

THE CITIZEN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1920

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER'S FINE WIN AT KINGSHOLM

The annual Boxing Day fixture with the Old Merchant Taylors attracted the biggest gate of the season at Kingsholm, a splendidly-contested game being won by Gloucester by 16 points to 3. S. Brown, F. Webb (2), and T. Voyce scored tries for the City, C. Cook (2), Voyce and Robbins failing with the goal-kicks, and the dropped goal came from the boot of A. Robbins. J. A. Jago notched the try for the Taylors.

For this match the Londoners were strengthened by the inclusion of R. Cove-Smith, the Cambridge Blue, and a possible candidate for International honours.

The game opened in bright style, the Taylors' forwards proving a strong lot, and using their feet effectively in the loose. Gloucester were pressed early on, but an intercepted pass left the ball with Voyce, who galloped ahead and transferred to Daniell. The right wing travelled well, but when he looked like a scorer he was fetched down from behind. The Taylors quickly cleared with a loose rush, but lovely passing between Dix, Robbins, Webb, Millington, and Brown saw the latter sprint for the line. A short punt sent the ball clear of the full back, but Brown was prevented from following up, and a possible chance was lost. These were two fine efforts and greatly appreciated by the crowd.

Cheeseman, with a clever relief kick, gave the Taylors breathing space, and Daniell slipping in trying to gather he was collared. He, however, managed to get the ball away to Cook, who punted well down, but off-side by Voyce lost the advantage.

After this Melliush was prominent with a run and kick, and the ball going over the line Gloucester conceded a minor.

The drop-out was charged down, but Lawson dribbled away until checked by Sanders. The Taylors were worrying the City pack a good deal, and a sharp forward burst took them very close. From a line-out the ball was taken over the line and Jago scored seven minutes from the start. The place-kick failed.

Subsequent play was fast, keen and interesting, the Taylors holding their own in general play, but lacking the combination displayed by the home backs. In the 25 Dix opened out beautifully, and there was a delightful bout of clean passing between the halves, Millington, Webb and Daniell. The latter raced away, and cleverly beat King, the full-back, but in checking his speed to do this he allowed an opponent to get back and collar him from behind – hard lines for the Gloucesterian.

A penalty followed to the City shortly afterwards, and Cook, with a fine shot, hit the upright. The ball rebounded into the field of play, where it was gathered by a home forward. A couple of sharp transfers sent the ball out to Brown, but the left winger could not get through.

Gloucester continued the pressure, but King defended well, getting in one nice relief kick under great difficulties. Clever play by Millington and Brown just failed in a score, the former being tackled outside. After a spell of scrambling play Gloucester got on the attack again, only to find the defence impregnable.

The City, however, pegged away, and their efforts were eventually rewarded. A run down the left wing by Daniell and a well-judged cross-kick put the ball amongst the Gloucester forwards right in front of the posts. The ball bounced awkwardly, and King saved on the line at the critical moment. A scrum was ordered five yards out, and Dix securing from his forwards put Robbins in possession. The latter was in a good position, and taking a steady aim dropped a pretty goal, giving Gloucester a point lead.

On the resumption Cook, who had shaped well, missed a high kick and was collared before he could recover. The situation, however, was saved, and then from a line-out Harris broke away and transferred to Voyce.

The International ran strongly, and after shaking off a couple of would-be tacklers made a bee-line for the goal, and just managed to get the ball over the line near the posts amidst loud cheering. But the effort had been a futile one, as the ball was ordered back to near the centre.

Dix, Robbins and Webb combining effectively, the captain cross-kicked nicely, but King marked in face of the Gloucester forwards. Another fine bout of handling saw Sid Brown put in a grand run, but he succumbed to a low tackle within sight of the line. From the ensuing scrum, however, the ball was rushed over and Brown credited with a try, which Cook failed to convert.

Before the interval Webb, Voyce and Brown were again in the picture with smart work, but no score resulted. At half-time Gloucester led by seven points to three, and they deserved the honour, on the play, though the Taylors had exhibited capital work and contested every inch of ground.

Just before the interval it was noticed Fred Webb and Daniell had changed places, and this formation was continued for the major portion of the second half. In the first minute Voyce was temporarily laid out in making one of his strong thrusts which were a feature of the game.

The Taylors attacked with a loose dribble, and faulty play on the part of the home men allowed the Londoners to gain a good scoring position. Dix relieved with a short run and pass, and then Voyce resumed.

The Gloucester backs were almost immediately put on the move and Millington cut through in find style. Voyce, Robbins, and Daniell handled smartly, and F. Webb, the last to receive, put the finishing touch on a clever movement by scoring wide out. Cook missed the goal points.

Though seven points down the Taylors re-started with great keenness. Following some neat passing Greer tried a break through, but was heavily tackled and winded. He soon recovered and the game was continued with a dash and vigour that was greatly appreciated by the spectators. Webb and Dix shone in some pretty inter-passing which only just failed in a try. A penalty against the Taylors gave Voyce a chance to prove his goal-kicking abilities, but with no success.

The Taylors were very quick on the ball, and their work in the line-out was excellent, but behind the movements lacked finish. J. Webb was conspicuous with some daring saves, and Sid Brown obliged with a fine sprint, but was tackled and thrown to touch in time. A great rush by the City forwards, Harris being to the fore with a brilliant dribble, raised the enthusiasm of the crowd to a high pitch, but the Taylors exhibited a sterling defence.

In turn the Londoners took up the running, and there was a drop for goal, but it did not come off. Dix sustained an injury to his knee in a tackle, but was only off the field a few minutes. After he came back he took part in a perfect piece of combination with a couple of forwards and Webb, enabling the latter to score his second try. The place kick again failed.

The Taylors now stood 3-13, and Gloucester had the game safe. The visitors, however, were by no means done with, and they subjected the home defence to severe pressure. The ball coming out to Cheesman, the latter tried a short punt, but the move failed in its object.

In the Gloucester 25 Sid Brown came away with the ball at his feet, keeping it out of touch cleverly. He picked up nicely, and when confronted by King punted hard. Voyce had come up from somewhere, and there was a race for the ball. It pitched awkwardly, but the International judged the bounce nicely, and fastening on the ball crossed in the corner amidst tremendous cheering. Robbins this time essayed the kick at goal, but though well directed it fell short and the try remained unconverted. This was the last item of interest, for soon afterwards the end came.

RESULT :

Gloucester ... 1 goal (d), 4 tries (16 points)

Taylors 1 try (3 points)

The teams were : –

GLOUCESTER

C. Cook; S. A. Brown, T. Millington, F. Webb (captain), and N. Daniell; W. Dix and A. Robbins; F. W. Ayliffe, G. Holford, T. Voyce, S. Smart, J. Harris, J. F. Lawson, A. Hall, and J. H. Webb.

TAYLORS

S. E. King; G. Sanders, R. K. Melliush, H. L. Greer, and W. M. McGregor; J. R. Illingworth and W. I. Cheesman; R. Cove-Smith, E. C. Archer, G. R. F. Bryant, F. G. Tollworthy, H. H. Faguani, G. H. M. Earle, J. A. Jago, and R. Stephens.

Referee : Mr. W. H. Vanstone (Bath).

GLOUCESTER "A" STILL UNBEATEN

At Cheltenham, on Boxing Day morning, Gloucester A met the Old Patesians, and won by nine points.

The Old Pats started off at a rattling pace, and for a few minutes kept up a hot pressure. When in the visitors' territory, the home three-quarters tried passing, and Bendall, after a smart run, was only checked at the goal-line. The Patesians would not be denied, however, and from a melee close up Lane picked up and crossed with a try for Moore to convert.

This reverse seemed to put more vim into Gloucester's play, and the ball coming to Bloxsome, he made a fine opening for Ashmead, who had a clear run in from the 25 flag to the corner, but preferred to round the full back and plant the ball behind the posts, Burns kicking a goal from the easy position.

At half-time the teams were level at five points each, though just before crossing over Bendall essayed a drop for goal which only narrowly missed.

Gloucester took up the attack immediately on the resumption, and having now the advantage of the sun at their backs and a slope in front, they quickly shot ahead, Bridges scoring an unconverted try after some good footwork by the forwards, and Gabb taking in another as the result of a smart run following some pretty handling by the whole of the rear division. Burns made a good attempt for the extra points, but the ball went the wrong side of the upright.

The Old Pats next came away and strove desperately for a score; but though getting near the line two or three times they were kept out, while just on time Ashmead added a further try for the visitors.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 1 goal, 3 tries (14 points)

Old Patesians 1 goal (5 points)