

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1937

GLOUCESTER NIL; BRISTOL NIL

HONOURS SHARED IN DESPERATELY KEEN GAME

WELL-MATCHED FORWARDS

RONNIE MORRIS OUTSTANDING IN THE BACKS FOR BRISTOL

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester and Bristol shared honours in a drawn game in the second meeting between the teams at Kingsholm to-day, a result similar to the corresponding match last season.

In the first match at the Memorial Ground, in September, Gloucester proved successful by 2 goals (1p) 1 try (11 points) to nil.

Owing to a family bereavement, Grahame Parker was not available at full-back for Gloucester, and Harold Boughton, whose last appearance was against Blackheath on December 5, deputised.

The personnel of the Bristol team had undergone a considerable change since the first meeting between the clubs, no fewer than nine alterations being made – four in the back division and five forward.

Regarded as a final trial for places in the county team to oppose Kent, the match had extra importance, but unfortunately the weather turned out very unfavourable.

Rain fell incessantly all the morning, and not only affected the playing conditions, but had an adverse effect on attendance, which reached about 5,000.

GLOUCESTER

FULL-BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: R. E. Hook, F. G. Edwards, E. L. Phillips, and J. H. Bown.

[Remainder of team[s] unavailable; c.20 column lines missing, having been removed from original vers.]

Gloucester won the toss, and Patten, who captained the visitors, kicked off, but the ball failed to travel the requisite ten yards, and a scrum followed at the centre. Haskins, well off-side, incurred a penalty at once. Boughton punted well down field, but Patten fielded and sent to touch. A smart bit of work on the Bristol right made 30 yards, but from passing Phillips cut through beautifully, but on trying to punt ahead only sent the ball a few yards, and Lewis relieved nicely.

Subsequent play was fast with the forwards. Heeling from the scrum saw Redwood feed Morris, who short punted, but Boughton gathered cleverly, and eluding a couple of visiting forwards, got in a 40 yards' kick. Duggan had to run back to gather, and fumbling, Hook carried on and to the line, but he was ruled offside, and play had to come back.

The Gloucester backs were set going nicely by Day, and Edwards escaping a half tackle, move ahead, and fed Hook. The latter transferred inside, but there was a knock-on, and play was left on the Bristol 25.

FAST PLAY

Ensuing play was keenly contested in the visitors' half, but attempts to break through were frustrated. Meadows, gathering a low pass, essayed a high punt to the left, but Duggan got across and made a good mark. Gloucester continued the good work, and Edwards tried a burst through, but was stopped in time. Then Bristol opened out, and Morris started his threes moving, but Bown checked Baynham and snapped up the ball. He tried hard to get round Duggan, but was forced to touch.

So far honours had been even in gaining possession, but the keen marking behind on both sides did not allow of much effective attacking work. Well judged kicks by Morris put Bristol in a good position ten yards from the home line, but from a pass by Day, Boughton punted out of danger.

GLO'STER ON THE ATTACK

Hook was instrumental in making further progress, and next the Gloucester backs shone in a good movement. Phillips ran strongly and served Edwards, who kicked hard over the line, but Duggan beat Bown for the touch.

Bristol had the better of the exchanges on the drop out, and clever work by Morris gave them territorial advantage. Boughton showed splendid defensive powers under pressure, but Bristol returned to the attack and Lewis made a good effort to go through.

CITY'S ESCAPE

Gloucester's defence was severely tested for a few minutes, but it held out. The position was improved, but the ball coming out from the loose to Redwood, the latter took a drop for goal, but missed.

Bristol were playing with splendid dash, and Edwards failing to hold the ball the visitors dribbled close. Again Boughton relieved, but from a kick out Morris dodged back brilliantly and put in a perfect cross-punt, the ball bouncing over the line.

Three Bristol forwards were well up, but in an exciting passage Hordern gained the touch – a lucky escape for Gloucester.

The touch-down brought relief to Gloucester, who put in some fine forward work on the restart. The forwards combined in a splendid dribble which beat the Bristol defenders. Edwards, gathering, made a determined effort to break through, but succumbed to numbers.

Gloucester put on tremendous pressure just now to force a score. Meadows attempted a drop at goal, but was unsuccessful, and though closely pressed Baynham managed to fly-kick to touch. Redwood being penalised for "not in straight," Boughton had a 40 yards' shot for goal, but was short and Bristol cleared.

Gloucester worked back with strong forward play and useful touch-finding, but Morris was always impressive for Bristol and recaptured lost ground. Play was taken beyond the centre, where operations were being contested at the interval.

Half-time :

GLOUCESTER Nil

BRISTOL Nil

It had been a very even first half, with little to choose between the rivals. Bristol opened smartly, with a strong run by Haskins and a passing movement followed, but there was a forward transfer. Meadows recovered with a nice punt, and this was followed by Phillips racing up and tackling Baynham, who lost the ball. Brown was up and dribbled over, but there had been a previous infringement.

Bristol quickly worked out of danger, but were sent back by a long punt by Hook. Duggan, however, fielded cleanly and returned to touch. Even play followed for a time until Day worked a snap punt to touch inside the Bristol 25. Gloucester tried an attack on the left, but Phillips passed wildly and Hook could do nothing better than attempt a drop at goal, the ball going very wide.

CLOSE FOOTBALL

Close scrummaging ensued on the drop-out, with little advantage to either side. Eventually Bristol came under the ban of the referee for off-side, and Boughton had a place kick for goal, but success did not attend his effort.

Subsequent play was rather tame, consisting mainly of scrummages and intense tackling. When the ball did come out the backs were unable to do anything effective. At length the City forwards broke away in the loose, Carpenter being to the fore. The ball was taken up to Duggan close in, but the Bristol man effected a brilliant clearance. After this exciting movement, the game tamed down again until Hook, from a pass by Meadows, dashed ahead and had a glorious chance, but he tried to side-step Duggan and failed, and his late pass was spoiled with three Gloucester men in attendance to one opponent. This was the best scoring opportunity presented to either team so far in this half.

FINE RUN BY MORRIS

The Gloucester forwards were playing the stronger game just now, and on the drop out returned to the Bristol quarters, but efforts to force a score were all beaten off. A mis-kick by Meadows allowed the visitors to change the position of play and a pretty bit of combination further improved matters. They were pulled up at the centre, where operations were desperately fought out. Boughton eventually got in a high punt which beat Duggan, but Morris was on hand and he brought off a magnificent run, beating several Gloucester players cheaply, but he finally ran into a bunch of opponents and was overwhelmed.

From this point Gloucester took up the running, but they were unable to make any serious impression. Bristol retaliated with a spirited forward burst, and the ball was taken past Boughton despite a gallant attempt to stop the rush. Hordern, however, had got back to save the situation.

Gloucester had the better of subsequent exchanges, and Boughton had another long shot for a penalty, but was short, and soon after the game ended.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER NIL
BRISTOL NIL

REMARKS

The result was a fair indication of the merits of the rival teams, but keen as the play was, the game disappointed in many respects. Ground conditions, of course, were a handicap to combined work outside the . . .

[Remainder of the report unavailable, having been removed from the original vers.]

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