

THE CITIZEN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1920

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

ANOTHER WIN FOR GLOUCESTER

BRIDGWATER WELL BEATEN BY SUPERIOR COMBINATION

Bridgwater provided the opposition at Kingsholm for the second of the holiday games arranged by the Gloucester F.C., this being the first time the teams had met since the two old Bridgwater clubs (the Town and Albion) joined forces. Gloucester were short of F. Webb, Ayliffe, and Smart, and the visitors lacked the services of A. Spriggs. There was a capital attendance when the teams lined up as follows, the city team being attired in white jerseys :—

GLOUCESTER. — C. Cook; S. A. Brown, T. Millington, D. J. Brown, and N. Daniell; W. Dix and A. Robbins; J. G. Holford (capt.), T. Voyce, W. F. Warde, J. F. Lawson, C. Mumford, J. H. Webb, and A. Hall.

BRIDGWATER. — Trunks; Wollam, Roman, Rossiter, and King; Jarvis and Howells; Reed, Fowler, Hawkes, Pole, Bale, Porter, Hawkins, and F. Dibble.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis.

THE GAME

Bridgwater kicked off, and the ball going to touch a scrum was ordered at the centre. Howells was penalised at once for off-side, and Cook kicked finely to King, who sent to touch. A break-away by the visitors from a line-out was checked, and Millington gathering, ran and punted, Daniell just failing to field before the ball went out of play.

Bridgwater were again penalised for off-side, but there was a good return, and centre play followed. From a scrum Dix opened out with a reverse pass to Robbins, who sent D. Brown going. The centre cleared the opposition well and put in a short punt, but the ball went over the line, and the visitors won the touch by a narrow margin.

Cook put Gloucester in a good position with a fine touch-finder, and the City attacked strongly. They, however, were beaten off, and mid-field was the scene of operations. Here Jarvis gathered from a loose kick and ran through nicely to Cook, who effected a splendid tackle. The ball, however, rolled away, and the Somerset men went very close. A kick to touch-in-goal, however, saved Gloucester.

Bridgwater were playing keenly forward, and tackling effectively, giving the home men few chances behind. A loose dribble, headed by Lawson, put Gloucester on the attack, but a wide pass to Dix went astray. D. Brown, however, got back and cleared with a lovely kick to touch.

Gloucester continued on the aggressive, and the forwards were nearly over. Then from a scrum close in Dix cleverly fed S. Brown, who scored a nice try. Cook failed at goal.

On the resumption Bridgwater made tracks for the home end, where the City were called upon to defend. Holford led the forwards away brilliantly, and the centre was passed. Clever work by Dix, Robbins, D. Brown and Daniell saw the latter run strongly down touch, but he could not clear Trunks.

Bridgwater changed the venue with a loose rush, which Robbins checked with a flying kick to touch. Then followed a smart bit of play. Robbins opened out in good style and fed Millington, who ran to King and then transferred to S. Brown. Running splendidly, the City left winger rounded Trunks and scored wide out. Cook again missed the goal points.

Play on the restart was fast and keen, both sides working hard. Robbins gave Gloucester territorial advantage with a capital touch-finder, and Bridgwater were severely pressed. Gloucester were kept out for a time, but at length Hall gathered in the loose, and a lovely movement ensued in which Robbins, Millington, J. Brown and Daniell handled in turn, the latter crossing with a fine try. Robbins was no more successful than Cook with his place-kick, and the try remained unconverted.

For a brief space on the resumption Bridgwater held their own, but Harris came away and passed beautifully to Lawson, but the latter failed to retain the ball with a nice opening. Near the centre the Gloucester backs shone in a fine movement, S. Brown giving a return pass to Millington, who had an open goal. King, however, overhauled his man and effected a good tackle a few yards from the line. Gloucester, however, got the ball immediately, and Voyce passing to Lawson, the latter registered Gloucester's fourth try. Voyce failed at goal. Sid Brown, who sustained an injury to his thigh, went off for a few minutes, Voyce coming out to three-quarter. Play was vigorous and keen, and a Bridgwater forward was warned for kicking Voyce on the ground.

The game for a while was amongst the forwards, and some desperate tackling was witnessed on both sides. At length Hall picked up and started a passing movement which ended in Daniell making a bold dash for the corner, but touch-in-goal was given. Mumford, who took the ball from the drop-out, was collared in possession, and for not playing the ball a free was given to Bridgwater. Cook, however, took the kick well and punted to touch.

A minute later the City custodian saved a dashing burst of the visiting forwards, and he was heartily cheered for the performance. Bridgwater rushed for the line and tried hard to score, but they were stopped in time. Gloucester soon came away, and a brilliant bit of handling, in which Millington and Daniell were prominent, ended in the wing man being pushed into touch on the 25-line. Half-time was then called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

GLOUCESTER 4 tries

BRIDGWATER Nil

Sid Brown did not turn out when the game was resumed, Robbins operating on the wing and Hall going outside half. Early on Dix got the ball away to Hall, who threw out a wide pass to Millington. The centre timed a nice transfer to Daniell, but a good effort by the winger failed. Bridgwater worked out of danger, and from a long kick the ball was captured by Jarvis, who, however, was pulled down in time.

Following some exchange kicking Cook knocked on near his goal-line, and a scrum ensued in a dangerous position for Gloucester. Fortunately the City cleared, but Bridgwater were quickly back again, and Gloucester were hard pressed.

At length Dix gave out a smart pass to Hall, who cut up the field and ran to Trunks, when he threw wide to Robbins. The latter took the ball beautifully and ran over behind the posts, but was called back for a forward pass. Dix was again to the fore with some more delightful passes from the scrum. From one of these movements the ball got out to Robbins who, after traversing some distance, cross-kicked, for Voyce to capture the ball and score. Dix missed the goal-kick.

Soon after the re-start there was another bright move, ending in Lawson running clear, but he was tackled and the ball went astray. Bridgwater played up keenly, but the combination of the home backs was too much for them. With only seven forwards, Gloucester were getting the ball every time, and the work behind was spectacular and highly interesting.

Pretty combination initiated by Dix, left Daniell in possession, but though the Gloucesterian shook off the attentions of Wollam, the latter took a dive and just touched his opponent's heel, bringing him down. From the next scrum, however, Gloucester were off again, and after perfect handling Robbins beat the full back and scored the sixth try. The same player failed to convert.

Subsequent play was fairly even at the centre, but Gloucester were always on top. Bridgwater, however, kept pluckily at it, and their efforts were at last rewarded, a clever break through and pass by Howells giving Jarvis a try near the posts. A conversion followed, and the tally was now 18-5 in favour of the City.

After this reverse Gloucester took the game in hand again, Hall showing up finely at outside half, and the forwards and backs running and passing in exhilarating style. Nothing tangible, however, resulted, though the Bridgwater line had several narrow escapes. The visitors, with spasmodic rushes, got to the other end, and Wollam following up keenly scored wide out. No goal.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 6 tries (18 points)

BRIDGWATER 1 goal, 1 try (8 pts.)