

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1925

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM

The visit of the Gloucester team to Cheltenham is always an interesting event in local football, and there were reasons why to-day's match was additionally so. The Town club had up [to] to-day preserved their ground record intact, and had only lost one away match, viz., that at Nuneaton. It is also considered that this season's forwards are the best set the Club has been able to command for several years past, while the backs have show much better scoring ability than in previous years. The home team therefore entered the field with some confidence – a confidence shared by their supporters – that, if not able to win, they would be able to extend the City fifteen, and give the spectators a game well worth watching.

A large contingent of Gloucester's supporters went over to Cheltenham, and with the followers of the Town Club in full force, the best "gate" of the season was seen.

The teams turned out as selected, and each received an ovation from the record crowd, which must have numbered between 3,000 and 4,000. The weather was fine and the ground in perfect condition.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

FULL BACK : T. Millington.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. Hopcroft, E. L. Saxby, E. H. Hughes, and S. A. Brown (capt.).

HALF-BACKS : Dr. Taylor and R. Milliner.

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe, J. Read, M. Short, J. Hemmings, E. Triggs-Herbert, H. Roberts, S. Duberley, and W. B. Scott.

CHELTENHAM

BACK : R. C. Thompson.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. Hart, C. W. Statham, R. B. Miller, and H. Goring.

HALF-BACKS : B. S. Bloodworth (capt.) and E. Dyer.

FORWARDS : T. Harry, S. Birt, R. Worgan, D. J. Stayte, V. Statham, W. Febrey, A. Coulson, and A. Cooper.

Referee : Mr. E. Wilson.

THE GAME

Ayliffe kicked off for Gloucester eight minutes late. The visitors carried the first scrum, and Milliner pushed through, but was checked before going far. Gloucester gained further ground from a free-kick by Taylor; and Milliner again getting the ball away, passing took place in front of the home goal, till Taylor got over, but was called back for a knock-on.

A free to Cheltenham brought relief, and then C. W. Statham caught the ball and got away. He was stopped by Saxby, and then Cheltenham were awarded a free-kick, Hart narrowly missing the cross-bar. Hart next put in a short run, and the ball reaching Bloodworth was passed to Goring, who attempted a drop for goal, but failed. Cheltenham kept up the pressure for a few minutes, but the visiting forwards forced play out of the danger zone.

Ayliffe and Short broke away, and things looked bad for Cheltenham until the Gloucester men got off-side. Dyer then dribbled back to mid-field, and after Hopcroft had knocked on a scrum was formed and Dyer took the ball from under Williams' nose, but could not get away.

In some loose play Taylor picked up and handed to Hughes, who cut through in most approved style. He got down to Thompson, who stopped him, but managed to pass to Brown, and the latter gave to TAYLOR, who with a fine sprint got over with three or four Cheltenham men hanging on. Millington's place-kick was unsuccessful. Gloucester were thus three points up in a quarter of an hour.

Four or five minutes later the visitors scored again. From a scrum Milliner sent the ball out to Taylor, and he put Hughes on the run, for the latter to give to BROWN, who easily got past Goring, and Thompson being nowhere near, the right-wing man had little difficulty in scoring. Millington's kick was again a failure.

Gloucester continued to have the better of matters. The ball being kicked down to Thompson, the full-back misfielded, and Hopcroft helped the ball along to near the home goal-line, where the situation was finely saved by C. W. Statham, who picked up and sent to touch. Cheltenham now asserted themselves, and got into the visitors' 25. Here Milliner's off-side tactics were too glaring for the referee, and Hart once again only narrowly failed with a penalty. The ball being kicked into Statham's hands he made the mistake of kicking instead of making an opening for Hart, who was in close attendance.

The Gloucester backs came into the picture again. Hughes and Brown got away, but the latter was finely tackled by Thompson, and a score was saved. But only for a few moments, as Saxby received the ball and ran down the left line before giving to BROWN near mid-field. The latter dashed off at such a speed that the chase was given up, and he was able to touch down between the posts, for Millington to land an easy goal.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal, 2 tries
CHELTENHAM Nil

Gloucester had well deserved their lead in the first half. On the resumption of play the home forwards rushed for a dozen yards or so, and the ball being kicked back to Hart, that player beat his man and ran and kicked over the line, but the defence prevailed.

Forward passes by Saxby and Read spoilt passing movements by Gloucester, and off-side by Milliner gave Cheltenham a free-kick, which enabled Bloodworth to gain a nice slice of ground.

Exciting play followed, as after Cheltenham had been given another free kick for an offence by Ayliffe in putting Miller down after he had got rid of the ball, Hopcroft misfielded the ball and Hart ran up and caught it and made a dash for the line. He was, however, held up by Millington, another chance for Cheltenham thus going astray.

In loose play Cheltenham again got down to the Gloucester line, but Goring was prevented from crossing. Then the ball was kicked down to Thompson, who fielded it all right, but was floored in attempting a run, and the ball becoming loose again, Statham picked up and saved a critical situation. In the visitors' 25 Gloucester were penalised. Miller was entrusted with the kick and failed – another lucky escape for the City.

A splendid round of passing in which Hughes, Hopcroft, and Taylor figured looked very promising for Gloucester, but the tendency to throw forward was once more responsible for a pull-up. For the first time in the second period Gloucester now got into the home 25, and the ball coming to Saxby he sent it to Hopcroft, but again the forward pass proved fatal.

The failure, however, matter little, as Milliner, beating Dyer at the base of the scrum, that player handed on to Taylor, who sent on to Hughes, and he cut out an opening for BROWN, who scored after a fine run. Millington added the goal points with a magnificent kick.

Another capital round of passing with the effective use of the "dummy," gave Gloucester another try within a few minutes. Taylor, who received from Milliner, handed to Saxby, who put in a nice run, neatly tricking the opposition on his way, and then passed to BROWN, who had a clear run in. Millington was unable to add the goal points.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 2 goals, 3 tries (19 pts.)
CHELTENHAM 1 goal (5 pts.)