

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1929

BRISTOL 7 Pts., GLOUCESTER 5 Pts.

DESPERATELY KEEN GAME.

FORWARD STRUGGLE IN POURING RAIN.

BRISTOL NARROW WIN DESERVED.

Bristol's record at Kingsholm is not a distinguished one – 2 wins in 21 years! In 1907 Bristol won a County Cup tie by 7 points to 5, and repeated that success, after a long interval, in 1924, when the score was: Bristol 12 points, Gloucester 10 points. Precious narrow margins, but the triumphs were hailed with jubilation by our friends from the South of the county as a sort of consolation prize for many reverses. I would not go so far as to say that in all the games in which Gloucester proved victors the City were the better team, but they always had the happy knack of rising to the occasion at home in these needle contests, and in more than one instance, when all seemed lost, the game was completely turned in their favour.

THE "KINGSHOLM BOGEY."

What was going to happen to-day? Bristol came with a record of five wins, all by substantial margins with the exception of that over Cardiff, and a combination that merited the greatest respect, even though Brown and Tucker, the Internationals, were missing from the ranks. Forward, Gloucester were expected to hold their own, but outside the scrum Bristol, on form, had the advantage. Only at full back could Gloucester claim a superiority, and that had to be proved this afternoon,

as Watts, the deputy for Brown, had not been seen at Kingsholm in comparison with Boughton.

But form often goes awry in Rugby football and Gloucester banked on past performances and the "Kingsholm bogey" to upset the confidence reposed in Bristol. Whether the run of play justified this hope would be revealed in the result.

#### JACK STEPHENS.

With the return of McCanlis, Gloucester were at full strength, the old Oxford Blue replacing Loveridge in the three-quarter line. Jack Stephens' omission from the side is still a sore point with some followers of the City, but after declining his place two weeks in succession he was not, apparently, considered by the Committee. As reported yesterday, Stephens declined a big offer to sign on for the Oldham (Rugby League) club, a significant action of his desire to remain in Gloucester. According to reports home ties proved too strong for him when he had to make a final decision.

#### NEW BRISTOL PLAYERS.

There were several players new to Kingsholm in the Bristol team, captained by Don Burland, in the absence of Tucker. These included three members of the back division – Watts (full-back), Jones (centre), and Pickles (outside half). The latter is a younger brother of Reg. Pickles, who, with L. J. Corbett, brought fame to the Bristol club. The junior Pickles had shaped extremely well in partnership with Carter, and the fact that he displaced such a useful player as E. T. Collins was a pretty good indication of the value placed on his services. He was up against another promising fly half in Dick Stephens, and the form of those two coming players in opposition was awaited with interest.

After weeks of drought and hard grounds, the weather conditions were completely changed to-day. Heavy rain fell all the

morning, and continued without cessation, and the "gate" in consequence was considerably affected. There were two late changes in the Bristol team forward, Coventry and Robinson being replaced by Hazell and Ferris, the old Gloucester player. Thus the visitors were short of four of their best players.

The covered stand accommodation was severely taxed, but round the enclosure there were only a few hundred spectators, and Gloucester's loss in receipts must have been anything up to £100. Rain was still pouring down when the teams took the field.

#### GLOUCESTER.

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : L. Abbey, R. James, G. Orpin, and M. A. McCanlis.

HALF-BACKS : F. Price and E. Stephens.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby (capt.), J. Davies, A. Carpenter, G. Foulkes, J. Hemming, E. Comley, F. Wadley, and L. Franklin.

#### BRISTOL.

BACK : J. C. Watts.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. W. Lillicrap, D. W. Burland, G. V. Jones, and H. Sherman.

HALF-BACKS : D. Pickles and C. B. Carter.

FORWARDS : J. N. Hazell, W. H. Hale, H. L. Rees, W. Bryant, P. G. Lambert, E. G. Everett, R. Parsons, and H. J. Ferris.

Referee : Mr. W. J. Llewellyn (Welsh Union).

#### THE GAME.

#### GLOUCESTER'S EARLY SCORE.

Bristol lost the toss and kicked off, the ball going to Saxby, who punted high and beyond the centre. Jones misfielded, and the City forwards following up prevented a return. Gloucester at once attacked hotly, and the Bristol line was in dire danger. Temporary relief was gained, but Gloucester were back again. Burland picked up and ran round to clear; but he was closely followed by Saxby and forced to kick.

The ball was charged down by the Gloucester captain and rebounded over the line. Dashing on, SAXBY beat the opposition for the touch, and opened the scoring for Gloucester within four minutes of the start. Boughton landed a lovely goal, amidst cheers, and this early success of the home team aroused the greatest excitement.

#### BRISTOL'S REPLY.

Following the restart Bristol worked to the home end, where Boughton had to turn the ball to touch in his 25. Off-side by Stephens led to a penalty for Bristol, but Jones failed with his shot for goal. Gloucester dropped out, but the visitors returned and from a scrum on the 25 line the ball came to PICKLES, who with a lovely left foot kick, dropped a goal. This score came within another three minutes, and this early scoring put the crowd on the tip-toe of excitement.

Resuming, the Gloucester forwards were prominent with a dashing burst, taking the ball through in fine style. Carter brought relief, but Bristol could not get beyond the half-way line. A long punt by Boughton was well returned, and Stephens had to run back to gather, which he did effectively and sent it to touch. Desperately keen forward exchanges followed and there was some fine kicking on either side. Boughton once just failed to get the ball to touch in the corner, and Watts securing gained 30 yards with his kick.

#### HARD AND KEEN FOOTBALL.

James was to the fore with a good dash and pass, but Bristol checked before matters became dangerous. It was hard and keen

football, with some clever work on both sides, despite the conditions. Burland did good work for Bristol with relief kicking, but the Gloucester forwards recovered through Saxby and Hemming. A good rush by the Bristol front looked dangerous, but Wadley saved and later Boughton was effective with a smart effort. Gloucester worked out of danger, and then Carter, breaking away from a scrum, worked out a neat opening, but his pass was missed with a possible opening.

#### VISITORS TAKE THE LEAD.

Bristol had the better of the exchanges and a fast loose dribble took the ball to near the Gloucester line. Boughton gathered, but just as he was about to kick he lost the ball and LILLICRAP, dashing up, scored wide out. Burland failed at goal, but Bristol were two points up.

The forwards so far had been well matched, except in heeling, but there was more snap in the Bristol back division. Even play followed the restart until Gloucester were penalised for a scrum infringement and Bristol made 20 yards with a fine punt to touch. Bristol tried to open out from the line, but the passing went wrong and Boughton dribbled through. Jones, however, checked by sending to touch. Gloucester progressed through Stephens, and later Abbey dashed down touch and put in a short kick, which went out of play a few yards from the goal line.

The visitors were lucky in effecting a clearance from a dangerous position, but they were unable to get beyond the 25. The forwards now took possession of the play, and it was policy with the greasy conditions to keep the ball at the feet. Gloucester twice looked likely to break clear, but they lost the ball and Bristol retaliated with a sharp burst. A raking kick by a visiting forward went to Boughton, who was collared in possession, and Bristol became very dangerous.

Pickles forced a minor with a long punt over the line, and later Burland did the same thing from a penalty kick. The interval was then whistled.

HALF-TIME :

BRISTOL ..... 1 goal (d.) 1 try

GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal

Considering the conditions the football witnessed was excellent and the contest forward had been waged with great determination. On the whole honours were easy, each pack in turn gaining the ascendancy. Behind, Bristol had the better exponents, the Gloucester defence being weak at times.

Gloucester restarted with great vigour, and a reply to the kick-off was prevented. Burland early marked from a punt by Hemming, but did not do much with his kick. The players found difficulty in retaining a foothold and holding the ball on the greasy surface, for heavy rain still continued.

FORWARDS MAINLY ENGAGED.

Gloucester, with a dashing forward burst and follow up caused Jones to miskick and Abbey, gathering, went a few yards. Off-side by Bristol gave the home team a penalty, but a splendid shot by Boughton went wide of the upright. The City later had the ball from the scrum, but Stephens sent the ball along the ground and nothing could be done. Failure to field by Stephens lost Gloucester a good slice of ground, but the policy of attempting to get the ball out was a doubtful one.

Play was mainly with the forwards and the two packs put forth their mightiest to gain supremacy. There was, however, little to choose between the rival eights, first one side and then the other gaining the advantage. It was real hard grafting, but the players stuck to it splendidly.

There was a quiet period for a few minutes until the Bristol forwards got another move with a combined rush which carried them well beyond the centre. The visitors heeled twice in quick succession, but the backs could do nothing with the ball. Then the Gloucester front, Wadley and Davies leading, got moving, and were well away when Burland came across and fly-kicked to touch.

#### DESPERATE FORWARD PLAY.

Play livened up again now, but it was mostly with the forwards. Gloucester gained the upper hand and exciting exchanges ensued in the Bristol half. But no semblance of a scoring chance came, the tackling being too close and desperate.

In subsequent exchanges players took all kinds of risks, and several miskicks occurred. Bristol came into the picture again with all-round forward work and the Gloucester line had a narrow escape.

Relief was gained by Boughton, who punted from his line, and following up, collared his opponent. Bristol retaliated, and a short punt went to Boughton, who in trying to hand-off was pulled down.

The visitors had now secured a good position and they worked desperately to add to their score. But the home defence was very fine.

Franklin and Comley, with a good dribble, brought play out to more favourable quarters. There was, however, no relaxation in the tense struggle.

Gloucester had to concede a minor from a kick over the line, and for the next couple of minutes the City were hard pressed. Bristol, however, lost their position through trying to handle, Gloucester players dribbling away to Watts, who secured neatly.

Time was drawing near but play continued to go in favour of Bristol. The game was wholly with the forwards with the visitors getting the better of the loose work. They went very close again, but Stephens effected a neat clearance with a sharp punt to touch.

Bristol attacked again with a combined burst and Burland tried hard to break through but only made a few yards.

And so the game continued – all with the forwards with a succession of lines-out and scrums. Nothing further was done and the end came.

#### RESULT :

BRISTOL ..... 1 goal (d.) 1 try (7 pts.)  
GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal (5 pts.)

#### REMARKS.

In a contest waged with great determination Bristol just about deserved their narrow win. It was a grim fight forward, and if in the end Bristol were on top the Gloucester eight had their moments of superiority.

Gloucester started off as if they meant victory, and Saxby's early score was very encouraging; but the visitors were by no means upset by this reverse. Pickles' dropped goal was a very clever effort, but it was a bad bit of luck that led to Lillicrap scoring the winning points. Still, on such a day there was a lot of this sort of thing going on, and Gloucester profited by mistakes made by the opposition.

All the forwards deserved credit for a rousing performance. In the desperate mix-ups, there was some heavy tackling, but there was nothing serious to complain about. Gloucester had a splendid lead from



Saxby, and Franklin, Wadley, Hemming and Davies got through a tremendous amount of work. But every man was all out to-day and there were no passengers. Bristol were equally determined, and Bryant, Everett, and Hale were the pick of a splendid eight.

Behind the scrum, Bristol were the better of the two sets, but there were few real chances of doing anything in combination. Both sides made attempts, but they generally misfired. Carter's experience was a little too much for Price at the scrum, and I liked Pickles at outside half. Stephens was often doing useful work, but behind the Gloucester players lacked a Burland at centre. The acting captain was very sound, and was a valuable help to the visitors.

Boughton and Watts both did fine work at full back and made few mistakes, and under the conditions this was exceedingly creditable.

Next week : Gloucester v. Leicester, at Kingsholm.

BRISTOL UNITED ON TOP.

BUT CITY SECONDS LEAD AT INTERVAL.

A SECOND HALF DEBACLE.

Played at the Memorial Ground, Bristol. Gloucester kicked off and gained a few yards, Bristol taking the ball from a line out. Gloucester continued to press, Bristol having another line out in their 25.

Gloucester were penalised for not putting the ball into the scrum, and Bristol were also penalised in their 25. H. Ash kicked a fine goal.

Bristol soon took the lead. Dr. Pyke broke away for Collier to convert.

The ball, being greasy, was hard to hold, so that the opportunities Cucker made did not benefit Bristol. Inter-passing between W. Pitman and T. Voyce took them to the home 25, where from a scrummage R. Hook dropped a goal.

End-to-end play followed, but no further score resulted before half-time.

Half Time :

Gloucester A .....	2 goals (1d, 1p)
Bristol .....	1 goal

Hudson kept up the pressure and Gloucester were penalised but Collings could not score. Bristol kept Gloucester on their goal line for about five minutes and then A. Smith dived over for an unconverted try.

Bristol went further ahead, Franklin putting Collings over for a try. This was not converted.

Bristol increased their lead through Dr. Pyke for Collings to convert.

Hudson punting the ball over Smith and then catching it again passed to W. H. Moncrimine who scored an unconverted try.

Result :

Bristol United .....	19 points
Gloucester A .....	7 points

JC