

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1922.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER RISE TO THE OCCASION.

HARLEQUINS WELL BEATEN.

LONDONERS OVERWHELMED BY CITY FORWARDS.

TWICKENHAM, SATURDAY.

With Ayliffe and David on the injured list, and Dix, Hall, and Hughes all unable to make the journey, Gloucester were again seriously disorganised for the important match with the Harlequins at Twickenham this afternoon.

The City's two previous visits to the Rugby Union headquarters had ended favourably for the Westerners; and at Kingsholm Gloucester had won once and drawn against the famous 'Quins. This record gave hope that once again the team would rise to the occasion and upset general expectations.

Forward, the visitors were confident of holding their own, but the back division, on the form shown against Cross Keys, did not inspire much confidence, though Millington's presence was bound to make for some improvement.

The Harlequins fielded an exceptionally powerful side, and were evidently very keen on avenging previous reverses.

## GLOUCESTER.

BACK : J. C. Collett.

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

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

FORWARDS: G. Holford, Major Roderick, T. Voyce, J. Harris, S. Smart, M. Evans, S. Bayliss, and T. Coulson.

## HARLEQUINS.

BACK: R. H. King.

THREE-QUARTERS: B. L. Jacot, G. N. B. Huskinson, A. L. Gracie, and I. J. Pitman.

HALF-BACKS: S. H. Townell and V. G. Davies.

FORWARDS: H. P. Marshall, S. P. Simpson, R. W. Ling, P. W. Adams, S. J. Rossdale, E. R. Stokes, J. M. Currie, and H. B. T. Wakelam.

## THE GAME.

Ideal football weather prevailed, but there were only about 2,000 spectators present. Holford kicked off, and early play was fought out amongst the forwards at mid-field. A penalty to the Harlequins saw the kick go to touch inside the Gloucester 25. Davies, with a loose dribble, made little headway, Collett picking up and sending straight to touch. Neat exchanges by the 'Quins followed, but Collett effected a good tackle and saved what looked like a certain try. Gloucester were confined to their own quarter until Brown and Daniell, after fumbling by Pitman, sent play to the centre.

Fast loose play followed, but the tackling was keen, and neither side was able to claim any advantage. Another free to the 'Quins for off-side enabled Davies to put in a good kick, but Collett returned with interest. Gloucester were holding their own just now. Brown and Daniell did a pretty bit of work on the left, but a forward pass checked the movement. Even play ensued just inside the Gloucester half.

Another penalty against Gloucester gave King a shot for goal, but the ball fell short. Collett received and ran out, but his kick was charged down, and the City lines had a narrow escape.

Still another penalty went to the Harlequins, but again the kick for goal failed. Gloucester cleared by the aid of a the drop-out, and Brown was very prominent with a sharp dash, but subsequent mistakes let Wakelam away. The latter punted over Collett's head, but Brown got back and touched down. The Harlequins still continued to have the better of the exchanges, but Jacot and Pitman in turn were well tackled when looking dangerous.

After this Gloucester had a look-in. Daniell, receiving from Brown, ran well and punted into the open. The ball was fumbled close in, and sent over the Harlequins' line, but Huskinson touched down, with Crowther very near. Davies, with a dodgy run, changed the venue, and the Gloucester defence was sorely taxed. It held out, however, though the City had to touch down.

Subsequent play was somewhat scrambling, with few movements of real brilliance. Inside the Gloucester half Gough whipped out a pass to Millington, and a nice bout of passing was witnessed. Crowther, the last to receive, ran hard, but stepped into touch after going twenty yards.

Gloucester were doing well just now, the forwards working well together. Gough made a mark from a line-out, and with his kick gained a dozen yards or so. A little later the City backs handled finely, and Brown shot through cleverly, but he was collared from behind, and his pass to Daniell went forward with a splendid opening.

Gloucester attacked strongly, and the forwards went very close. From a scrum five yards out Millington gathered and with a superb burst through his opponents successfully crossed the line with a try. The same player took the shot for goal, but failed to add the extra points.

Resuming, Brown brought off a sensational run to the full back, but his pass went astray – very hard lines.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
GLOUCESTER ..... 1 try  
HARLEQUINS ..... Nil

Gloucester had shown splendid form in the last fifteen minutes before the change of ends, and apart from Millington's try the City might easily have had a couple of other scores with a bit of luck.

The 'Quins resumed strongly, and early on Jacot had a good dash, but was finally subdued. Then from passing Gracie was set going, but Brown effected a fine smothering tackle before he could pass to Pitman. A splendid loose rush enabled Gloucester to change the venue, and later Crowther took advantage of mistakes by the home backs.

Splendid marking by the City upset the 'Quins' back division, and King was forced to kick straight to touch a few yards from his line. Gloucester worked desperately hard to effect a score, and the Harlequins' defence had a very warm time.

A lucky kick gave the home team slight relief, but Gloucester worked back through Smart, and again the Londoners' line had a very narrow escape. A touchdown eventually eased matters, and centre play followed.

The City forwards were going great guns just now, and a splendid loose rush gave the defence an anxious time. In their own quarter the 'Quins opened out, but Gracie fell to a good tackle by Daniell and lost the ball, which eventually went to touch.

Some close and exciting play was witnessed at mid-field, but each time the City forwards broke away they were pulled up for off-side, and the resultant penalties gave the home team good slices of ground; but Gloucester quickly recovered with clever footwork. Millington broke through, but the ball was finally kicked against King, and was missed on the rebound.

Then came a smart effort by Brown, who picked up and fed Millington. The latter ran to the full back and yielded to Holford, who missed the ball with an open line. This was another very lucky escape for the 'Quins. With good kicking the Londoners kept play at the centre for a time, but they were overwhelmed by the Gloucester forwards, and again forced to defend. Twice the City were almost over; but, not to be denied, they persevered, and Roderick burst over with a try, which Millington failed to convert.

Encouraged by this success, Gloucester entered into the contest with increased zest. Millington brought off a lovely run down the centre and passed to Gough, but the latter held on too long. The 'Quins, however, fumbling, the City rushed the ball over the line, and Bayliss scored a third try, which Millington converted, giving the City an eleven points' lead – a fine achievement.

In the last five minutes the Londoners played up strongly to effect a score, but they were held.

#### RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal, 2 tries (11 pts.)  
HARLEQUINS ..... Nil

#### REMARKS.

Gloucester's great win came as a pleasant surprise. The first ten minutes suggested that the 'Quins would make things warm for the City, but once the Gloucester forwards settled down the issue was never in doubt. The City pack all round played a magnificent game. In the tight they overshadowed the opposition, and when the ball got in the loose there was really only one side in it.

The visitors were frequently penalised for off-side, but in several instances it was only carelessly overrunning the ball, and the referee might easily have passed several trivial infringements. However, even with the advantage of numerous frees, the 'Quins could not do anything.

With the advantage forward, the City kept a sharp look-out on the home backs, and it was rarely Gracie, Jacot, and company got very far. Gough did extremely well in the second half with Millington, and all the City backs rendered good service.

Collett shaped well at back. Well done, Gloucester !

Next Monday : Gloucester v. Plymouth Albion, at Kingsholm.

Next Saturday : Gloucester v. Bristol, also at home.

W.B.

### GLOUCESTER A v. BROMSGROVE.

#### AN AMUSING GAME.

Bromsgrove, who came into the Seconds fixture list for the first time last year, and who were decisively beaten in both matches, provided the opposition for Gloucester A at Kingsholm this afternoon. Unfortunately the weather broke just before the match, and the attendance was poor,

Teams : –

Gloucester A. – R. H. James; E. H. Hughes, A. E. Hopcroft, F. E. Worsley, and W. Washbourne; R. Cook and G. Cole; F. Mansell (captain), J. H. Webb, E. Curtis, H. W. Collier, J. F. Lawson, H. G. Mountford, T. Taylor, and J. Powell.

Bromsgrove. – W. S. Figures; W. Weaver, J. Haines, A. L. Kerr, and R. S. Ferry; R. Appleby and H. Jeffries; D. Drury, T. Drury, C. Walduck, A. R. Allday, D. Rimmer, R. Jeffries, A. T. Genton, and E. Scale.

Referee : Mr. F. T. Lawrence.

Bromsgrove made a false start, and from the second scrum at midfield they were penalised for off-side play. James put in a lovely kick, but a player had got in front of the ball and another scrum took place at the centre. Cook fed Cole, who set his three-quarters going, Worsley cutting through with a pretty run and transferring to Washbourne for the wing man to register the first try. James made a good attempt to add the extra points but failed.

The home team were now subjected to a considerable attack which only narrowly failed. Twice the City line was attacked, and then James cleared. Gloucester were getting the ball back well and Hughes next came into the picture with a strong run down field accompanied by Webb, but the tackling was too keen for them to get through.

Play fluctuated from one end of the field to the other with very little in it for either side. Lawson ever to the fore initiated a hustling forward movement which carried the City to the visitors' quarter, but off-side lost them the advantage. Open play continued for a time and taking advantage of an opening Hopcroft dribbled across the field and fell on the ball in the corner. The shot for goal was too difficult for James.

With this second success Gloucester eased off and Bromsgrove, taking full advantage of this fact, at once initiated a strong attack and were successful in opening their account with a try by Weaver after a three-quarter movement. Figures also failed to cover the cross-bar.

A period of scrambling play with much mishandling owing to the wet ball gave way to some lively play by the visiting back division, but they failed to score, James putting up a good defence.

Gloucester were not content to remain on the defensive and the forwards soon broke away. Cole made a dash for the corner but was carried to touch.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A .....	2 tries
Bromsgrove .....	1 try

The resumption was marked by a splendid try by Washbourne after a pleasing movement by the back division. The wing man handed off an opponent and ran round another, grounding with a couple more hanging on. The City back again missed the goal points.

The Bromsgrove defence had now weakened badly and with the Seconds handling with much greater precision, another try was quickly forthcoming, Worsley with a fine turn of speed scoring just outside the posts. Cole had a try for goal, but did no better than James.

With a margin of nine points against them the visitors were by no means discouraged and Weaver and Haines executed a smart movement on the left wing, Weaver getting clear only to be pulled up. Another rush by the home forwards led to an exciting struggle in the Bromsgrove 25, Washbourne crossing, but being recalled.

Gloucester lost ground on several occasions through Cook failing to put the ball in straight – a fault which might have had serious results against a stronger opposition. Again penalised through off-side by Cook Gloucester were called upon to defend. Wretched fumbling by the Bromsgrove backs lost them several chances, but on neither side was the handling too good.

James, who had been rushing into the thick of it, had a nasty jar and had to be carried off the field, Hopcroft taking his place. One of the visiting forwards dribbled to the home twenty-five and passed Hopcroft, who slipped; but lost control and Hughes spoiled the attempt.

James now returned and the City regained the ascendancy, but play continued to be scrappy and many inaccuracies prevented openings being utilised. Twice Hughes prevented likely scores by taking visitors by the heel when they looked to have a clear run.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 4 tries (12 pts.)  
Bromsgrove ..... 1 try (3 pts.)



## REMARKS.

As an exhibition of the art of Rugby playing the match could not be taken seriously. It was really too amusing, the ball a good deal of the time being thrown and kicked about all over the place, and the players tumbling about in the most laughable manner. The wet state of the ball made accurate handling difficult, and both sides would have been well advised to use their feet more.

Gloucester A had the measure of their opponents throughout, and with more finish they should have secured a better margin, although the play of Bromsgrove was by no means to be despised. Forward, the City were much superior, especially in the scrums, from which they got the ball back regularly. Lawson was a tower of strength, and Collier, Mansell, and Webb were always conspicuous.

Cook entirely spoiled his play at scrum half by being continually penalised for failing to put the ball in properly and for getting off-side. The halves did not work well together, Cole also appearing to be off colour.

All the three-quarters worked well, a good deal of attention being given to Worsley, who showed a good turn of speed and considerable resource. James did not take the full-back position seriously, but he was easily better than Figures, who failed badly several times.

The Bromsgrove three-quarters were nippy, but passed wildly and lost what chances were presented. The halves and forwards were moderately good.

Next week : Gloucester Regiment, away.