

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1923.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER'S GOOD PERFORMANCE AT BRISTOL.

KEEN AND VIGOROUS GAME ENDS IN A DRAW.

The return fixture between Gloucester and Bristol, at the Memorial Ground, was among the most attractive Club games set for decision to-day, and the match aroused the keenest possible interest in the rival camps. Gloucester won the first game at Kingsholm by 8 points to 4, and it will be seen by a record of results tabulated on another page that the City possess a commanding advantage in the matter of victories during the past thirteen years.

On form, this afternoon's contest promised a close struggle, though Gloucester's chances of victory were affected by the withdrawal of Tom Voyce and Major Roderick from the forwards. Voyce was anxious to take part in this match, and rested last week, but a special request from the Chairman of the English Selection Committee not to play was reluctantly acceded to. What was wanted of Voyce, however, should have been required of other Internationals engaged next week at Inverleith, but C. N. Lowe and W. W. Wakefield were announced to assist the Air Force against The Army – quite as strenuous a struggle as Gloucester and Bristol. Roderick was unavoidably prevented from making his re-appearance, but hopes to be available next week against Newport.

There was some doubt last night about Millington turning out, and it was arranged for W. Clements, the Second teamer, to make the journey in case the vice-captain decided not to play. Millington had been a sufferer with neuralgia during the week; but if reports were true, there were "other reasons" which made him undecided as to his intentions.

The Selection Committee were practically unanimous that the situation warranted experiments in the back division, and Millington was chose to play at outside half. The change was made with the best of intentions, but it is no secret that Millington did not approve of the alteration.

Bristol had selected a strong Fifteen, but Pickles was doubtful, and there was probability of another change being found necessary. The past few weeks had not been successful for either club; Gloucester having lost to Llanely and Swansea, whilst Bristol's recent defeats included Plymouth Albion, Swansea and Pontypool. A goodly number of Gloucester supporters took advantage of the cheap railway excursions to Bristol in connection with the match.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : J. C. Collett.

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

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

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe (capt.), M. Evans, G. Holford, A. Rea, S. Smart, T. Coulson, A. Hall, S. Bayliss, and J. Harris (selected from).

BRISTOL.

BACK : B. S. Chantrill.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. G. B. Quick (capt.), A. Stinchcombe, J. A. Tucker, and T. G. Spoons.

HALF-BACKS : E. Tucker and L. J. Corbett.

FORWARDS : J. S. Tucker, E. A. Richardson, P. J. Williams, F. J. Coventry, A. T. Hore, E. Sullivan, S. H. Carey, and J. Portman (Fry's).

Referee : Mr. J. C. Huntley (Cross Keys).

THE GAME.

Millington did not play, and Crowther, who travelled in reserve, not Clements, filled the vacancy, Sid Brown going centre. Bristol had several changes, A. Stinchcombe taking Corbett's place at three-quarter. Corbett went outside half, being partnered by E. Tucker, and in the forwards E. Sullivan and S. H. Carey replaced Shaw and Cummings. The weather was fine though cold, and there was a splendid crowd. Disappointment was keen at the weakened teams, but injuries and illness were the main causes of the absentees.

The game opened at a fast pace, both sets of forwards putting in some good work. Bristol were the first to heel, and Corbett got a nice pass away to Spoons, who kicked to touch near the Gloucester 25. From the line out Smart put in a neat punt to Chantrill, who marked cleverly in face of keen opposition. The penalty enabled Bristol to make headway, but Ayliffe and Holford came away with a beautiful dribble until checked by Corbett. The latter picked up and opened out to Spoons, who fed Stinchcombe, but the latter fumbled.

Centre play followed until Collins was penalised for off-side. With the kick Corbett found touch close to the Gloucester line. Exciting play ensued, ending in Gloucester clearing by the aid of Crowther, who punted down to Chantrill at the centre. Here the game operated for a few minutes, the forwards being mainly engaged.

It was keen and vigorous football, with little in it. From a penalty Corbett kicked across, but Collett gathered and returned with interest. Inside the Gloucester half Hughes broke away and the ball went to Daniell, who darted away, but was cut off. Collins and a couple of forwards gained a useful slice of ground with footwork, and then Gloucester were awarded their first penalty, but Collett's drop for goal was a poor one. The Bristol forwards broke away in dashing style, but Brown stopped them, and broke through for a dozen yards before being checked.

Play was fast and interesting and exceptionally keen. From a pass from Hughes, Stone slipped the defence cleverly, but his transfer to Ayliffe was ruled forward. A fine passing bout by Gloucester saw Daniell cross-kick nicely, and there was a possible opening, but Stinchcombe saved by turning to touch. From this point Bristol brought off a clever combined movement, Hall eventually effecting a deadly tackle.

Gloucester responded with another neat effort; Crowther punted instead of trying to round his man. The visitors had the better of the subsequent exchanges, and twice Chantrill was closely pressed. Then Collett had a shot for goal from a penalty, but sent very wide. For the next few minutes it was a great struggle forward, with Gloucester holding the advantage. Near the centre Hughes gathered and passed wide to Crowther, who spurted and cross-kicked, but Chantrill fielded and cleared in good style.

Brilliant footwork and close marking by Gloucester put Bristol on the defence, and Corbett was penalised, A high punt was placed in front of the Bristol goal, but Quick secured the ball and, though tackled, saved the situation. A rush by Bristol saw Collett called upon, but the City custodian effected a brilliant clearance. With a strong dash close on the interval Bristol opened out, and Spoons punting ahead raced up and again securing scored a good try, which Chantrill failed to convert.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
BRISTOL 1 try
GLOUCESTER Nil

It had been a fine first half, keen, fast and vigorous, with plenty of incidents. Bristol's try came as the result of a misunderstanding between Collett and Daniell in fielding, and the ball bouncing the wrong way Spoons was presented with a chance which he took full advantage of.

The second half opened with a rare tussle between the forwards, and play mainly centred round the half-way line. Finally Collins dribbled away, only to find Carey a stumbling-block. Corbett marked from a kick by Collett, but did not gain much ground with his reply.

From some loose play the ball was sent down to Collett, who dashed through and served Sid Brown, who had gone outside. The latter made a fine effort for the corner, but just failed. Gloucester attacked strongly, and Collett was again applauded for a good clearance under pressure. This led to Gloucester gaining a good position. Corbett, being tackled low, lost the ball, and Brown, snapping it up, raced over with a try, which Ayliffe failed to convert.

With the teams level the game became more exciting. The back play on both sides was faulty, but interest was fully maintained. Stone was prominent with a clever dodgy run, but his pass inside was knocked on. Then Bristol dribbled in effective style, and went right to the line, where Hughes saved by kicking to touch. Just after Corbett narrowly missed dropping a goal. Following the drop-out the Gloucester backs shone in some good work, Stone being to the fore, but the defence held out.

Play continued in the Bristol quarters, where the home forwards heeled, but Quick, who received from Corbett, was beautifully upset by Daniell. The struggle was desperate in front, and no quarter was given. Occasionally the backs handled, but finish was lacking. Quick had one run and cross-kicked, but Collett made a marvellous mark with several forwards on top of him. From here Hall led a dashing dribble to beyond the centre, and Gloucester took up the running again. Collett was to the fore again with a lovely bit of work, eluding Quick, who had followed up, and getting in a capital touch-finder. It was hammer and tongs for the next few minutes, with honours even.

A mistake by Collett let Bristol close in, and matters looked dangerous. Bristol, however, failed badly when the ball came out, and the visitors rushed away to the other end. The last five minutes proved very exciting, Bristol making strenuous efforts to gain the winning points, but Gloucester defended with resolution, and the end came with honours even.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 1 try (3 points)
BRISTOL 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

A draw was a fair indication of the relative merits of the rival teams. It was a hard and keen struggle, especially forward, where both packs were all out, but behind there was not that finish to movements so necessary to scoring. Corbett did a lot of effective kicking for Bristol. Spoons also did excellently, but otherwise no one was particularly distinguished. Collins and Tucker were fairly well matched at scrum half, and Hughes did quite well with the few opportunities in attack allowed him. Brown and Stone did some smart work at centre, and Collett, apart from one mistake, played a splendid game. Forward, Ayliffe, Evans, Smart, and Holford were always prominent.

GLOUCESTER A v. GLOUCESTER REGIMENT.

RESERVES WIN EASILY.

Defeated at Bristol by Gloucester A, the Gloucester Regiment attended at Kingsholm on Saturday afternoon for the return match. There was a fair attendance, and the weather and ground were quite satisfactory.

Teams : —

Gloucester A. — R. James; F. Wadley, Fred Webb, W. Clements, W. Pitt, and R. N. Loveridge; T. Gough and J. Rea; F. Mansell (capt.), P. Carter, H. W. Collier, A. Owner, W. Harding, W. Rose, and J. Hawker.

Gloucester Regiment. — Corpl. Davis; Pte. Harris, Col.-Sergt. Turner, Sergt. Lukins, and Corpl. Drissell; L.-Corpl. Shirley and Corpl. Trinder; Lieut. Calvert-Fisher (capt.), Sergt. Lester, Sergt. Bragg, Corpl. Stokes, L.-Corpl. Meacham, L.-Corpl. Bennett, Pte. Edwards, and Pte. Llewellyn.

Referee : Mr. Jack Hall.

The Regiment kicked off, and there was a good return, Gloucester working down to the visitors' 25. Here the Regiment got the ball from the scrum, and Trinder sent Gloucester back with a fine kick to touch. The home forwards next heeled, and Gough sent out a pass to Rea, which the stand-off missed badly. Clements, however, recovered, and running round, sent to touch. Gloucester worked down to the visitors' quarter, and after a nice round of passing, Loveridge ran down and cross-kicked, enabling Collier to snap up the ball and score. James made no mistake with the kick.

Following this reverse the Regiment rushed down, but Gough fielded a punt and sent to touch, thus putting his side again into an attacking position. The City were playing five three-quarters, but there was not a lot of open play. Drissell showed up in a nice run down the wing and a punt; but James got back and secured to touch.

The Regiment now settled down to work with additional weight in the scrum often pushing Gloucester off the ball. The City made the most of handling opportunities, however, and a passing bout, in which all the backs participated, left the ball with Owner, who had come up, and he rounded off a pretty movement by scoring a try which James converted.

James, who was called upon several times, responded well, fielding and kicking with accuracy. Davis was also putting in some good work. The visitors were kept pretty much on the defensive, and were not any too safe. From a scrum near their line Gough received from the scrum, and giving Shirley the slip dashed over with a try in a good position. This time James did not cover the cross-bar.

Gloucester were now doing pretty much as they pleased. The visiting forwards had lost their control of the scrums, and consequently the ball was given more air. A further three-quarter movement resulted in a score by Fred Webb, who showed a bit of his old form. James again failed with the kick. Loveridge was applauded for a clever cut inside, and again when he got back and stopped a forward burst.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 2 goals, 2 tries

Gloucester Regiment Nil

On the resumption the visitors with kick-and-rush tactics penetrated to the home line, and the ball was kicked over, but James fielded and ran it out. There was a struggle on the home line, until the three-quarters got going, and then Webb, running well, got in a punt to touch at half way. The visitors persevered, however, and again forced their way to the home 25, and there was a race for the touch, the Regiment being just too late. With the aid of fine kicking by Davis, the visitors continued to press, until Collier picked up and made a dash up the field. He punted ahead, and Rea and Wadley carried on to the Regiment's 25, where the movement broke down.

A scrum infringement led to the soldiers being penalised near their posts, and James added to the score with a well-judged kick. Nineteen points ahead was a fair indication of Gloucester's superiority. The visitors were not discouraged, and there was a further period of play in the Gloucester territory; but the visitors never looked like scoring, although they several times worked down to the home line. A spectacular rush by the home forwards, who dribbled three-parts the length of the field, led to a try by Pitt, who continued the movement. The position was too difficult for James to majorise.

In the course of another attack by the Regiment, Davis fielded a punt and had a drop for goal, which only narrowly missed. Carter, who was playing a resourceful game, showed up in a smart burst through, but the Seconds were not handling as cleanly as earlier in the game. Just before time, when play was near the Gloucester 25, Trinder made a mark, and taking a place kick, scored a beautiful goal. A moment later Rose added another unconverted try for Gloucester after intercepting. Gough took the kick.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 3 goals (1p) 4 tries (25 pts.)

Gloucester Regiment 1 goal (m) (3 pts.)

REMARKS.

Gloucester A had an easy task this afternoon, not that the soldiers lacked determination, but they failed in combination and skill. They worked up a number of attacks, but were unable to force home their chances. Davis, who was a resourceful full-back, was the outstanding man on their side.

The home forwards did much better in the scrums to-day, despite their short numbers, and the ball was given plenty of air, all the backs playing with vigour. Fred Webb was a welcome addition to the third line, his inclusion at the last moment introducing the novelty of a five three-quarter game. James was well up to form.

JC