

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1938

GLOUCESTER 3 Pts., BRISTOL NIL.

CITY'S SECOND "DOUBLE" OF SEASON

BRISTOL BACKS NOT UP TO FORM; DULL GAME

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Bristol's victorious run for ten weeks was checked at the Memorial Ground to-day, when Gloucester repeated their win in the first match at Kingsholm.

This was Gloucester's third success in the last four engagements with their keen rivals, the other game resulting in a pointless draw.

Gloucester lacked the services of Tanner and Price, otherwise both clubs were strongly represented. The afternoon was dull but fine, and conditions generally favoured a fast and open game.

The attendance was between 4,000 and 5,000, and was one of the best gates the Bristol Club had had this season.

## GLOUCESTER

BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: R. E. Hook, E. K. Phillips, J. H. Brown, and C. J. Dibden.

HALF-BACKS: G. Meadows and E. R. Day.

FORWARDS: R. H. Watkins, A. Carpenter, C. Harris, J. G. A'Bear (capt.), R. Morris, Dr. Dick, S. Mabbett, and H. M. Hughes.

## BRISTOL

BACK: J. F. Duggan.

THREE-QUARTERS: B. Lynch, R. Pearce, H. Weston, and R. R. Morris.

HALF-BACKS: R. Anderson and P. Redwood.

FORWARDS: A. S. Palmer, F. W. Tucker, A. Jones, D. C. Cummins, L. J. Sergeant, G. A. Reid, J. P. Haskins, and C. R. Murphy.

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

## THE GAME

Pearce kicked off for Bristol, and there being no reply the first scrum took place in the Gloucester half. The visitors heeled, and Meadows serving Phillips the latter punted ahead, but Duggan gathered the ball beautifully, and sent to touch.

Bristol quickly responded with a passing bout, Pearce kicking well to touch. Gloucester cleared for a few yards, but Phillips, dropping a pass, the ball was kicked through and over the line.

Hook ran back and tried to touch the ball down but missed, and Murphy gained the touch, but was given off-side – a lucky escape for the City.

## BRISTOL HARD PRESSED

Gloucester made useful ground as the result of a penalty, and later Meadows put in a long punt upfield. Duggan was forced to send to touch 20 yards inside his own half.

The Bristol forwards heeling, Redwood sent out a nice pass to Anderson, but the latter was overwhelmed in trying to cut through, and ground was lost.

The home backs made headway with a series of transfers, and Pearce short punting, Gloucester were in danger.

Off-side, however, lost them their position, and a breakdown in passing allowed Gloucester to break away with a loose dribble. Redwood failed to gather, and Duggan being at fault Gloucester went close, Duggan finally kicking over his own line, Hook being beaten for the touch.

Fast play followed, the rival forwards doing capital work. Bristol worked out of danger with well-judged punts, and play settled at mid-field. Gloucester got the ball from succeeding scrums, but the marking of the home backs was too close to allow much progress being made.

### GLOCESTER MISS CHANCE

Fielding a high punt by Weston, Dibden kicked across, and Pearce fumbling, A'Bear picked up and started passing. There was a series of sharp exchanges, but Watkins dropped the final transfer right on the line, and the ball went over for a touch down.

Following the drop out Boughton was seen to advantage in some exchange kicking, but eventually Bristol forced their way into the visitors' half, where Day opened out to Phillips, who, however, was immediately tackled, and the ball rolling loose Redwood gathered and fed Pearce. The latter took a drop for goal, but the ball went outside the upright.

Bristol had the better of matters on the drop out, but Bown shot ahead and Hook kicked through to Duggan, who gathered and sent the ball to touch as he was tackled.

There was a spell of even play after this, the forwards being well matched, and playing very keenly. In the scrums there was a fair division of the ball, but when the backs were set moving the tackling in midfield was too deadly to allow of openings being made. The football, if lacking in the spectacular, was vigorously contested, and there was little in it so far.

## BOUGHTON OPENS SCORING

Meadows was showing splendid judgment in kicking, and it was from a drive ahead, well followed up by Hook, that took Gloucester to the home 25.

Here Bristol were penalised, and BOUGHTON, with a grand kick, gave Gloucester a three points lead.

Following the restart, Bristol set up a hot attack, but Boughton was very safe. Gloucester, however, came under the ban of the referee for a penalty, and Duggan had a place for goal from the 25 line, but was unsuccessful.

Gloucester showed up with dashing forward work, but Bristol came back with a combined passing movement, and Pearce cut straight up the centre, but Phillips "legged" him from behind and saved the situation.

Bristol were on the aggressive now, and made strenuous efforts to find an opening, but the defence was too good.

Half-time :

Bristol ..... Nil

Gloucester ..... 1 goal (p.)

It had been a keen and vigorous first half, and very little to choose between the teams. The back play adopted had not been too successful, largely due to the very close marking tactics employed by both sides. The ground had cut up badly in places, following the heavy exchanges. It was hard going for the rival forwards.

Gloucester resumed and early play was contested in the visitors' half. Redwood gained useful ground with short touch finders, but Gloucester were the first to open out. Meadows fed Phillips who punted ahead, but Duggan fielded the ball grandly on the run and sent to touch.

On the other side Boughton brought off a similar performance, and later the Gloucester man got in a splendid clearance kick to touch 30 yards up the field.

Even play followed at the centre, Day setting his backs moving. Dibden, the last to receive, dodged a couple of opponents cleverly, but was tackled from behind.

Bristol were prominent with some loose scrummages, but the Gloucester backs broke away nicely. Bown short-punted and Duggan was tackled in possession. But for not playing the ball the Bristolian was penalised.

Boughton had a place for goal from 40 yards out, a splendid kick falling a yard or so short of the cross-bar.

#### GLOUCESTER AGGRESSIVE

Gloucester were now on the aggressive, but they were beaten off, and Bristol rushed to the other end. Play, however, did not stay here long, Bown and Hook being instrumental in changing the position. The latter kicked past Duggan, but Redwood got back and saved.

Subsequent football was scrambling, and mostly with the forwards. Gloucester were generally the masters in the loose, but there was not sufficient finish and punch to beat a determined defence.

Bristol eventually got on the move, and utilising the touch line worked to the visitors' 25. Here Gloucester got off-side, but Duggan made a poor shot for goal. Gloucester came right away, and were not checked until the home quarter was reached.

Shouts from the crowd to move Morris to centre three-quarter were acted upon, Weston moving to the wing position. Gloucester, however, had obtained a firm grip upon the game, and attacked resolutely.

Day got away from the scrum, and was nearly through, and Hook made a sharp burst through to Duggan. He slipped and fell in trying to get inside the full-back, but managed to pass. The ball was quickly thrown to the wing, but was ruled forward.

#### BRISTOL ESCAPE

Gloucester continued to work with great spirit to add to their narrow lead. Dibden shone with a splendid bit of play on the right and then Hook, from a sharp pass, ran beautifully for the corner, but was thrown to touch five yards out.

Gloucester tried to break through on the right, but were foiled, and a penalty against Bristol gave Boughton a good chance. It was from a fairly easy position, but he kicked wide and Bristol escaped.

Gloucester continued to maintain pressure but although going very close, failed to cross the line. Bristol, despite great efforts, could not get out of their half, and Gloucester, finishing strongly, were on the attack at the close.

#### RESULT :

BRISTOL ..... Nil  
GLOUCESTER .... 1 goal (p,.) (3 pts.)

#### REMARKS

Gloucester deserved their narrow victory, for in the second half they were clearly superior in all points. The game as a whole, however, sadly disappointed as a spectacle, Bristol never approaching the form of the last two months; the backs especially being off colour.

Gloucester, with the immense advantage held territorially after the change of ends, should have added appreciably to their lead, but the attacks were not good enough.

The Gloucester forwards were splendidly together, and taking the play as a whole were distinctly the stronger pack.

Day and Meadows did their part in opening up the play, but the centres were unable to serve the wings properly.

Boughton was in splendid form at full back, and Duggan, although not sound, did a lot of good work.

JC