

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1921

## FOOTBALL

### CHELTENHAM'S PLUCKY FIGHT AT KINGSHOLM

#### CITY WIN BUT GIVE DISAPPOINTING DISPLAY

To-day's fixture at Kingsholm was set aside for the benefit of the Gloucestershire Royal Infirmary, the Gloucester F.C. handing over the whole of the gate receipts to this special object.

The Mayoress also organised a Ladies' Committee to make a collection on the ground, and it was hoped that as the result of the combined efforts the Infirmary funds would benefit substantially.

This was the return meeting between Gloucester and Cheltenham, the first game at Cheltenham being won by the City by 24 points to 3.

Gloucester fielded short of A. Robbins and Tom Voyce, but the Town experienced considerable difficulty in getting a fifteen together.

The absentees included Statham, Baker, Meek, Wixey, and Watson, whilst Davy, though he pluckily turned out under the circumstances, was hardly fit for a strenuous game after his recent injury.

There was only a moderate attendance for a First team fixture when the teams lined out as follows : —

### GLOUCESTER

BACK : C. Cook.

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

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

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

## CHELTENHAM

BACK : H. Dean.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. Fennell, H. Rudge, B. Davy, and F. Hopkins.

HALF-BACKS : B. S. Bloodworth and J. Cocks.

FORWARDS : H. T. Stephens, W. Burford, G. Taylor, A. Dimond, S. Birt, W. Ward, and A. W. Rawlings.[*sic*]

Referee : Mr. J. Southby (Bristol).

## THE GAME

Cheltenham, having lost the toss, Stephens kicked off, but the ball failed to go the necessary ten yards, and a scrum was ordered at the centre. Gloucester heeled, and Dix got the ball away to Hall, Webb punting well down to Dean, who sent to touch. Scrambling play followed, ending in mid-field being reached. Here Dix opened out cleverly to Hall, who threw wide to Millington. The latter ran and passed to Brown, who skirted down touch and cross kicked, but nothing resulted.

Cheltenham worked out of their 25 to more favourable quarters, and Fennell intercepting had an open field, with the exception of Cook. He, however, cross-punted far too soon, and the ball was secured by Hall, and Gloucester easily saved. With a fast rush the City got dangerous, and after some loose play a home player picked up and passed out to Brown, who scored easily on the left. Cook kicked a fine goal.

Resuming, Dix was early prominent with a clever break-away, but his pass was not accepted. The forwards, however, took the ball on, and Cheltenham had a narrow escape. Two fruitless drops at goal by City players were noted in the next few minutes, Cheltenham conceding a minor in the second instance.

Holford marked from a drop-out, and a high punt was well followed up. Cheltenham, however, managed to get the ball away, and later they reached the centre through Davy.

At this stage Dix was injured in a tackle, and had to leave the field. Hall went up to scrum half, Millington played outside, and Harris took the centre position. Gloucester were soon busy, and Hall getting away from a scrum with a strong run, passed to Holford, who eluded Davy and scored behind the posts, for Cook to add the goal points.

Cheltenham restarted, and Webb getting his kick charged down, the Town forwards had a fine opening. Cook, however, robbed them of the ball cleverly, and punted out to Dean. The latter returned to Daniell, who fumbled near the line, letting the visitors get close in. Dix now returned, but with a combined rush Cheltenham took the ball over the line, and Gloucester were lucky in kicking dead.

On the drop out Hall made a strong burst and pass, and Gloucester sent down the field at a sharp pace, but Dean saved. Ensuing play was very scrappy, the players failing to hold the ball with any accuracy. The Cheltenham forwards, using their feet well, gave the home men a lot of trouble, and Davy also rendered useful service with a couple of good dashes. Gloucester were pressed severely for a time, and then from a penalty kick in a good position Dean landed a good goal for the visitors, their success being received with every encouragement.

The standard of play showed no improvement in the next few minutes, and mistakes in handling were frequent. Gloucester's form was in striking contrast to the previous week's display, but there was no question the front were greatly worried by the bustling tactics of the visitors. Several times Gloucester got the ball out, but the attacks lacked finish. Eventually the City backs asserted their ability, and from a pass by Dix Webb punted high to Dean on the left. The latter took the ball finely and sent back to Cook, who after eluding an opponent passed inside to Hall. With a dashing burst the latter went through the opposition, and after a series of exchanges the ball came right across the field to Harris on the right, for that player to score a fine try. This was the finest movement seen so far, and thoroughly deserved a score. Cook failed at goal.

After the restart Hall showed up with some more good work, but Cheltenham played up pluckily and had a fair share of the play to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
GLOUCESTER ..... 2 goals, 1 try  
CHELTENHAM ..... 1 goal (p)

Gloucester re-started, and the City preventing a return, play opened in the Town half. Harris, gathering the ball in the loose, broke clean away and looked like scoring, but he was partially tackled, and though letting the ball go, Cheltenham effected a good save and clearance. The Town forwards broke away, and Hopkins was accidentally kicked in the mouth by Millington in jumping over his opponent. After receiving attention from the Ambulance men the visitor was soon able to resume.

A fine kick by Dean from a penalty put Cheltenham well down, but Gloucester soon recovered with a forward rush, Webb and Smart being to the fore. The men over-ran the ball, however, and Davy, with a plucky effort, kicked well to touch.

The Town forwards made good headway with loose dribbles and the City were pressed. Dix got the ball from Cocks after Cheltenham had heeled, but the passing went wrong, Millington sending forward to Brown.

Cheltenham rushed back, where Cook effected a capital save under pressure. Then there was a smart bit of work in the home half, ending in Webb securing possession. The captain shot clean away, and on reaching Dean handed to Daniell, who finished by racing round behind the posts. Cook goaled.

Re-starting, play was at the centre when Harris had a kick charged down, and a visitor fielding punted high and followed up, Dimond being in close attendance. Cook prepared to mark, but Dimond came up and took the ball out of his arms and went behind the posts. The goal-kick was charged down.

There was some extraordinary play on the resumption. Gloucester had a nice chance on the right, but it was not accepted, and then Cheltenham dribbled with great effect. Millington and another partially checked, but the ball was got away, and Gloucester were forced to their half of the ground. Dean, who was playing a fine game for the visitors, kicking especially well with his left foot, gave his side an advantage. The forwards, too, kept up their worrying tactics, and the City were put off their usual game. From a penalty for legs up Dean made a fine attempt for another goal, a touchdown resulting.

Cheltenham attacked well on the drop-out with loose forward bursts, and Gloucester had nothing to give away. When the ball did get amongst the backs something went wrong, and the play of the home team, on the whole, was disappointing. Dix twice opened out nicely, but Cheltenham benefited the second time. Rudge snapping up a pass ran down to Cook, when he passed inside to Fennell, for the latter to score a neat try. Dean made a capital attempt to convert. The score was 18-9, and on the play Cheltenham certainly deserved the position – a very creditable one considering the weakness of the side.

There was a slight delay soon after the restart owing to Rudge being damaged in a melee. When the game was resumed Gloucester early had a chance of doing something, but Hall passed badly. Then Cook, failing to field a long kick, gave several Cheltenham forwards a grand opening. A score seemed certain, but a Gloucester man got back and saved at the critical moment.

Dix again initiated a nice open movement, and though Millington missed his pass Hall recovered and handed to Fred Webb. The captain got away beautifully, and giving the "dummy" was going well for the line when he was collared from behind. After this Gloucester had two excellent chances, but they threw them away badly. Nothing would seem to go right for the City, poor handling and faulty catching occurring frequently. It was so to the end.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ..... 3 goals, 1 try (18 pts.)  
CHELTENHAM ..... 1 goal (p), 2 tries (9 pts.)

## REMARKS

Cheltenham, with their weakened ranks, are to be congratulated on putting up such a good fight. The visitors, if their display was not particularly spectacular from a spectator's point of view, were keen and resolute enough, and the bustling tactics adopted appeared to put the home men completely off their game. Had the Town possessed more finish the result might easily have gone much closer than it did.

Forward, Cheltenham were triers all, especially in the loose. Little attempt was made to obtain possession of the ball in the scrum, but concentrating their energies on loose footwork they gave the City men no end of trouble at times. Stephens, Dimond and Burford were very successful in this phase of play, but the whole pack worked with a will with results eminently satisfactory.

The Gloucester pack accomplished much good work up to a point, but the players were unable to control the ball with anything like their usual effectiveness, and on several occasions, after a long burst, they lost possession and allowed an opponent to gather and punt back. In the matter of heeling, however, the forwards supplied the backs repeatedly, but the failure behind was very manifest.

Dix and Fred Webb alone to-day played up to reputation. The former's service was frequent and varied, but those behind could make little headway, passes being dropped or thrown forward with disappointing regularity. Hall made some strong runs, but he was not so safe as usual in taking the ball, and Millington could not seem to get going at all.

Webb, in the centre, displayed a good deal of cleverness, and it was mainly through his effort that Daniell was able to score in the second half. The captain later made another fine effort, and experienced hard lines in not scoring. Both wings made mistakes and were not up to standard.

A feature of the game was the capital display at full back given by H. T. Dean, who, I understand, has only recently taken to Rugby. He gathered and fielded the ball well, and did some splendid kicking with his left foot.

Cook had a lot to do this afternoon in checking the Cheltenham forwards. He did well in this respect, but like other home players he found the ball difficult to hold. Rudge and Davy were good defenders in the Cheltenham third line, both being sound in defence and proving very useful with relief kicks.

On the whole the game contained much that was scrappy, but the Town supporters were very pleased with the show put up, and they had reason to.

Next week : Cardiff at Kingsholm.

#### GLOUCESTER 'A' STILL ON TOP

#### WAGON WORKS EASILY BEATEN

It was not a difficult task which Gloucester A were set this afternoon, for the Wagon Works, although determined to put up a good fight, did not expect to take their cherished record from them. Both sides fielded representative teams, and there was quite a fair crowd of spectators.

From the first scrum it was easily seen that the Seconds had the strongest forward line, but the Works were out to smother the ball, and Collins was prevented from opening up the game as much as he would have liked. He worked hard, however, and was well supported by Cook and the three-quarters, who, without exception, did well.

The first couple of tries were registered by Ashmeade, who performed satisfactorily on the wing. Then Curtis got a try from a melee on the line, and before the interval Collins dashed over nicely. Burns, who was in good form, converted two of the tries from difficult angles.

The Seconds had been all over the Works in the first half, and the home team had not been able to score, but upon changing ends they played up much better and attacked strongly several times, Allen scoring for them in the course of a forward rush. Ashmeade secured the only other try for the Seconds.

The Works might have done much better in the latter half, but their attempts at passing were poor indeed. Adams played a good game for them at back; and Kear and Phelps, the wing men, were good, but were "starved." The Works lost Phelps half-way through the second half. Although he did not come into the scoring list, Jack Brown played well, as also did Washbourne and Bloxsome.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 2 goals, 3 tries (19 pts.)  
Wagon Works ..... 1 try (3 pts.)