

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1924.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER'S VISIT TO LONDON.

MORNING MATCH WITH RICHMOND.

CITY HEAVILY HANDICAPPED.

A CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS.

In order that both teams might witness the International match with France at Twickenham this afternoon, the fixture between Gloucester and Richmond, revived after a period of over 20 years, was brought forward to the morning, an arrangement which gave every satisfaction to the visiting players.

Richmond, despite their lapse against the Army last week, have had a successful season, and placed several capital performances to their credit. The Londoners had the reputation of being very strong forward, with more than a useful back division, and Gloucester fully expected a keen and close contest.

With the exception of Voyce the City had selected their strongest fifteen, Daniell reappearing vice Miller at right wing three-quarter. The vacancy forward was given to F. Ford, the young West Ender, whose form with the Seconds has created a very favourable impression.

The Gloucester team had to make the journey to London early, as the kick off was fixed for 11.30.

The players were accompanied by an enthusiastic contingent of supporters, numbering about 80.

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, S. Bayliss, F. Ayliffe, T. Coulson, J. Merry, H. Collier, P. Carter, and F. Ford.

RICHMOND.

BACK : Sir J. W. L. Napier.

THREE-QUARTERS : H. C. Burton, R. F. Wright, A. R. Aslett, and G. V. Palmer.

HALF-BACKS : C. H. M. Waldock and H. Hobson.

FORWARDS : P. H. Lawless (capt.), H. W. H. Considine, F. W. R. Douglas, H. M. Hinde, A. S. Cohen, F. Dearden, T. F. Turner, and L. H. C. Waldock.

Referee : Mr. B. S. Cumberlege.

THE GAME.

The weather was bitterly cold, and snow had fallen early in the morning. There were only a few hundred spectators present.

The game opened in an extraordinary manner, the ball being put into the scrum seven times before it satisfied the referee that everything was in order. Good kicking by Richmond took play to the Gloucester line, but Brown relieved with a splendid touch-finder to centre.

The City forwards with a capital rush made good headway, but they were checked just outside. An attempt to drop a goal by Millington was charged down, and later Napier with a short run and kick transferred play to the centre. Play was very scrappy, but in favour of Gloucester.

From a kick over the line Richmond had to touch down, a performance they repeated after an interception and a punt past Napier by Hughes. Two other minors followed to Gloucester as the result of indiscriminate kicking. Gloucester continued to have the better of the exchanges, but there was an extraordinary lack of attacking ability.

From their own line the Richmond forwards broke away, and later Burton got in a smart run, but he was well tackled by Brown. Richmond were getting more of the ball, but the passing was very erratic. Aslett at length cut through, and Palmer went close, but lost the ball.

Coulson secured and punted out, and Wright marked, but nothing resulted. Except for keenness forward, play lacked incident, back play on both sides being disappointing. Richmond were doing better now, and Palmer and Burton on the respective wings had dashes for the line, but were held up outside.

The Gloucester forwards, with keen loose play, took charge of the game and attacked with determination, but finish was lacking. In some loose work inside the Richmond 25 the ball was picked up by a home forward, who threw a pass to PALMER, and the Army three-quarter raced away, and, beating James for pace, went on and scored behind the posts after a run three-quarters the length of the field. Dearden missed an easy place kick.

Gloucester resumed, and good work placed Richmond on the defence, but the City were not able to press home their advantage. Play on the whole was poor, the Gloucester team evidently suffering from their long railway journey. The forwards, though doing fairly well, lacked the dash shown against Llanelly the previous week.

Just before the interval Richmond made another spirited attack, but were stopped before getting dangerous.

HALF-TIME :
RICHMOND 1 try
GLOUCESTER Nil

Gloucester restarted, and early on the City defence was well beaten. The home halves opened out and Wright giving a good pass to BURTON, the latter handed off a couple of would-be attackers, and scored a corner try. The place kick failed.

After this unexpected reverse Gloucester buckled to and displayed something like their proper form. The forwards broke away with a good movement, but were pulled up for a knock on.

Then Millington tried hard to cut through, but was pulled down in time. Aslett with a big dash and punt changed the venue, and Gloucester were called upon to defend.

Brown gained relief, but was laid out with a cut head, Daniell having previously had to seek attention for a similar injury. Brown had to retire, Carter coming out to wing three-quarter. With their weakened ranks Gloucester were outplayed for a time. A missed pass by Wright lost Burton a probable try, and on the other wing Palmer was only stopped in time by a good tackle by Collins.

By dint of strong forward work, Gloucester took up the running, and held their own for a time. Then another misfortune befel Gloucester, Millington having to leave the field with an injured ankle.

With only six forwards, Hall took the centre position. The City were heavily handicapped, but they played up pluckily. A good effort by Meadows led to the City making headway, but Richmond had the pace behind and easily checked.

Millington now returned limping, but Hall was still kept outside. A smart movement by the Gloucester backs promised well, but Daniell just failed to get through. Hughes later made a dashing run to within ten yards of the line, and Gloucester secured a good attacking position, but it was quickly lost, the Richmond forwards dribbling clear, and though James partially checked, the movement was continued to near the City line.

Hughes relieved from a dangerous position with a dodgy run, but Richmond confined operations to the visitors' 25. Hall led an onward rush to beyond midfield, but they were driven back.

Play lacked the spectacular, and altogether it was disappointing football. In the last five minutes Richmond had most of the play, and the Gloucester line was hotly assailed, but there was no further scoring, though Burton once was only tackled a few yards from the line.

RESULT :

RICHMOND2 tries (6 points)
GLOUCESTER Nil

GLOUCESTER A v. BATH A.

Bath A provided the opposition for Gloucester A at Kingsholm this afternoon. The match was played in fine weather, before 1,500 spectators.

Bath rushed to the home 25 following a scrum at midfield, but the home forwards cleared with the ball at their feet. The backs handled, and Crowther showing fine speed rounded the opposition and scored in the corner. The kick was too difficult for Williams.

Then Kenneth Norman led a fine dribble to the Bath line, but his last kick was a little too hard and the ball went to touch-in-goal.

Gloucester continued to attack strongly, and forced Bath to concede a minor. After several attempts Loveridge scored an unconverted try, giving Gloucester a lead of six points.

Bath now penetrated to the home 25 and made strong attempts to open their account, Andrews and Hannah making a dash which only just failed. Kenneth Norman now came into the picture again with a great dribble, which this time ended in a try. Williams failed.

HALF-TIME :

Gloucester A 3 tries
Bath A Nil

Gloucester A renewed their attack on the resumption, but Bath cleared and rushed to the home quarter, where they were held up for a time. At length, after strong pressure, Anderson broke through and scored an unconverted try.

The home team now attacked, but were sent back by good touch-kicking by the Bath full back. The visitors revived again and tested the home defence. A fine bout of passing, in which Mullens, Fisher and Poole participated, carried play to the Bath quarter, but again the visitors made good use of the touch-line and worked to mid-field.

Gloucester continued to test the Bath defence, and at length, after an exchange of passes, G. Manns was put into possession and added an unconverted try.

Bath were now on the defensive, but although Gloucester could not score they carried out several good movements.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 5 tries (15 points)

Bath A 1 try (3 points)