

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1924.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. PONTYPOOL.

SPLENDID FOOTWORK BY CITY FORWARDS.

Gloucester met Pontypool for the first time this season, at Kingsholm this afternoon. The ground was very wet, but rain had ceased when the match commenced. The attendance numbered about 4,000.

Gloucester fielded as selected, but Pontypool were not up to full strength.

Teams : —

## GLOUCESTER.

BACK : R. James.

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

HALF-BACKS : W. Collins and E. Hughes.

FORWARDS : A. Hall, F. Ayliffe, S. Bayliss, H. Collier, P. Carter, A. Rea, E. Triggs-Herbert, and J. Merry.

## PONTYPOOL.

BACK : C. Ford.

THREE-QUARTERS : E. Vaisey, G. Roberts, E. Gordon, and H. James.

HALF-BACKS : L. Crane and J. Harris.

FORWARDS : C. Harvey, J. Williams, C. Taylor, J. Morgan, E. Oliver, J. Hayward, S. Jolfine, and G. Tucker.

Referee : Mr. Fear (Somerset).

## THE GAME.

Ayliffe kicked off ten minutes late. Pontypool fielded and set up a round of passing, the ball travelling across the field, where Gloucester were penalised. One of the visitors got in front of the ball and a scrum was ordered.

Gloucester got the ball back and Hughes tried to open up, but the ball became loose and there was a rush by the City forwards. Hughes picked up and threw out a pass to Millington, who in turn fed Daniell, but the wing man had to turn in taking the pass and lost time. He was well tackled after running ten yards.

Pontypool were penalised, and Millington took a long shot for goal. It was a good effort, which, however, went a little wide. Ford ran the ball out and sent to touch well down, gaining a good slice of ground. A punt by Collins was charged down, and there was an ugly rush by the Pontypool forwards, but James was safe and sent to touch. Then the visitors nearly did the trick. Their forwards heeled, and after Crane and Harris had handled the three-quarters went away, Vaisey being only pushed into touch by Hughes at the corner flag.

The Welshmen tried hard to pierce the defence, but they were penalised for a scrum infringement, and Gloucester worked free. The game was now keenly contested at mid-field, with little advantage to either side. Pontypool gained a footing in the home quarter, however, in consequence of a series of fumbles, but they were ejected for a time.

Pontypool returned to the attack, and a bunch of their forwards dribbled to the City line, but Meadows got back just in time and robbed the visitors of the touch. A grand burst by the Gloucester front line, led by Merry and Ayliffe, secured a footing in Welsh territory again, but they met with very strong opposition, and were immediately after placed on the defensive, Meadows and Millington doing some very valuable work.

Then Gloucester opened their account after a wonderfully fine burst by the forwards, aided by Hughes, and rushed three-parts of the length of the field with the ball at their feet. They were held up momentarily in front of the posts, where Ford punted; but James was there and punted back. The ball was touched in flight by a Pontypool player, which put the home forwards on-side, and BAYLISS fell over the line for a try. The goal-kick, by Millington, was successful from the easy position.

With five points against them the Welshmen resumed strongly, and carried out several attacks, which, however, lacked sting, and again the home forwards came away with the ball at their feet. They eventually went over the line, and Carter fell on the ball, but there had been an infringement.

Then Hughes, receiving from Collins from a scrum, ran round the blind side and, cutting through beautifully, ran strongly for the line. In trying to swerve past Ford, however, he slowed up a little, and was pulled down from behind. The little half-back was deservedly applauded for this fine effort, which certainly deserved a score.

Gloucester were now in the ascendancy, and kept the visitors busy defending. Ford was playing a wonderfully good game, and largely through his efforts the City were kept out.

Collier showed up well in a burst and again there was a melee in front of the visitors' goal. Pontypool cleared, and followed up with a rush which James failed to stop. Brown, however, running strongly, got back and fell on the ball, saving an almost certain score. In doing so he was apparently kicked by one of the Pontypool forwards, which drew forth some booing from the crowd, but it was obvious that the kick was unintentional, and caused largely by the slippery state of the ground.

The game continued to be keenly contested to the interval.

HALF-TIME :  
GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal  
PONTYPOOL ..... Nil

There was a scrum at midfield on the resumption from which the Welshmen heeled, but they lost ground by faulty passing. Brown led a loose rush into the visitors' quarters, but his kick was a little too hard and Ford punted out. Hughes fumbled in fielding and was grassed, and play was again at midfield. Here Pontypool were penalised, but the kick was disallowed in consequence of one of the home team getting in front of the ball. Pontypool, working well in the loose, forced the ball over the home line, but they were recalled, and Gloucester using the touch-line worked into safer quarters.

Pontypool still pressed, but Millington saved with a very fine effort, getting in a kick after being pulled down. Ford made a poor attempt with a drop at goal, and Brown found touch almost at the half-way flag. An injury to Collins' hand caused a slight delay, but he was able to resume. Gloucester now began to get aggressive again, and Millington dribbled to the Pontypool quarter. There was a swift change, however, for the ball was kicked towards the home goal, and one after another of the home defenders fumbled, until Millington managed to turn the ball into touch just in time.

Gloucester were not to be hemmed in, however, and their forwards came again, Ayliffe and Merry leading a fine burst right up to the Welshmen's goal-line, where a knock-on checked the movement.

Pontypool were now reduced to defending desperately. Hughes and Collins were doing well, and Daniell put in a couple of dashes up the line which only just failed. The defence of the visitors, however, was excellent, and they repelled dash after dash by the City forwards, who were using their feet to great advantage. Bayliss led a champion burst, and Rea was also prominent in several forceful rushes.

The Pontypool three-quarters came through with a smart dribble, but Daniell got back and executed a useful screw-kick to touch. The visitors tried hard to eject the City men from their half, but the home men stuck to their work, and although they could not pierce the defence they kept Pontypool working hard to keep them out.

The visitors made several short dashes, but Millington and Meadows seemed to be always there to send them back. A very fine movement came very near to success. The Gloucester forwards having heeled, the halves and three-quarters handled beautifully, and Brown had only Ford to beat. He failed to get past him, however, but Carter retrieved the ball and endeavoured to touch down, but was held up.

Pontypool had a similar narrow escape on the other side of the post. Carter appeared to have touched down after a melee on the visitors' line, but he was recalled. Then the visitors took a hand in the game, and after the ball had been punted into the open a visitor dribbled to the home quarter, where he was unlucky, the ball going into touch. A scramble on the Gloucester line followed, and the home back had difficulty in warding off the attack. Meadows punted across in rather a dangerous manner, but Vaisey, who had almost a clear run in, knocked on.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER .... 1 goal (5 points)  
PONTYPOOL ..... Nil

REMARKS.

Gloucester were full value for their win, for although they were fortunate in retaining their lead of five points in the first half, they were in the ascendancy throughout the second half until the last three or four minutes. The game, despite the heavy conditions of the ground and the difficulty in controlling the greasy ball, was full of interest. Both sides were keen, and the tackling was excellent.

The home forwards adopted the right tactics in using their feet as much as possible, and some of their rushes were great. Ayliffe, Hall, Carter, Rea, and Bayliss were prominent all the time, with Merry, Collier, and Triggs-Herbert playing a good, sound game.

In the loose the Pontypool forwards were not in it with the home front division, but in the scrums they did better and had a share of the ball. Collins and Hughes outshone Crane and Harris.

The home three-quarters all worked hard, and although they were unable to do anything in the way of scoring, they were great in defence, especially Millington and Meadows. Brown and Daniell did as well as the greasy ball would let them, but they met a staunch defender in Ford, who was the pick of the visitors' backs. Vaisey and James were dangerous at times, but the centres were not special. James played a sound game for the City.

Next week : Guy's Hospital, away.

### GLOUCESTER A v. GORDON LEAGUE.

#### SECONDS' NARROW VICTORY.

At Hempsted, under fair conditions. The first half was keenly contested, both sides attacking strongly, but the defence held. There were several free kicks, and the League tried one or two shots for goal which failed.

In the second half Gloucester pressed immediately, and after fifteen minutes' play, from a scrum on the League 25, Poole obtained and went over with a try, which Williams converted.

Following this reverse the League put up a determined attack, but the Seconds' defence held until two minutes from time, when the League obtained a penalty in the Gloucester 25 for legs up, and E. Comley kicked a goal.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 1 goal (5 points)  
Gordon League ..... 1 goal (p) (3 points)