailable, Poole did very well. He was penalised several times for getting off-side, but he worked hard and fed Hughes pretty well.

The fly-half was the man of the afternoon. He was continually in the picture, dodging and cutting through in fine style. The three-quarters as a whole did very well. At times mistakes were frequent, but they worked well together, each of them putting in some good individual work. One of Miller's tries was the result of one of the prettiest runs seen at Kingsholm this season. James, except for his place-kicking, played a very useful game, and was reliable all the time.

Next week : Abertillery, away.