

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECHO

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1937

MORGAN'S GREAT TRY BEATS GLO'STER

CHELTENHAM'S WIN WELL DESERVED

BRIGHT GAME

Cheltenham Rugby Club scored their first victory over Gloucester for several years, last night, when the City team visited them on the Athletic Ground for a special match. The final score was eight points to three.

The deciding five points for Cheltenham came from a grand try by Morgan, who ran three-quarters of the length of the field to score it.

Teams : –

Cheltenham: T. Twyning; H. Morgan, R. Williams, R. Arnold, L. Goddard; C. White, H. Goddard; H. Webley, A. Castle, T. White, G. James, N. Harris (capt.), A. James, D. P. Scarr, H. Grantham.

Gloucester: G. W. Parker; E. Cummings, D. Meadows, T. Stephens, R. E. Burke; S. Walden, T. Rickards; A. Carpenter, T. Day, K. Smith, J. G. A'Bear, R. Morris, E. Bayliss, T. Rose, W. Barrow.

Cheltenham kicked off, and after some kicking and midfield play a forward rush gained ground in the home territory, but Twyning found touch well. Within the first two or three minutes, Walden kicked ahead over the Cheltenham line, and went near to scoring. Gloucester kept up an attack on the home defence and went close again when Leslie Goddard kicked to touch from behind his own line to prevent a try.

Gloucester were forced back to the centre again, and Stephens' nippy kicking was useful in keeping the Cheltenham team in check. Walden cut through beautifully on his own to the home 25.

Cheltenham rushed their way back to the visitors' line, and Leslie Goddard made a splendid attempt at a drop kick at goal that fell just a little short. Then the same player just failed to get over himself after a dash down the wing.

Cheltenham kept up the pressure, and when the ball came out to Hudson by the Gloucester 25, Arnold snatched it from him and dashed over for a try.

It was not converted, but it gave the home side a useful lead after just twenty minutes' play.

They began again in good heart, and from a passing movement in their own half the ball came out to Arnold. He kicked ahead, Parker took the ball, was tackled by Morgan, and it went into touch by the corner-flag, to establish Cheltenham on the attack once more.

Splendid kicking by Parker, Meadows, and Stephens frustrated Cheltenham attacks, but there was another exciting moment for the home supporters when James took the ball at his feet to near the Gloucester line, and Walden just beat Morgan in a race to secure.

Just on half-time Gloucester were attacking, when Walden cut through, starting a movement, but Morgan intercepted a pass by the 25 line and raced away on his own.

Parker, who had been out of position, went after him, but Morgan held his own and crossed between the posts for a magnificent try. Williams converted it.

Morgan had run three-quarters of the length of the field.

GLOUCESTER'S TRY

Cheltenham began again with spirit after the change-over. After about 12 minutes' play, however, Walden, a fine elusive little player, kicked ahead, and following up, got possession to race away for an unconverted try in the corner.

The closing stages of the game, played in increasingly bad light, continued in Cheltenham's favour.

Williams, Arnold, and Harry Goddard all tried drop kicks at the Gloucester goal, but without success.

The game concluded on an exciting note with some bright exchanges.

On the run of play Cheltenham deserved their win, and they played possibly better than they have at any time this season. There was a sparkle and a life about them from the beginning to end. They were quick to seize opportunities and intelligent in exploiting them.

The Cheltenham forwards were lively to a degree – so lively at times that off-sides were plentiful. But that was a fault to the good, and in the loose against a heavier lot they showed up admirably.

The backs, too, played well, and Morgan's run to score was one of the brightest things seen on the ground for a long time.

The visitors' backs were given few opportunities to get away, being closely marked.

Don Meadows gave up his fly-half position to S. Walden, and he did not seem too comfortable at centre. Walden, though, made a most favourable impression on the crowd, and should do well in the future. He has speed, a fine swerve, and a sound sense of play in his favour.

Parker's kicking was brilliant, and T. Twyning at the other end of the field showed up well.

It was a good, bright and interesting game, and the large crowd that watched it was well satisfied.

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