

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1921

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER "GO DOWN" AT BRISTOL

FIRST VICTORY OVER CITY SINCE 1910

A DAY OF GOALS

Gloucester were engaged at Bristol to-day for the return meeting, and at the southern end of the county the match had been looked forward to with exceptional interest. For this occasion the Bristol Club secured the Rovers' (Association) ground at Eastville – a well-appointed and up-to-date enclosure – in order to provide ample accommodation for the large crowd expected. In the first game at Gloucester the Kingsholm team won by two tries to a penalty goal, and another keen and close contest was confidently expected this afternoon.

Gloucester had hoped to have the services of Stanley Cook again, but the Cambridge Blue found it impossible to stay over the weekend after the County match, and W. Washbourn was called upon to fill the vacancy, Robbins taking the centre position. C. Cook was absent at full-back, T. Burns substituting; whilst owing to Warde's inability to play, Tom Voyce (who had decided to stand down this week) offered to step into the breach – an offer which was gladly accepted.

It was a pity in some respects that the fixture followed so closely on top of the County Championship final, for the players engaged in that contest had a pretty stiff gruelling, and it could hardly be expected the players would turn out as fit as with the usual week's interval between games. However, as both clubs were affected, there was no particular disadvantage for one side more than the other. A fair number of supporters accompanied the City team by train and motor char-a-banc.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : T. Burns.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. Washbourn, A. Robbins, F. Webb (capt.), and N. Daniell.

HALF-BACKS : W. Dix and T. Millington.

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

BRISTOL

BACK : E. C. Hartell.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. G. B. Quick, L. J. Corbett, R. C. W. Pickles, and H. L. Feltham.

HALF-BACKS : W. J. Wring and S. H. Budd.

FORWARDS : M. Shaw, J. S. Tucker, P. J. Williams, A. T. Hore, E. Kibbey, F. Cummings, F. J. Coventry, and S. H. Carey.

Referee : Mr. A. E. Freethy (Neath).

THE GAME

There was a late change in the Bristol team. Spoons had to stand down owing to injury, and Pickles played centre and E. C. Hartell full back. The afternoon was fine, and there was a large attendance – seven or eight thousand.

Gloucester started, and a clever touch-finder by Hartell placed Bristol well down. A grand rush by the City forwards carried the visitors half the length of the field, and Budd getting a kick charged down Gloucester got very close. A short dash by Williams brought relief, and a penalty further improved their position. Near the centre Voyce opened out, but Webb's long pass out to Washbourn went astray, and the latter had difficulty in sending to touch. The Bristol forwards, working well together, made headway, and Burns failing to gather near the line Bristol became dangerous. A useful kick changed the venue, and then Voyce led a fine dribble to mid-field, Hartell checking nicely.

Subsequent play was rather scrappy and confined to the forwards. A capital dribble by Carey tested Burns, but the visiting custodian was safe, and punted to touch. For off-side by the City forwards Bristol were awarded a free, and from the touch-line Pickles made a grand attempt to drop a goal.

Gloucester played up strongly after this, but they were forced back. Hall, breaking away from a line-out, started his threes in motion, but Washbourn was too well marked to travel far. Play was kept inside the Gloucester half, but keen marking on both sides prevented any openings being made.

Fine forward work by Bristol tested the visitors' defence, and from a kick over the line Burns had to touch down. The drop-out was charged down, and play settled in the Gloucester 25. A penalty against Wring enabled the City to gain a few yards, but Pickles, with a sharp dash, took play back. Burns was hereabouts prominent with good work, but Gloucester could not seem to get going. On the quarter line Dix was penalised for not putting the ball in straight, and Pickles, with a lovely shot, landed a goal, giving Bristol a three points' lead after twenty five minutes' play.

Gloucester resumed strongly with a good forward rush, but Pickles checked. Another penalty to Bristol saw the home team gain a large slice of ground, and Gloucester were on the defence again. Wild passing by the visitors nearly let Bristol in, Washbourn being collared by Pickles and rushed some twenty yards to touch-in-goal. At the next scrum Gloucester were penalised, and Pickles kicked another goal.

Six points down was bad for Gloucester, but the visitors had themselves to blame. There was no improvement in the general play, and the forwards were almost wholly engaged. Not a decent round of passing had been attempted so far. At length Dix opened out on the short side, and Millington fed Daniell, but the latter could not get far. Then Bristol suffered a penalty, and Robbins kicked a good goal. Play was even till the interval, but neither side approached their true form.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
BRISTOL 2 penalty goals
GLOUCESTER 1 penalty goal

As a spectacle the first half had been very disappointing, and was too scrappy for words. On the play Bristol had had the better of the exchanges, but few chances of scoring had occurred.

On the re-start Bristol at once gained an advantage, Webb stopping a dangerous rush cleverly. In the next minute Bristol were off again, and took the ball over the line, but Robbins managed to kick dead. Following the drop-out Bristol were immediately penalised for off-side by Wring, and with his kick F. Webb found touch at the centre. Neat work by Robbins put Gloucester down, but Quick, by turning the ball to touch, checked a dangerous movement.

From a melee subsequently Williams was injured and had to leave the field. Resuming, Dix got the ball away neatly to Millington, and quick passing between the latter, Webb and Robbins gave Washbourn a chance, but the wing man was well tackled. Bristol relieved with a punt out, but Burns replied with a fine kick to Hartell, who fell over his line, and a touchdown was given.

There was a brief spell at the centre after this, and then from a long kick by Daniell, which was well followed up by Voyce, Bristol were forced on the defensive. Gloucester opened out nicely through Dix, but Washbourn missed Robbins' pass with a possible chance.

A further mistake by Gloucester spoiled a promising opening, and the City could not seem to do anything right. Then fumbling by Burns let Bristol to within ten yards of the Gloucester line.

Dix started passing from the next scrum, and Millington punting well the situation was relieved. Near the centre the Bristol backs passed in fine style. Pickles eventually cross-kicked, but Tucker, who raced up, knocked on with the line at his mercy. This was a lucky escape for Gloucester.

From this point Gloucester got well away, and Washbourn found touch nicely beyond the centre line. The forwards continued the good work, and Hartell was lucky in checking. From near half-way Robbins had a shot for goal, but a capital effort went wide of the posts.

Time was getting on now, and play was keener than ever. Williams had now returned, so the teams were on equal terms again. Dashing footwork by the Bristol forwards took a lot of stopping, F. Webb shining in this respect.

Loose passing by the Bristol backs allowed Gloucester to get on the move, and the home half was visited. Budd, however, with a capital kick to touch sent play to the Gloucester 25, where Pickles twice stopped the visitors with clever screw kicks.

Bristol were placed in a favourable position now, and an exciting scrum took place under the Gloucester posts. Here Wring got possession, and, though held by Dix, threw the ball to Budd, who promptly dropped a goal.

This decided the match, for though at the end Gloucester attacked resolutely, they failed to pierce the defence.

RESULT :

BRISTOL 3 goals (1d, 2p) (10 points)

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (p) (3 points)

REMARKS

Bristol deserved to win on the play, as they did most of the attacking, but the game, as a whole, was keenly disappointing. Over keenness possibly had something to do with the poor form, but candidly neither side touched their true form.

For the most part the forwards were chiefly engaged, and on the day Bristol, perhaps, had the best of it. There was more devil in their work, and they took advantage of any loose play on the part of the visitors.

Behind the scrum, Dix and Wring were keen opponents, but both were often penalised. In fact, the referee was very severe on the slightest offence.

The rival three-quarter lines did little in the way of combined passing. Mistakes in handling were frequent, and there was little in the way of clever individual work displayed. Pickles' kicking proved of great advantage to his side, and was an important factor in his team's success. Webb was best for Gloucester, but the line did not seem happy, and only twice did they look dangerous.

Bristol's last victory over Gloucester dates back to October 29th, 1910, when the City were beaten at the County Ground by 1 goal, 1 try (8 points) to nil. Bristol had a fine three-quarter line on that occasion – Kingston, Shewring, Neal, and Jack Spoons.

Next week : Llanelly, at Kingsholm.

GLOUCESTER RESERVES HAVE A WALK OVER BRISTOL SARACENS' 42 POINTS DEFEAT

Gloucester A met Bristol Saracens at Kingsholm on Saturday afternoon. Gloucester were without Washbourn, Phelps taking his place on the wing.

The Reserves pressed from the outset, and kept the visitors entirely on the defensive, and it was not long before the threes handled, Phelps going over in the corner, F. Ashmeade goaling from a difficult angle.

Sid Brown then executed a fine individual effort, giving the dummy nicely and scoring near the posts. The kick failed.

A strong forward burst led to the next score, Curtis touching down for Ashmead to convert.

A beautiful movement initiated by Sid Brown and participated in by all the threes, saw D. Brown score between the posts after an inter-pass by Phelps. Ashmead made no mistake with the kick.

Sid Brown's next try was a soft one, the ball being kicked across to him when he had a clear run in. Bridges was next seen striding down the field, his run being quite successful, Ashmead converting his try.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 4 goals, 2 tries
Bristol Saracens Nil

Gloucester recommenced their pressure on the resumption, and within a few minutes the visitors had to concede a minor. Following the kick out Sid Brown secured, and with one of his dashes scored in a position from which Ashmead kicked another goal.

A clever move by Collins made the next addition to the score, the scrum half boring his way through the pack and running to the posts, where he handed to Curtis to touch down. Ashmead again converted.

The Saracens' forwards brightened up, and dribbled well to the home 25, but they lost the ball. They came away again, however, and pressed to the Gloucester line, but Collins picked up and kicked to touch. Ensuing play was in the visitors' territory, and Bloxsome and Bayliss scored unconverted tries.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 6 goals 4 tries (42 points)
Bristol Saracens Nil