

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1927.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. LONDON WELSH.

CITY WIND UP AT KINGSHOLM WITH GOOD WIN.

London Welsh provided the opposition for the City's last home match of the season. The weather was beautifully fine and there was a good holiday attendance.

A. Hall filled a vacancy in the home pack, and the veteran had a hearty reception from the crowd.

Teams : –

## GLOUCESTER.

BACK : G. Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. Hough, J. Stephens, R. James, and L. Abbey.

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and T. Millington.

FORWARDS : M. Short, L. E. Saxby, L. Wadley, H. Pitt, A. Hall, S. Foulkes, G. McIlwaine, and J. Hemming.

## LONDON WELSH.

BACK : J. Giles.

THREE-QUARTERS : J. D. Bartlett, C. Seeley, J. H. Jones, and W. D. C. Greenacre.

HALF-BACKS : W. C. Powell and T. E. Jones-Davies.

FORWARDS : W. A. V. Thomas, W. H. Fisher, J. Beith, J. Williams, W. N. Evans, R. Jones, G. Williams, and R. E. Gibbons.

Referee : Mr. R. Fear (Somerset).

## THE GAME.

There was no reply to the kick-off, and from the first scrum Powell served his partner beautifully between his legs. Jones-Davies however, had his kick charged down and Pitt gathering ran down the field but his pass was not taken. For off-side the Welsh were penalised and Millington found touch ten yards from the visitors' goal.

Gloucester twice opened out, but the passing did not gain much ground. A clever bit of play by Millington beat his immediate defenders and he went through nicely but a transfer to the wing went wide of Hough, the ball rolling to touch. From a penalty at the next scrum, Millington had a shot for goal but missed his object.

Gloucester were having the better of the exchanges but two penalties to the Welshmen enabled them to make ground. Passing attempted by the visitors inside their own 25 broke down and James and Millington taking advantage interpassed prettily. The latter secured a good opening but the whistle went for a forward transfer.

Immediately after the Welsh backs broke away, but Seeley served Bartlett badly. Gloucester worked back through the agency of Hemming, who ran strongly for 20 yards, and later Hough had a dash but was pushed out of play.

Play was confined to the Welsh twenty-five, but mistakes on both sides spoiled several movements. James experienced hard lines with a drop at goal, missing by a couple of feet, and a little later, Abbey made a splendid effort to cross in the corner, but succumbed to numbers.

Some strenuous forward work followed, in which the City overran their opponents, but the visitors saved close in. Pressure was exerted by the City and Saxby ran over from a pass, but was called back. Keeping up the attack Gloucester made strong efforts to cross, and eventually SAXBY went over in a rush. Millington missed the goal points.

From the restart Short received and started passing. Some half dozen players handled, but Hough, the last to receive, was well tackled. For an infringement at the scrum the Welsh were penalised about ten yards from the centre. MILLINGTON had a place kick, and with a magnificent shot covered the cross-bar, adding three points to Gloucester's score.

Play was scrappy on the resumption, and mistakes were frequent. For the first time the Welsh crossed the half-way, and Gloucester being penalised Powell had a place kick for goal but sent wide. James knocked on in recovering and a scrum followed five yards outside. Milliner, who was playing keenly against Powell, robbed the International of the ball, and the City forwards broke clear. McIlwaine aided with a dashing run and the centre was again visited.

With a passing run the Welshmen broke clear, and Bartlett after a splendid run put in a short punt over the line but lost the touch. The Welsh were playing better football now, and the backs tested the home defence. Bartlett made another sharp dash which took the visitors close, and from the succeeding scrum Powell secured and sent J. WILLIAMS over with a try. Powell converted and only a point separated the teams.

Gloucester took up the attack again on the restart, and James looked like going through but was brought down. The City kept up the offensive, but could not get any luck, and the interval arrived with play in the Welsh 25.

HALF-TIME :  
GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal (p), 1 try.  
LONDON WELSH ..... 1 goal.

Gloucester restarted and early on the City had a bout of passing, but the ball was intercepted by Greenacre who had an open field with the exception of Thomas and a colleague in attendance. A try seemed certain but Greenacre essayed a pass and sent forward; a lucky escape for Gloucester.

The home team went away through Milliner and Millington, and Hall later brought off a strong burst and pass, but with the goal line in view the ball was missed. Gloucester attacked resolutely, opening up smartly, while the forwards dribbled with effect. The Welsh defence, however, held out. Gloucester however, were not to be put off, and a smart bit of combination between Milliner and MILLINGTON gave the latter a try. No goal resulted.

Gloucester continued to heel well, but the backs did not handled any too well. At length there was some clever interpassing up the centre of the field, Milliner, Millington and James taking part, but the final pass was not accepted.

The game was all in Gloucester's favour and the Welsh line had a narrow escape. A penalty against Gloucester gave the Welshmen relief, but the City quickly worked back. A possible chance presented itself but it was thrown away, and with some loose kicking the tourists sent to the other end. A big rush by the home forwards was not checked until the centre line was crossed, and in attempting to check Powell was injured and assisted off the field.

Immediately on resuming the Gloucester backs shone in a good round of passing. Stephens, finding Hough marked, cut inside cleverly, but stumbled and fell, thus losing a good opening. An attack followed on the right, where Abbey tried to get through but was stopped. In some loose play the ball was gathered by a Gloucester forward who threw to ABBEY for the right wing to dash over and run behind the posts. Millington kicked a goal and Gloucester took a nine points lead.

Powell now came back and the Welshmen gained a footing in the home 25. Bartlett was well stopped in trying a dash for the corner and with good kicking Gloucester secured a more favourable position. Abbey came into prominence with some dashing work, and in subsequent play Gloucester more than held their own. Bad handling spoiled one or two promising movements by the [word unreadable] backs, a certain try being lost through a knock-on with an open line.

Millington was very conspicuous in these efforts, and later was nearly through himself. From a scrum ten yards out JAMES was served by Millington and dodging and side stepping beat the defence and scored near the posts. James converted.

In the closing stages there was some fast and exciting play. Gloucester went half the length of the field and appeared likely to score, but lost the ball. Bartlett ran back finely and passed but Gloucester saved on the 25 line.

The game continued to be well contested, with Gloucester in the ascendant. From a long punt ahead by Milliner, Abbey just missed a try in the right corner. Near their 25 London Welsh opened out and Bartlett was quickly fed. The International raced to the centre and passed to JONES, who finished the movement by scoring wide out. Powell failed at goal.

Near the end Gloucester attacked, but Giles made a remarkable clearance.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ..... 3 goals (1p), 2 tries (19 points)  
LONDON WELSH ..... 1 goal 1 try (8 points)

GLOUCESTER A v. BREAM.

At Bream, on Saturday, this being the last match of the season.

GLOUCESTER A ..... 11 points  
BREAM ..... Nil