

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1919

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CROSS KEYS

CITY BEATEN POINTLESS

WELSHMEN ELEVEN POINTS UP

The first visit of the Gloucester team to the Monmouth Valley Club aroused great interest, but the fixture had no great attraction for the City players. Last Season Cross Keys accomplished some noteworthy performances over first-class clubs, amongst them being victories over Cardiff and the Royal Naval Depot (Devonport). The side also appeared at Kingsholm against a combined Gloucester and Forest Fifteen, and although beaten by 8 points to nil the Welshmen gave the City a hard game, especially forward.

This season the Cross Keys men gave the crack Newport team a red-hot contest on the latter's ground, and were only beaten by 8 points to nil – an achievement which speaks for itself – whilst they also drew with Pontypool. It can be recognised therefore that the City were taking on a stiff proposition, and though Gloucester would probably beat their opponents nine times out of ten at Kingsholm or on neutral ground, there was a certain amount of anxiety as to the outcome of the contest at Cross Keys to-day for all Welsh sides take a terrible lot of beating at home.

Gloucester made the journey short of two good forwards – A. Ward and W. Davis. The old Bath and Somerset player has not quite recovered from his illness; whilst Davis, as already announced in our earlier issues, has succumbed to the baits of a Northern Union Club, and has left the City. Webb and Mansell of the A team, filled the vacancies, but though good players, they lacked the robustness of Ward and Davis, and it was in the front where the City wanted their best and weightiest this afternoon.

Cross Keys fielded minus the services of Kellaher, but were naturally keen on beating the conquerors of Oxford University.

GLOUCESTER.

BACK: J. Hall.

THREE-QUARTERS: F. Webb, T. Millington, A. Hudson, and W. Washbourn.

HALF-BACKS: W. Dix and L. Hamblin.

FORWARDS: G. Holford (capt.), F. Mansell, A. Hall, J. Harris, F. W. Ayliffe, J. F. Lawson, S. Smart, and J. H. Webb.

CROSS KEYS.

BACK: C. Charlton.

THREE-QUARTERS: T. R. Benson, A. Lewis, G. Lewis, and A. Brown.

HALF-BACKS: Bob Jones and O. Jones.

FORWARDS: S. Winmill (capt.), S. Morris, L. Richards, A. Blakemore, G. Davage, C. Tellyn, E. Pettiford, Trevor Jones.

THE GAME

Gloucester started, and Benson was soon called upon to save. Bob Jones kicked well, and Benson and Davage following up, caught Hall in possession. Gloucester were penalised at half-way, and the kick left play near the Gloucester line. George Lewis failed to find the cross-bar from a drop at goal.

Benson was injured and left the field. Trevor Jones marked in a favourable position, but Charlton failed with the kick. From the drop-out Lewis kicked finely to touch. Gloucester got the ball away nicely, but Hudson knocked on.

Cross Keys were penalised, but Hamblin failed to get it to touch. Millington kicked back behind, but Hudson saved. Bob Jones got away, and a great chance to score was spoiled by a pass behind. Bob Jones again made a fine opening, but Brown was not hardly fast enough. Brown again dropped for goal and missed.

Gloucester passed finely and Bob Jones tackled Hudson when the situation was critical. Hamblin picked up, and Voyce[sic] forced Charlton to touch. Pettiford broke away and passed to Davage, who ran seventy yards before being brought down by Hall.

Cross Keys were awarded a free kick, but Millington caught finely. Cross Keys continued to press, but could not score. Hamblin relieved with a good kick to touch.

Cross Keys again got going, but Hudson brought Trevor Jones down ten yards from the line. Bob Jones gave the "dummy" brilliantly, and passed to Davage, who got over near the post. Charlton converted with a beautiful kick.

The re-start came to Charlton, but the Gloucester forwards followed up at great speed, and brought him down in possession, but a knock-on spoiled the effort. Cross Keys were penalised, and Arthur Lewis kicked finely to touch in reply.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

CROSS KEYS	1 goal
GLOUCESTER	Nil

Cross Keys re-started with fourteen men, Benson not having returned. Charlton ran hard for the ball, but missed, Smart having hard lines. Steve Morris got away and passed to Richards, who punted on, and Hall was lucky to save.

Cross Keys continued to press, and Lewis Richards got through finely and handed to Pettiford, who beat three men and got over with a great try. Charlton failed to convert, although he kicked finely.

Cross Keys again got going, but Brown knocked on. Again Gloucester were lucky to save, the ball going behind Davage when he was in the clear.

Gloucester tried passing, but Millington was smothered. Again the home team got going, but the movement broke down at the centre.

Gloucester broke up their opponents' passing and got well down before Brown sent the ball to touch. Winmill again broke away, and a forward pass pulled him up. A kicking duel between Hall and Charlton left honours with the latter. A Gloucester player was temporarily injured.

Magnificent passing by Cross Keys, started by Morris, just failed. Gloucester passed finely, and the ball was left with Webb, but Charlton brought him down with a great tackle.

Cross Keys again got going, and after fine passing Brown scored.

RESULT :

CROSS KEYS ... 1 goal, 2 tries (11 pts.)
GLOUCESTER Nil

REMARKS

Our Cross Keys correspondent says : –

A good game, splendidly contested. Cross Keys thoroughly deserved their fine win with fourteen men. Steve Morris, Winmill, Richards, and Davage were great in the pack for Cross Keys; and Arthur Lewis and Bob Jones, in the back division, were on top form.

The many passing movements were finely conceived, and the City were hard pressed on many occasions.

Gloucester put in some fine running and passing, but the defence was too sound. Millington and Hudson endeavoured to get over with single-handed efforts on several occasions.

Charlton and Hall were both fine at back, and saved on critical occasions.

GLOUCESTER A v. SOUTH END

MODERATE GAME AT KINGSHOLM

NARROW WIN FOR THE CITY SECONDS

Played at Kingsholm, before a very poor attendance.

Gloucester A. – T. Nelmes; C. Staunton, F. Bloxsome (captain), J. Merrett, and S. O. Smith; J. Humphries and N. Daniell; N. Hayes, C. Mumford, J. W. Wheeler, A. Comely, A. Wright, J. Essex, E. Day, and Bayliss.

South End. – G. Welshman; F. Bishop, B. Phelps, G. Webb (captain), and H. Hamblin; F. Brooks and W. Collins; F. Ford, G. Lane, W. Jennings, H. Lane, A. Hawker, W. Meadows, G. Richardson, and A. Partridge.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis.

The visitors set the ball in motion, and for a few moments play was located at the centre. An opportunity then came to Gloucester, but after a short spurt, which took them to the visitors' quarter, they lost the ball. South End quickly carried the game into the Gloucester 25, where a scramble failed to produce any result. South End obtained a penalty and tried for a goal, the effort falling short. Immediately afterwards a similar opportunity came to the home team, who made better use of it, Staunton placing the ball between the uprights as a result of a very nice kick.

With fair football Gloucester again worked down to the South End quarter, but they were not there very long. A penalty to the visitors resulted in the ball being kicked over the Gloucester line. After some ding-dong play Gloucester found themselves in the South End corner, and from a line-out a splendid chance was muddled. Gloucester were getting the ball out from the scrum nicely, but with one or two exceptions the passing was poor, and half-time came without further incident of note.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 1 goal (p)
South End Nil

On the resumption a splendid chance early came to Gloucester, but after a fine dribble and with a clear field one of the home team, with a badly judged kick, gave the visitors a chance to save. Neither side were getting much advantage, and play was located chiefly at centre.

What chances there were, were muddled at the outset, until an opportunity came for the home side to indulge in a bit of footwork. Carrying the ball from mid-field Gloucester controlled it well, and Daniell touched down under the posts. Staunton added the necessary points.

Welshman, who had been kicking splendidly, had to leave the field through an injury, but this did not prevent the visitors from carrying out an attacking movement which carried the game to the Gloucester quarter.

Gloucester cleared, but later the full back failed to gather the ball, and a forward rush by the visitors resulted in their opening their account with a try in the corner, Bishop touching down. The kick failed.

Another penalty kick in a favourable position enabled the visitors to add another three points to the score, Bishop taking the kick.

South End, who had done most of the aggressive work in the second half, again advanced to the attack but the home team with a couple of dashes worked up and play finished at mid-field.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 2 goals (1p), (8 points)
South End 1 goal (p), 1 try (6 points)

REMARKS

The game was by no means an exhibition of high-class football, the back play on both side being decidedly poor. The only noteworthy play was that of Welshman, the visiting back, who kicked really well until a smack in the head necessitated his visiting the infirmary.

The home forwards were, if anything, better than the South End front line, and generally managed to get the ball from scrums, but the three-quarters lacked judgment in passing, and failed to initiate any likely handling movements.

In the second half, despite the absence of Welshman, the visitors had most of the game, and deserved a better result.

JC