

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1924.

GLOUCESTER'S HARD LUCK AT CROSS KEYS.

SENSATIONAL OPENING TRY BY SID BROWN.

CITY HOLD LEAD TO NEAR END.

BEATEN ON TIME BY PENALTY KICK.

For their match at Cross Keys this afternoon Gloucester were short of Collins, Voyce, Collier, and Merry, the vacancies being filled by Poole, F. J. Seabrook, Rea and Triggs-Herbert. The City had not previously won at Cross Keys, and the weakened side which made the journey to-day did not inspire much confidence that the record of defeats would be checked.

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : R. James.

THREE-QUARTERS : N. Daniell, F. Meadows, T. Millington (capt.), and S. Brown.

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

FORWARDS : A. Hall, F. Ayliffe, S. Bayliss, T. Coulson, E. Triggs-Herbert, P. Carter, A. Rea, and F. J. Seabrook.

CROSS KEYS.

BACK : R. Lyons.

THREE-QUARTERS : T. Benson, W. Burnett, O. Hicks, and D. Williams.

HALF-BACKS : F. Reeves and H. Rowe.

FORWARDS : S. Winmill, W. Jones, L. Richards, E. Puddefoot, W. Hicks, A. Blakemore, A. H. Evans, and Steve Morris.

Referee : Mr. Moses (Machen).

THE GAME.

The heavy rain which had not ceased for the last 24 hours indicted that the ground would cut up badly. The City players lost their connection at Newport, and their late arrival considerably delayed the kick-off.

When the teams fielded the light was already bad. The visitors kicked off, and the ball went to touch direct, the first scrum being formed at half-way. Cross Keys heeled smartly for Rowe to punt to touch at the Gloucester 25, but the visitors rushed back to just beyond half-way. Hughes and Millington passed to the right, and BROWN, running from his own wing, received from Daniell and scored a great try after two minutes' play. The kick at goal failed.

Resuming, the homesters reached the visitors' line, and Gloucester were penalised, H. Hicks hitting the upright with the kick.

Gloucester sent back to half-way, where the home backs started passing. Benson, the last man to receive, cross-kicked, but off-side lost Cross Keys a scoring chance. The home side continued to exert pressure, a rush by the forwards and a smart pick-up in the loose by L. Richards sending the ball amongst the backs. Burnett passed out quickly to Williams, but the latter failed to hold the ball, and Gloucester found touch near the centre.

Immediately after the Welshmen started a passing bout which left play near the Gloucester line again, until a minor gave relief. Play was contested at mid-field for a short time, with neither side gaining much advantage.

Gloucester were finally penalised, and A. Hicks placed the ball to touch near the visitors' line. The ball went loose from a line-out, and Winmill and W. James dribbled well, but the City back saved. Brown was conspicuous just after by a fine pick-up and dodgy run which gave Gloucester relief.

A couple of free-kicks to Cross Keys gave them no advantage. The homesters worked away again to the City line where James fielded finely and, instead of kicking, ran down the field to Millington. The latter, after a strong burst, passed to Brown, who punted beyond Lyons, and Reeves had to fall back to save.

Meadows dribbled through, but a colleague robbed him of the advantage by getting off-side. This left play near the home line, where H. Rowe picked up and, getting through, put in a short punt. Richards followed up and kicked past James, and in a race for the ball Millington won and kicked to the line to save.

A couple of scrums were fought out on the Gloucester line, but although Cross Keys gained the advantage they lost it through failure to hold the ball, and James gained relief. A rush by the home forwards again tested the defence, but the movement was pulled up on the line, where Gloucester eased the pressure. After passing by the visitors' halves and three-quarters Millington punted to touch at half-way. Cross Keys again pressed hard, but failed to get through the defence.

HALF-TIME :
GLOUCESTER 1 try
CROSS KEYS Nil

The restart found Cross Keys again in Gloucester's territory until a mistake by one of the homesters gave the ball to Millington, who drove the ball through. He followed up, and forced Benson to turn the ball to touch near his own line. A fine rush by the home forwards, with Winmill at the head, took the ball over the City line, but a Gloucester man fell on it for a minor.

Gloucester did not seem to find the slippery ball such a handicap as the homesters. Ayliffe and Hall headed a rush for 40 yards, which left play well inside the Cross Keys half. Reeves started passing, and Benson receiving cross-punted, and Millington made a very smart mark.

At last the homesters received their reward. From a scrum close in Rowe received from Reeves, and with a sharp burst and a fine swerve he was over near the posts. H. Hicks converted.

Gloucester got going and tested the home defence with a forward rush. Another rush and a fine pick-up by Seabrook gave Gloucester the lead again, Seabrook getting over in the corner. The try was not converted.

H. Hicks afterwards kicked a penalty goal for Cross Keys, giving the Welshmen a lucky victory.

RESULT :

CROSS KEYS 2 goals (1p) (8 points)

GLOUCESTER 2 tries (6 points)

REMARKS.

Gloucester did not deserve to lose, for although the homesters did most of the pressing, the City players were more certain in their handling. The first try was a magnificent one, and a touch of genius was displayed by Brown in getting from his own wing across to the other to receive the final transfer. Winmill and Evans were frequently prominent in the home forward rushes.

GLOUCESTER A v. HEREFORD.

INTERESTING GAME IN THE MUD.

Gloucester A had Hereford as their opponents at Kingsholm this afternoon. This was a return match, the Seconds having secured a victory at Hereford earlier in the season. There was a fair attendance despite the very wet weather. The ground was very slippery.

Gloucester A. – S. Williams; E. C. Fisher, S. Stone, S. Crowther, and R. Miller; H. Wells and P. Hogg; F. Mansell (captain), J. Hemmings, J. Webb, G. Manns, T. Voyce, I. Armstrong, S. Smart, and P. Rose.

Hereford. – H. S. Dance; H. W. Pope, A. Youdan, E. D. Pope, and E. M. Morgan; F. H. Owens and A. E. Thomas; L. S. Saxby, E. C. Pascoe, I. J. S. Yorath, G. G. Jackson, B. G. Farron, J. M. Whitney, T. W. Preece, and F. Ford.

Referee : Mr. G. A. Clark (Cheltenham).

Hereford kicked off a quarter of an hour late. From a line-out Hereford rushed to the home line, but Voyce was there and saved. Miller took a penalty kick, but a player had got in front of the ball and Gloucester were recalled. Breaking up smartly from the scrum, Saxby picked up and ran well, but his pass went astray. Again Hereford tried passing, Thomas getting the ball smartly away to Owens, who fed his three-quarters, but Morgan dropped the slippery ball.

The Reserve forwards worked to midfield with the ball at their feet, and their backs in turn tried passing, but Stone missed. Dance fielded a penalty, and the Hereford front line, who were playing a good, bustling game, again carried play to the Gloucester quarter. Pope cut through well, but could not control the slippery ball, and Williams put in a useful kick to touch.

Voyce secured from the line-out and put in a grand burst, but he was pulled down. Wells and Hogg working well together, opened up, and Stone and Crowther gained some ground. Gloucester forced a minor, and later, with Voyce well in the van, attacked strongly. Passing by Stone, Hogg, and Crowther resulted in the last-named dribbling over and falling on the ball with Gloucester's first try. Williams converted with a capital kick.

Wells, who was putting in some smart work despite the clever wheeling of the visiting pack, opened up time after time, and Hogg and the three-quarters gave several interesting displays, which were spoilt by the slippery ground and ball. Youdan was injured in a tackle of Fisher and had to be assisted off, Saxby coming out of the pack.

Yorath led a determined dribble to the Gloucester 25, where Manns fell on the ball and effected a good save. Stone and Fisher, combining successfully, ran to midfield, but Fisher was overhauled, and his last pass was wild.

Off-side by Wells gave Pascoe a kick for goal, but the position was too far out, and his effort fell short. Hereford were playing a capital game, and after the forwards had won a position in the home quarter, Thomas fed his backs, and E. D. Pope running strongly, passed to Morgan, who ran over in the corner. The kick was too difficult for Pascoe, and Gloucester were still two points ahead.

The Seconds set up a sharp attack, which Dance repulsed with a useful punt under pressure. Gloucester came again, and Voyce dribbled to touch near the corner flag. The ball was thrown about a great deal, and play remained interesting. After several determined efforts, Gloucester rushed to the Hereford line, where Fisher touched down for a try, which was unconverted.

Owing to a slip by Miller, Morgan picked up, and with an open field set out for the home line, but Voyce stuck to him, and getting in front when he punted, saved an almost certain score.

HALF-TIME :

Gloucester A 1 goal 1 try
Hereford 1 try

Anything like accurate football had been impossible owing to the state of the ground, the players slipping and sliding about anyhow, but nevertheless the game had been quite interesting so far. Hereford were still a man short on the resumption.

Gloucester attacked, but Saxby, who was playing a vigorous game for the visitors, relieved, and the Hereford forwards rushed to the home quarter, where Armstrong got off-side in a dangerous position. Pascoe took the kick, but could not control the wet ball, and the chance was missed.

Voyce again came into the picture with a tricky run down touch, but he lost the ball eventually, and Hereford worked back. Then the home threes handled, Crowther serving Miller, who punted across when opposed, and Voyce, who was well up and all on his own, had a gift try behind the posts, for Williams to add the extra points.

By no means depressed, Hereford played up strongly, but the home forwards were wearing them down, and they were forced to defend. Armstrong showed up in a burst, and then the three-quarters handled, and the ball coming to Stone he attempted to drop for goal, but it fell short. Hogg, following up, secured and carried the ball over the goal-line. He was held up, but relinquished the ball and Crowther touched down and was awarded a try. Williams failed to cover the cross-bar with his kick.

Hereford added to their account with an unconverted try by E. D. Pope, who ran strongly and forced his way past Williams after his three-quarters had handled smartly. The visiting forwards continued to play a capital game, and their backs had recovered some of their early skill.

A wonderful exhibition by Saxby, who fed Owens, looked as though a score was certain, but H. Pope overran Owens, and missed a pass with an open goal line. Hereford were now having a good run, the Seconds being occupied in stemming their attacks. Dance then let his side down; he misfielded a high punt, and in trying to recover allowed Hogg to take the ball out of his hands, and run clean away through the posts. Williams made a miss, his boot slipping on the greasy ball.

Hereford again pluckily attacked, but they had lost sting, and could not pierce the defence. They persevered, and did as much attacking in the last few moments as Gloucester, and once came very near adding to their score, Morgan missing a chance through trying to pick up when he might easily have dribbled over.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 2 goals 3 tries (19 pts.)
Hereford 2 tries (6 pts.)

REMARKS.

Despite the adverse conditions, a bright and interesting game was played, both sides opening up in pleasing fashion. Hereford, although substantially beaten, are to be congratulated on putting up a splendid fight. Their forwards, led by Saxby and Yorath, and aided considerably by Ford, the Westender, who filled a vacancy, played a bustling and resourceful game. Thomas and Owens were useful. The three-quarters lacked experience, but in E. D. Pope and Morgan they have a promising wing. Both their tries were the result of clever movements.

Gloucester A were lucky to have such a big margin. A couple of the tries were gifts. It was amusing to see Voyce waiting for Miller to put him on side before he ran in with his try. The International stood the game well, and of course was the leading spirit forward. The Seconds pair played very well together, Webb doing some useful work and Hogg added to his reputation for smart work. The home three-quarters combined well, and with a dry ball would have given a champion display. Williams was again safe and enterprising.