

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1922.

GLOUCESTER TOO GOOD FOR CHELTENHAM.

TOWN WELL BEATEN.

The clashing of the county match weakened Gloucester for the first of the three fixtures arranged with Cheltenham this season, but the City, notwithstanding, fielded a capital side, and one that was considered strong enough to account for the Town representatives, who were also short of one or two good men. The match aroused a good deal of local interest, and a large crowd of Gloucester supporters accompanied the team to the Garden Town, the special trains and char-a-bancs being well patronised.

GLOUCESTER.

BACK: J. C. Collett.

THREE-QUARTERS: N. Daniell, E. H. Hughes, S. Brown, and S. R. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS: W. Dix and F. Meadows.

FORWARDS: S. Smart (captain), S. Bayliss, T. Coulson, H. W. Collier, H. G. Mountford, A. Wright, J. Rea, and J. Harris.

CHELTENHAM.

BACK: H. Dean.

THREE-QUARTERS: W. Hart, C. W. Statham, E. M. Loveluck, and E. A. Moore.

HALF-BACKS: B. S. Bloodworth and A. G. Fitz.

FORWARDS: H. Wixey, T. Harry, B. P. Rees, H. T. Stephens, C. W. Morris, A. G. Triggs-Herbert, F. Bell, W. Febrey.

Referee : Mr. W. H. Hall (Bristol).

THE GAME.

There was a big crowd (the biggest of the season on the Athletic Ground) to welcome the players. The weather conditions were favourable, the sun shining and there being but little wind, although there was a sharpness in the air.

The teams entered the field ten minutes late. Bloodworth kicked off, and the home forwards rushed down to the Gloucester line, where Cheltenham obtained a free. Dean's kick was a failure.

Collett sent the ball to the line, and though the home forwards came again, Dix nullified the effort. Hughes next received the ball from Dix, and Brown receiving ran a short distance before being pulled down. From the ensuing scrum Gloucester were again penalised, and Dean landed a magnificent goal.

Dix, after a fine length kick by Collett, set the three-quarters in motion, and a good round of passing looked highly promising till Loveluck overhauled and downed Crowther when only Dean remained in front.

The Gloucester backs continued to handle nicely, and from another opening made by Dix, Hughes and Crowther were given another chance. The latter, however, bore to the touch line instead of going straight, and he was again upset by Loveluck. Dix now gave the other wing a chance, and after some pretty handling all along the line, Brown gave the "dummy" to Dean and romped over with a try, which Collett failed to convert.

The teams were now level on points. Territorially, however, Gloucester were having the best of matters and, keeping the game open, their three-quarters were seen to great advantage. The home defence was sure, a touchdown just saving the fall of the citadel from a forward rush by the visitors.

The Cheltenham front now took a hand in the game and got into the Gloucester 25, where, however, the home side were penalised and the ground was partly lost. Dix got the ball away from the ensuing scrum, which, after a couple of forward passes unnoticed by the referee, got to Daniell, who was running strongly for the line until pulled down by Loveluck, who appeared to be ubiquitous.

The leather was given plenty of air, and it coming now to Dix the little man held on too long, Bloodworth effecting his downfall. But Dix was not done with, by any means, for getting the ball again he made for the line in good style. He easily got by Dean, who seemed to put little heart into his tackle, but Moore came to the rescue and a try was prevented. Gloucester continued to find opportunities for handling but the passes were not all sure, and when the ball reached the ground the home forwards were not slow to take advantage of it.

Collett was conspicuous for a fine length kick, but back the ball was again rushed by the home forwards, and this was the beginning of a fine move out, which resulted in a score for Cheltenham. A scrum was formed in the visitors' 25, and the ball coming out to Fitz, he whipped it to Bloodworth and that player started Statham on the run. After a short run he handed to Hart, who put on top speed and, when tackled by Collett, neatly passed to Moore. The wing man had a dozen yards to go, and Crowther was after him like a long dog, but he failed to overtake Moore, who scored a glorious try amid great cheering. Dean failed with the kick.

Cheltenham were not destined to hold their lead long, however, as Dix set his three-quarters in motion again, and the ball reaching Hughes that player easily deluded Dean as to what he was up to, and crossed with a beauty, which Collett failed to majorise.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Cheltenham 1 goal (p), 1 try
Gloucester 2 tries

Gloucester had had the best of the game up to half time, and with the ball so often among their three-quarters the surprise is they did not notch more points. Credit must, however, be given to the sterling defence put up by Cheltenham, while, they, too, were not without their bright moments.

Soon after the resumption Gloucester were penalised, but the distance was too far for Dean. The visitors failed to clear, Brown being put down by Loveluck. The ball now came out to Moore, who passed inside to Statham when tackled, but somehow the chance of a score was missed. Crowther was next in the picture for a fine break-away. He got past the rest of the opposition, but instead of going on kicked over Dean's head, this giving Lovelock the opportunity of a fine kick to touch.

The Cheltenham forwards hereabouts got the ball, but unfortunately Statham stumbled and the movement came to a stop. The home side were penalised for legs up, and a kick went over the line for a touch-down. Cheltenham were soon in difficulties again, and could not prevent Brown crossing after receiving from the scrum. Collett had two kicks for the goal points, the second one because of being charged by a Cheltenham man, but failed each time.

As if to make amends Cheltenham had another couple of kicks in the open field, and Brown following up the second scored again, the place-kick once more failing. The home defence showed up very badly in this movement, Statham letting his man through without an apparent effort to check him, Dean standing by, looking on.

Gloucester had the best of some exchanges, in which Collett and Daniell had the principal share. Then Fitz got the ball from the scrum, but threw wildly and nothing could be done. The visiting forwards, who temporarily had been deprived of Bayliss's services, got down to the home 25, and here Crowther punted to the goal posts for Collier to run up and score a somewhat lucky try. Brown's place kick failed.

From a scrum Dix quickly put his backs in motion, and Crowther got in a smart run, but the defence prevailed. Just after this the whistle blew.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 5 tries (15 points)
CHELTENHAM 1 goal (p) 1 try (6 pts.)

REMARKS.

Our Cheltenham correspondent remarks : –

Gloucester well deserved their victory, and the majority of nine points does not exaggerate their superiority; in fact with the many chances their three-quarters had they should have amassed a larger score. While the handling contrasted favourably with that of the home quartette, it must be said that there was occasionally room for improvement.

Brown played a particularly good game in the centre, and Daniell was the better of the two wing men, Crowther often being outpaced by Loveluck. Dix was very nippy at the base, and Meadows collaborated excellently. Millington's goal-kicking skill, however, was sadly missed.

There was not much to choose between the packs, the advantage in weight resting with the City men, who, however, met their match in loose play. Cheltenham's weak spot was at full-back, Dean failing egregiously at times. Collett, on the other hand, was a tower of strength to his side.

The home three-quarters did well individually, but there was a lack of that combination which tells, except in the one instance in which a score was obtained. Loveluck for defensive work, and Hart and Moore for attack were the pick. Fitz and Bloodworth did not get enough help from the pack to do much in attack, but they were generally there when wanted for a tackle.

The game was pleasantly conducted, and the winners came in for generous ovations at the close.

A sheet collection by the Supporters' Club for the National Institution for the Blind realised £7 10s.

JC