

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1921

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER'S SUCCESS AT MOSELEY

MIDLANDERS THIRTEEN POINTS DOWN

Gloucester were engaged at Moseley to-day for the return fixture with the Midland Club. Moseley have fallen away from the high position they held in Rugby Union football in the nineties, but a few keen enthusiasts keep the flag flying.

Last November a weak City team – due to the fixture clashing with a County match date – gained a decisive victory over their opponents by 1 goal 8 tries to nil, and Gloucester fully anticipated another comfortable journey this afternoon.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : C. Cook.

THREE-QUARTERS : N. Daniell, T. Millington, D. J. Brown, and F. Webb (capt.).

HALF-BACKS : W. Collins and A. Robbins.

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe, G. Holford, S. Smart, W. F. Warde, A. Hall, J. F. Lawson, J. Harris, and J. H. Webb.

MOSELEY

BACK : E. C. Anderson.

THREE-QUARTERS : E. Foster, R. N. O. Marshall, S. A. Vaughan, and A. J. Rose.

HALF-BACKS : F. Wiles and B. B. Onions.

FORWARDS : A. Woodward, H. W. Hill, J. Hubbard, A. G. Watson, L. M. Abbott, F. J. Rogers, R. D. Walker, and J. Cooper.

THE GAME

The ground was somewhat hard on the surface, and there was a capital attendance when the game started. Gloucester lost the toss, and Moseley carried play to the visitors' 25, but Daniell, by clever play, returned to the centre. Foster again gained ground for Moseley by effective touch-kicking.

Millington and Webb accomplished a neat bout of passing, which Marshall intercepted, and when the visitors were next dangerous Brown attempted to drop a goal, but the ball fell short.

Moseley broke away again by means of loose dribbling, but failed to make any appreciable headway. Millington and Daniell were next prominent for the visitors, but Anderson relieved cleverly for Moseley.

Gloucester twice came near penetrating the home line, but Moseley's tackling was fine. A success for Moseley followed. Foster intercepted from the visiting three-quarters and cleverly outclassing Cook, scored behind the posts, Hill converting.

When Gloucester attacked, Foster again interrupted their movement, but was forced to find touch. Gloucester came again on the right, and Webb crossed over, but the goal kick failed.

Moseley were playing a really fine game against their doughty opponents, and Rose got another unconverted try, while Robbins kicked a penalty goal for the visitors near the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Moseley	1 goal, 1 try
Gloucester	1 goal (p), 1 try

In the second half Gloucester soon attacked, and after Collins had been well held, Anderson misfielded for J. Webb to score near the flag, Robbins converting with a grand kick.

In the next minute the visitors' threes again attacked in line, and Webb was again successful in crossing, for Robbins to once more add the extra points.

Gloucester were now playing skilful football, and another successful movement saw Collins race over and score wide out, but Robbins failed with the kick from an awkward angle.

Moseley responded gamely, Rose obtaining a try after a forward dribble, but Hill just failed from a difficult position to convert.

In the closing stages Gloucester were much the more effective, and Webb was always a source of danger with some skilful play. The visiting pack were in splendid form, and when they dominated the game they gave the Moseley men little chance.

Robbins was loudly cheered for a clever burst, in which he narrowly missed reaching the line.

Anderson played a stylish game, and Foster repeatedly got away, his pace and strength making him an awkward customer. Wiles and Onions also did well against their experienced foes. Robbins afterwards got over, and also converted.

RESULT :

GLO'STER	4 goals (1p) 2 tries (24 pts.)
MOSELEY	1 goal 2 tries (11 points)

REMARKS

Our Birmingham correspondent writes : –

Moseley played their best game of the season, and it was indeed a surprise to find them leading at the interval. Webb for the visitors played finely in the forward line, and F. Webb was splendid at three-quarter, while Robbins played a brilliant game at half, and Cook was sound at back. Altogether the Gloucester pack worked admirably.

GLOUCESTER A WIN AGAIN

LYDNEY A BEATEN POINTLESS

Gloucester A were opposed to Lydney A at Kingsholm on Saturday afternoon. This was the only game with Lydney A, the first fixture falling through.

Teams : –

Gloucester A. : G. Smith; W. Washbourn, F. Bloxsome (capt.), T. Burns and H. Ashmeade; B. Langford and R. Cook; F. Mansell, S. Bayliss, E. Richardson, W. Taylor, A. Wright, T. Bridges, E. Curtis, and J. Merrett.

Lydney A. : A. Davis; W. Miles, E. Howells, B. Virgo, and J. Davis; T. Wellington and H. James; G. Bartlett, B. Gardiner, G. Tyler, J. Darters, E. Miles, J. Jones, L. Rees, and C. Walker.

Referee : Mr. J. H. Babbage.

The visitors kicked off, and mid-field play ruled for some time, until a punt down the field was nicely gathered by Smith, who put in a good touchfinder. From the line-out Bridges ran well and passed to Cook, who had hard luck in not going through. Then the ball travelled across to Burns, who tried to cut through on his own instead of passing to Ashmeade who had a clear run in, and was floored,

Gloucester was not long denied a score, their forwards heeling nicely and the ball being transferred to Washbourn, who had no difficulty in scoring. Burns made a good attempt at goal, but the ball fell short.

Lydney having visited the Gloucester end, Bridges led a useful forward rush, taking the ball, with one or two minor interruptions, down the field and over the line, and touching down in an easy position, from which Burns easily converted.

The Tinplaters now attacked, and by the aid of a penalty pinned Gloucester to their line, and although they did their best to score the home defence was sure, and relief came as the result of a poor attempt by one of the visitors to drop a goal.

Lydney continued to press, and Smith was called upon to save several times. Then Washbourn put in a good bit of work, giving the "dummy" to several opponents, but he slipped, and Lydney again entered the home territory. The home team were getting the better of the contest in the scrums, but the greasy ball made successful handling difficult.

A punt by Smith was charged down, and the Tinplaters were again within the Gloucester 25, but off-side play and a fine punt to touch by Smith sent them back again. Lydney were getting the better of the game territorially, but their play lacked finish, and they did not appear likely to score.

HALF-TIME SCORE ;
Gloucester A 1 goal, 1 try
Lydney A Nil

Gloucester had not made the most of their opportunities in the first half, but they immediately advanced to the attack upon the resumption, and after Burns had nicely fielded a kick across the field he ran well and passed to Ashmeade, who, with a couple of visitors hanging on, fell over with Gloucester's third try. Burns kicked another goal.

From one of their rare scrum successes the Lydney threes handled, and the ball was kicked across to J. Davis, who went over and touched down, but he had knocked on, and was recalled. An interruption now occurred, Langford sustaining an injury, and being carried off the field. Burns went to outside half, but Langford soon recovered and went on again. This was only the first of the casualties, however, for Cook then had a gash on the forehead attended to, and one of the Lydney men was led off.

Then the length of the field was traversed by Burns, Washbourn, and Wright in partnership, Wright being brought down within inches of the line. Following this Lydney broke away and penetrated the Gloucester 25 line, where they were awarded a penalty kick, but an excellent chance of opening their score was lost by a miserable attempt at a drop for goal which failed to rise. A useful dash by Washbourn, who secured while in the Lydney 25, led to Curtis tumbling over. The kick failed.

A Lydney rally before the close led to some excitement, but their threes lacked scoring speed, and a promising movement failed. The end came with play in the Lydney 25.

RESULT ;

Gloucester A ... 2 goals 2 tries (16 pts.)

Lydney A Nil

REMARKS

There was no doubt about Gloucester A being superior in all departments, but Lydney A were unfortunate to be beaten pointless. Other than for Davis's unlucky attempt, however, they did not look like scoring, their play being energetic but scrambling.

The home forwards controlled the scrums from the start, and also put in some good work in the loose. Langford and Cook gave a creditable display, and the three-quarters were far superior to Lydney's third line, handling as well as the greasy ball would allow and defending successfully when called upon to do so.

A. Davis was not to be compared with Smith, who played an excellent game, fielding well and kicking a good length. So Gloucester A's record is still intact.