

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1922.

FOOTBALL.

BRISTOL GO DOWN AT KINGSHOLM.

AFTER LEADING AT HALF-TIME.

FAST AND EXCITING GAME.

The first meeting of the season between Gloucester and Bristol this afternoon aroused all the old-time interest and excitement, and there was a splendid attendance at Kingsholm in anticipation of witnessing a keen and close contest.

Gloucester had hoped to place full strength in the field, but though Frank Ayliffe was able to resume leadership of the side, W. Dix had to cry off last evening owing to an injury in the groin sustained against Plymouth. This necessitated a call on T. Gough again to partner Millington at half-back. Bristol lacked the services of Tom Spoor, who was suffering from sciatica, and Pickles was also an absentee.

Bristol brought up a good number of supporters by train and road, but the attendance ten minutes before the start did not suggest a crowd up to last year's dimensions.

The weather conditions were ideal for football, and the ground was in [word/words missing; original vers. mutilated] condition. Mr. John Daniell, a member of the English Selection Committee, was present, [word/words missing] County Selectionists divided themselves [word/words missing] match at Kingsholm and the Lydney-[word/words missing] game at Lydney.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : J. C. Collett.

THREE-QUARTERS : N. Daniell, S. A. Brown, F. Meadows, and S. R. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS : T. Gough and T. Millington.

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe (captain), G. Holford, T. Voyce, Major Roderick, M. Evans, S. Bayliss, S. Smart, and A. Hall.

BRISTOL.

BACK : B. S. Chantrill.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. G. B. Quick (captain), L. J. Corbett, F. G. Hore, and H. L. Feltham.

HALF-BACKS : C. S. Carter and S. H. Budd.

FORWARDS : J. S. Tucker, M. N. Shaw, H. Haysham, F. J. Coventry, A. T. Hore, E. A. Richardson, F. Cummings, and P. J. Williams.

Referee : Mr. A. E. Freethy (Neath).

THE GAME.

The toss favoured Bristol, and Ayliffe started the game from the Dean's Walk goal. The ball went straight to Tucker, who was pulled down immediately he received, a scrum following well inside the visitors' half. Twice Bristol got the ball out, but the backs gained little ground. For off-side Voyce was penalised, and the resultant kick gave Bristol a position ten yards beyond the centre line. Again the visiting forwards heeled, and Corbett punted across to Feltham, who gathered full on the run, but was collared and thrown to touch by Crowther.

In a subsequent loose scrum Voyce picked up and punted high, and the Gloucester forwards following up were on the ball when it fell, but it bounced awkwardly and Chantrill was able to get in a lucky flying kick to touch.

Gloucester confined operations to their opponents' quarter, where Bristol were penalised for illegal charging in the line-out. From the penalty kick awarded Millington made a fine attempt for goal, the ball going a yard outside. Corbett received and punted out, but Gloucester sent back, and a splendid loose rush, headed by Voyce and Holford, just failed in a try, Bristol saving right on the line.

Gloucester pressed severely for a couple of minutes, and the ball coming out to Millington, the vice-captain dropped for goal, but failed in his effort. A free to Bristol was beautifully taken by Corbett, who found touch 30 yards up the field. From this point the Bristol backs were set on the move by Carter, and brilliant passing ensued. Quick came over from the left and took a pass from Feltham, and was making off at a great pace when Collett stopped his career with a lovely tackle.

Immediately after the Bristol three-quarters were off again. This time Quick beat Collett, but his cross-kick did not bring the desired result, and Gloucester saved a couple of yards from the line. Exciting play ensued close in, and the ball coming to Budd, the outside half took a drop for goal, but it was a poor attempt and nothing but a minor resulted.

Gloucester restarted, and either side came under the referee's ban for infringements, which left the game near midfield. Gloucester heeling, the City backs opened out, but the men stood still to pass[*sic*] and no ground was made. Then Roderick threw out from the loose to Meadows, who yielded to Brown, but the latter essayed a kick, which was charged down. Corbett coming through made off and passed, and there was a possible opening, but the tackling was safe.

Gloucester worked out by the aid of a good kick, but Gough missing at the scrum, Carter dribbled away cleverly. A. Hore, backing up, gathered and got in a strong run, but Millington snapped up his pass and got in a clever kick to touch. Bristol had now secured a good attacking position, and they made desperate efforts to effect a score.

Gloucester held up stoutly, but a punt out went to Chantrill, who with a fine drop kick covered the cross-bar and put Bristol four points up. It was a fine effort by the Bristol custodian, and deserved the points.

On the restart the Bristol backs, who were playing brainy and clever football, were again in evidence, and Corbett looked like going through. He, however, was legged, and Gloucester escaped. Some fast loose dribbling by the Gloucester forwards changed the venue, but the Bristol front retaliated, Quick joining in. The result was that the ball was sent past Collett, and there was a race for possession. Meadows won, and effected a wonderful clearance amidst cheers.

A clever run by Corbett put Gloucester on the defence again, the visitors losing a splendid chance of a try by wild passing. Play was close to the home line when a timely clearance kick brought operations to beyond the quarter flag. Gough was twice cheered for spoiling Carter, but Glo'ster were getting little of the ball from the scrums. Collett with a huge punt more than half the length of the field gave the home side a good lead, but Bristol quickly recovered with a passing bout. From Quick's cross-kick Crowther secured, and running round, punted to touch at the centre.

HALF-TIME SCORE ;
BRISTOL 1 goal (d)
GLOUCESTER Nil

Bristol had clearly established their lead at the interval, for they had had considerably the better of the exchanges, and their play all-round was far in advance of anything attempted by Gloucester, especially behind the scrum.

Play on the resumption was fought out at midfield for a couple of minutes until Corbett, after deceiving a couple of opponents with the "dummy," punted to the Gloucester half. Here a free was awarded Bristol, but A. Hore made a feeble attempt to drop a goal, and Meadows more than recovered the ground with his return.

Just inside the home half the Gloucester backs started passing, and Meadows receiving, the centre broke through finely, but he was caught from behind before he reached Chantrill and was pulled down. The ball, however, got loose, and Daniell tried hard to get through but was stopped.

Immediately after Daniell was again in possession, and put in a well-judged cross punt in front of the posts. Crowther was on the spot, and gathering scored in a good position for Millington to land a goal and give Gloucester a point lead.

With this change in the game, play was resumed with keener interest, the City team showing form. The Bristol backs, however, retrieved, though Corbett spoiled a good bout with a bad pass to Quick. From this point Gloucester went away, but Millington's punt went straight to Chantrill. The latter was hampered and miskicked, and Bristol were very lucky to escape a try against them.

Gloucester still kept up the attack and but for a marvellous recovery by Corbett the visitors' lines would probably have fallen to an attack by the City front. Bristol gained temporary relief, but Gloucester were now on top, and Millington had a narrow shave for a dropped goal.

Working beautifully together Gloucester set up another attack through Millington, who shook off Budd and made a lovely opening. A pass to Brown followed, and the latter yielding to Meadows the left centre crossed the line with a beautiful try – the result of a perfect movement and easily the best effort of the City backs. Millington failed to add the extra points, but Gloucester were now leading by four points.

Bristol resumed with great keenness, and a succession of line-outs and scrums followed in the Gloucester 25. Useful punts by Millington brought relief, but Bristol were dangerous with a threequarter-back movement, a knock-on checking, though the referee had passed an obvious forward transfer earlier.

Gough with footwork made a little headway, and Gloucester made further ground through a risky long pass by Budd. F. Hore, however, recovered and made a dash through, but he was brought down and sustained a nasty knock in the face which caused him to retire for a couple of minutes. Just previously Corbett had been to the fore with a tricky bit of play, though it did not say much for the Gloucester tackling to allow him to get clear.

Brilliant work by the Gloucester forwards and a sharp dash and kick by Crowther put Gloucester well down, and Voyce further improved. Chantrill had some difficulty in clearing from a dangerous rush, and could only kick straight into touch. Quick cleared with a well-judged punt, but the Gloucester forwards returned with dashing footwork, which Budd checked in daring fashion.

Again Corbett came to the rescue of his side when matters looked dangerous, and later the Bristol backs were sent away nicely by Budd. A knock-on, however, occurred with the men well placed. A huge punt by Collett transferred play to the Bristol quarter, where the visiting backs broke away in fine style. Quick raced hard, but found his match in Brown, who brought off a fine tackle. Bristol were now getting the ball in the scrums, and Carter opening out there was a series of exchanges, but sound tackling prevented a score.

Play to the end was keenly contested, Gloucester finishing very strongly, but there was no further scoring.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal 1 try (8 pts.)

BRISTOL, 1 goal (d) (4 pts.)

REMARKS.

Bristol seem fated to lose at Kingsholm. The last occasion the team proved successful at the City Club headquarters was as far back as 1907, when in a county cup tie Gloucester suffered defeat by 1 dropped goal, 1 try (7 points) to 1 goal (5 points).

Since then Bristol have been beaten, including to-day's reverse, eleven times in succession, with the aggregate of points in favour of Gloucester to the extent of 121 points to 42.

Gloucester's triumph this afternoon was only obtained after a desperate struggle, but the City are to be congratulated on utilising the two scoring chances that came their way. Crowther's try was the reward for opportunism and intelligent anticipation, but Daniell had his share in the score for a perfect piece of cross-kicking. The second try was far more spectacular, and was prettily conceived and admirably carried out by Millington, Brown, and Meadows. The Bristol defence was beaten all the way on this occasion, and emphasised what the Gloucester backs were capable of if only provided with opportunities.

But to-day the Gloucester forwards for the most part were beaten for possession, and in the first half especially Bristol ought certainly to have established a stronger lead than four points. There was much bright and clever play by the visiting backs, but finish was lacking, though the close marking of the opposition accounted a good deal for the upset in combination.

Corbett stood out for individual efforts, and he recovered wonderfully at times when matters looked dangerous for his side. Hore showed nice dash, but I have seen Quick to better advantage. The Bristol captain tried hard, but was uncertain at critical moments. With such a brilliant attacking quartette the visitors ought certainly to have done better, but though many movements promised well they petered out rather feebly. This was especially noticeable in the second half, when with all the backs in alignment and only three Gloucester men to beat the home defence was not penetrated.

At scrum half Bristol were well served by Carter, who was a bit too smart for Gough at times. The Second teamer, however, was a hard worker, and did a lot of spoiling. Budd accepted most of his passes cleanly, and set his line going repeatedly, but he had a fatal weakness occasionally of essaying risky transfers into the open field.

The Gloucester backs did not carry through many combined movements, for the simple reason that they were none too well served with the ball. Individually Millington was easily the star turn, and besides being mainly responsible for the second try he did splendidly in defence, clearing several times under great pressure.

The City three-quarters by no means did badly. Daniell still displays a penchant for the head tackle, and he "lost" one or two opponents this afternoon through going too high. Otherwise he rendered useful service. Crowther showed distinct improvement on the left wing, tackling well and always being on the alert to benefit his side. Meadows played a clever and resourceful game, and Sid Brown, with few chances, was in the picture for some praiseworthy efforts.

The full back play showed Collett quite the equal of Chantrill in general play. The Bristol custodian had the distinction of crediting himself with Bristol's only points, but he was not in such dazzling form as I have seen him.

The Bristol forwards had all the better of the tussle up to the interval, but there was a long period in the second half when they were worsted, more especially in the loose. Still the City pack as a whole were not in such form as against the Harlequins. The scrummage work was weak, and the men did not show their usual dash. Roderick, Voyce, Ayliffe, Evans and Bayliss were often conspicuous for good work, and Holford, until he was lamed, was generally among the leaders in loose rushes.

Bristol were best represented by Tucker, Williams, and Haysham, though the eight worked untiringly all through. Richardson, the ex-Gloucester player, scrummaged well, and did some good stopping.

Though play was desperately fought out it was a pleasure to note that the game was contested in a clean and sporting manner, and nothing occurred to which any exception could be taken. This is the right spirit, and I hope to see the rival teams in many more such friendly contests.

Next week : Guy's Hospital, at Kingsholm. (kick-off 3 o'clock; please note!). Guy's, recognised as the best Club side in England last season, have again got together a brilliant combination, all the back division being South African players. The Students have been beaten twice at Kingsholm, but in the return engagements at Honor Oak have taken ample revenge, notably last season, when Gloucester were decisively beaten by 20 points to 5. Next Saturday's contest should produce a great struggle for supremacy and attract a big crowd.

W.B.

GLOUCESTER A WIN AT BRISTOL.

GLOUCESTER REGIMENT OUTCLASSED.

This game was played at Horfield, Bristol. The Depot kicked off, and from the start Gloucester A pressed, the ball going all along the line, but the movement was stopped by the wing man being thrown into touch.

Gloucester again attacked without being able to get through. A free kick against the visitors, however, did not gain much ground for Bristol, as the Gloucester backs returned with interest.

The Cherry and Whites now attacked vigorously, and the Depot were forced to touch down. The home side attacked for a spell, but the Gloucester backs picked up from the feet of the forwards and running through them started a passing movement, which, however, broke down on the wing.

Half-time arrived with no score, but immediately after the restart Bloxsome got over for Gloucester, James converting.

The visitors again attacked, the ball passing from hand to hand, but eventually Bloxsome was pulled down. After a forward rush Washbourne scored for Gloucester, James adding the points.

As the result of a good bout of passing in which all the three-quarters took part Washbourne scored again, but James failed with the kick.

The end came with Gloucester A attacking.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 2 goals 1 try (13 pts.)

Gloucester Depot Nil

JC