

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1920

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER'S HANDSOME WIN AT CHELTENHAM

TOWN LEVEL AT INTERVAL, BUT OUTCLASSED IN SECOND HALF

CLEVER TRIES BY CITY THREE-QUARTERS

The usual keen local interest was centred in the first fixture of the season between Gloucester and Cheltenham, and a large crowd of supporters of the City Club accompanied the team to Cheltenham.

The Town had had hopes of meeting Gloucester with an unbeaten record, but Lydney upset calculations last week, and gained an unexpected victory at the Athletic Ground by 1 goal 2 tries (11 points) to 2 goals (1d; 1p) (7 points).

For to-day's contest Gloucester gave a trial to T. Burns at full-back, and A. Hall once again appeared at outside half, G. Thomas having left the city during the week and obtained work at Treherbert. Smart stood down from the forwards, and this let in C. Mumford.

Cheltenham lacked the valuable services of Davy (injured in the county match last week), his position being taken by A. Bendall, who usually figures at half or centre.

C. W. Statham (who holds an appointment in London, and has played for Middlesex County) was able to get down to assist, and two other recruits appeared in J. C. Gurney, a College master, at half-back, and W. Hart (formerly of Ruspidge) in the forwards.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : T. Burns.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. A. Brown, T. Millington, W. Washbourn, and N. Daniell.

HALF-BACKS : W. Dix and A. Hall.

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe (captain), G. Holford, T. Voyce, C. Mumford, J. Harris, W. F. Warde, J. H. Lawson, and J. H. Webb.

CHELTENHAM

BACK : A. Bendall.

THREE-QUARTERS : H. Hughes, L. Benbow, C. W. Statham, and W. Fennell.

HALF-BACKS : J. C. Gurney and B. S. Bloodworth.

FORWARDS : H. Wixey, H. T. Stephens, W. Burford, J. Cocks, G. Taylor, F. Taylor, A. Dimond, and W. Hart.

Referee : Mr. J. Southby (Bristol)

THE GAME

Beautiful weather prevailed, and the attendance was the biggest seen on the Athletic Ground for many years. Ayliffe kicked off for Gloucester twelve minutes late, the visitors having the sun in their eyes. Gurney secured from the first scrum and passed to Statham, who, however, could not get far.

Millington next made an opening for Daniell, but the ball was knocked on. Gloucester tried passing in their 25, and Washbourn got away, but was pulled down. Cheltenham were now on the visitors' line, and from a scrum Gurney secured and passed to Fennel, who scored. Stephens failed to convert.

This was eight minutes from the start. Cheltenham, playing up spiritedly, carried the scrum, and Stephens followed up well. Gurney, however, got off-side, and helped by this and another penalty kick Gloucester got beyond midfield.

Gloucester then rushed down a further ten yards, only to find Bendall there, a fine save being effected by the full back. The situation remained critical for Cheltenham for some moments, particularly as Dix set his three-quarters in motion when close up. The home tackling was, however, sure, and once again midfield was reached. The Gloucester backs again tried handling, but Millington failed to take his pass, and when a further bout was started on the other side Washbourn was floored.

Hall was combining finely with Dix, who managed to get the ball more frequently than Gurney, but the visitors' three-quarters were too closely marked to get away. Good footwork by Ayliffe and Voyce put the City on the attack, but Statham came to the rescue with a good run and kick, and the home forwards took a hand and gained some ground. The visitors returned again, and some passing left the ball with Washbourn, who ran strongly, but was pushed into touch. Cheltenham were penalised in their 25, but Voyce failed with the kick.

Some exchanges in high altitudes left the advantage with Gloucester, but when the visitors tried passing they did it so nervously that the ball never came to hand. Hughes intercepted one of these wild efforts, and having a clear course ran to Burns and kicked over his head, a mistake which, assuming he could have outwitted the back, lost a try. As it was the movement allowed the Gloucester player to retrieve the situation.

A fine run by Washbourn was dangerous until Bendall proved his downfall. Then the home team were penalised in a favourable position, but Voyce was unequal to the call, as also was Burns, when the opportunity was afforded for another penalty goal. Gloucester tried a bout of passing, but could not get through this way. They did better, however, by means of long throw-outs, Brown going over with a beauty which Voyce was unable to improve upon. This was within a couple of minutes of half-time.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| GLOUCESTER | 1 try |
| CHELTENHAM | 1 try |

Cheltenham resumed somewhat weakly, and Dix, getting the ball from the first scrum, started a round of passing, in which Hall, Washbourn, and Brown handled nicely, the last-named crossing. Voyce's kick went wide. With this reverse Cheltenham woke up, and the forwards, taking the matter into their hands, had a chance of notching points, but could not carry the rush far enough.

Ayliffe was next prominent with a break away in which he gave the "dummy" to two or three locals, but had eventually to let go. More passing brought Gloucester up again, to be once more awarded a penalty kick, which this time was a "poster." Not to be denied, however, Dix set his three-quarters in motion, and Daniell got in with a beauty, which Burns converted. Gloucester had now found out wherein their strength lay, and with Dix in his best form the handling was delightful to watch.

Voyce seized from a line-out and started a bout of passing, and then essayed a bit of three-quarter work on his own, his strength and side-stepping carrying him through a heap of opponents. He kept the ball too long, however, to give Brown a chance. A long kick to Bendall was poorly returned, and Gloucester were attacking vigorously until the home forwards once again retrieved the situation.

Cheltenham tried passing, and some smart work was done by Statham, Benbow, and Fennell. The defence was too sure, however. Gloucester were penalised for pulling out of the scrum, and Stephens made a splendid shot for goal, which just failed.

Following another penalty given to Cheltenham, the visitors rushed down to the home line, and Dix getting the ball, as was the usual thing now, the Gloucester three-quarters did the rest, Daniell being the scorer. His try was not converted. The game developed into a fast, open, and vigorous struggle now, but the superiority unquestionably lay with Gloucester.

Some fine defensive work was done by Statham and Hughes, but the home side generally appeared to be tiring, whilst Gloucester were revelling in their exertions. Fennell went off the ground with an injury, and then Voyce ran over with a try, which Burns converted.

A long kick sent the ball to Bendall, who failed to field it, and in the ensuing play, Dix picked up and ran over with one between the posts, Burns getting the goal points, and this was the end.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 3 goals 3 tries (24 pts.)

CHELTENHAM 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

Our Cheltenham correspondent writes :

Taking the game as a whole Cheltenham were out-matched at all departments, and the result was not an exaggeration of the City's superiority. The curious point is that in the first half the homesters had quite as much of the game as their opponents, and up to the interval a win was as likely for them as for the visitors.

Gloucester, however, quickly asserted themselves in the second moiety, and from its opening stage till the end brought welcome relief to Cheltenham, there was really only one team in it.

In the first half Gloucester's attempts at handling were somewhat feeble. In the second the three-quarters shone brilliantly at this phase of the game, and helped by Ayliffe and Voyce to keep play as open as possible, some magnificent bouts were witnessed, which well deserved the points they led up to.

On the home side, Gurney was a success at half-back when the pack gave him any assistance, but under the reverse conditions Dix had the ball every time. Statham was the outstanding three-quarter for Cheltenham, with Hughes a good second; whilst Stephens, Dimond, and Burford were the best of the front line.

For Gloucester a splendid performance was given by Ayliffe and Voyce, who were ever on the ball and always gaining ground with it. Hall combined well with Dix, and each of the three-quarters had a "day out." Brown and Daniell missed little that came to them on the wings, and Washbourn and Millington were as a rule irresistible centres.

Burns was equal to all demands upon him as full back, and if the same cannot be said for Bendall it has to be remembered that the calls upon him were much more frequent and pressing. It was an attractive game to watch, and played in the best of temper; and the Cheltenham Club's coffers will benefit to the extent of £200.

GLOUCESTER A PILE UP POINTS

OLD PATESIANS WELL BEATEN AT KINGSHOLM

Gloucester A met the Old Patesians at Kingsholm on Saturday afternoon. Teams : –

Gloucester A. – G. Smith; S. R. Crowther, H. Ashmeade, D. J. Brown, and F. Bloxsome (captain); W. Collins and R. Cook; E. W. Curtis, F. Mansell, S. Bayliss, T. Taylor, J. Hawker, E. Richardson, T. Bridges, and T. A. Merrett.

Old Patesians : – J. M. James; T. V. Pratt, G. H. Pratley, H. A. Bendall, and C. P. Tate; E. A. Moore and W. W. Yeend; C. W. Moore, R. S. Brocklebank, J. D. Lane, J. J. Gardiner, C. R. Alcock, H. M. Whitehead, F. Mann, and E. L. Wheeler.

Referee : Mr. Austin Lewis.

The City Reserves set the ball in motion in face of a brilliant sun, and quickly penetrated to the visitors' quarters, where the defence was severely tested, but proved effective, and the Seconds were pressed back into their own territory.

Here the home pack put in some very good work, enabling the halves to open out and the threes to put in several useful bouts of handling, which eventually carried them again to the Pats' quarter, where another open movement took the ball to Ashmeade, who fell over with the first try. The position was none too easy, but Smith beautifully landed a goal.

Gloucester continued to obtain possession of the ball, and a passing movement inside the visitors' quarter resulted in Richardson receiving a transfer and going over near the posts. Smith was again successful in adding the necessary points.

Then the Pats came away and carried play to the Gloucester line, forcing Smith to concede a minor. Following on the drop-out the home forwards dribbled well, and in the course of a couple of rushes again placed the visitors' line in danger. Several attempts were spoiled by faulty handling, but the visitors' defence had weakened and Cook went through with a third try for the Seconds. The kick failed.

The Cheltonians seemed quite unable to withstand the attack of the Seconds, and after some very good open work Ashmeade went over again. Smith kicked well, but struck one of the posts.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 2 goals 2 tries
Old Patesians Nil

The visitors failed to put the ball over the ten yards line on the resumption, and a scrum ensued at the centre, from which the Seconds obtained possession and set up an attack. Crowther, after running well was tackled, and play followed in midfield.

The home pack were too much for the visitors, and the ball was coming out to Collins with regularity, but the home threes were none too certain, most of the movements coming to grief through forward passes or knocks on. A possible opening came to Tate, but instead of making a determined dash he looked round for his centre, who was missing, and so lost ground and was floored.

Gloucester were now losing chances. On two occasions they should have gone over on the left wing, but once Bloxsome held on too long when Ashmeade had a clear field, and then Ashmeade muddled a pass and the ball went to touch. A free to the visitors brought little relief, and after a nicely worked scrum in the visitors' 25 the threes handled, and Crowther accepting an easy chance raced over. The extra points were not forthcoming.

The Reserves made several unproductive dashes for the line, and then Pratt and Pratley, as the result of an interception, obtained and rushed down the line in a hopeful partnership, beating Smith, but when the field looked clear Crowther overhauled them and spoiled the movement.

The Patesians continued their attack, and carried play to the Gloucester corner, but could do nothing, and were quickly on the defensive again.

Luck, more than good tackling, saved them on several occasions, but Brown was more fortunate, and after a strong burst scored between the posts for Smith to kick another goal.

Bloxsome was the next to figure with the scorers, going over in the course of a nice bout of passing.

RESULT :

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Gloucester A | 4 goals 3 tries (29 points) |
| Old Patesians | Nil |

REMARKS

It was early seen that the Old Patesians were not likely to jeopardise the City Reserves' record. The Seconds' forwards quickly exerted their superiority, and after that the home threes did pretty well as they liked.

The form shown was not of a high standard, however, for although the home team managed to compile 29 points without letting their opponents through once, many easy chances were lost through ragged and careless handling.

Ashmeade was perhaps the worst offender, probably because most of the passes came his way. Crowther, on the opposite wing, seldom came into the picture, but his speed enabled him to save well on one occasion.

Collins worked the scrum well, but was penalised several times for putting the ball in at the feet of his forwards. Cook played a very useful game. In Smith the Seconds had a safe defender, and profited well by his excellent goal kicks.

There is little to be said of the Patesians, who were seldom able to do anything progressive, and proved by no means strong in defence.

JC