

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1921

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER PILE ON POINTS AT MANCHESTER

NORTHERNERS OPEN THE SCORING –

BUT AFTERWARDS OUTPLAYED

BRIGHT PLAY BY THE CITY BACKS

Gloucester were anxious not to disappoint Manchester for the return fixture to-day, and with this purpose in view the Committee left the decision open until the last moment. The news of the cancelling of the strike yesterday afternoon enabled the City to make arrangements for the journey, and the team travelled to Manchester this morning.

Several vacancies had to be filled, and at one time only two regular First team forwards were available. However, Warde was able to join the party, and Tom Voyce, returning home for the week-end, consented to play. With Mumford, Mansell, Curtis, and Richardson, a useful forward division was thus available.

Sid Brown had to cry off from the backs, Phelps again deputising.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : F. Ashmead.

THREE-QUARTERS : N. Daniell, F. Webb (capt.), S. Burford, and J. Phelps.

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

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe, A. Hall, C. Mumford, F. Warde, T. Voyce, F. Mansell, E. Curtis, and E. Richardson.

THE GAME

Manchester were strongly represented forward, but Sutcliffe, their captain, was unable to play at half, and Anderson took his place. The home team were assisted at three-quarter by Russell (Liverpool) and Chantrill (Clifton), the latter of whom played in the previous match at Gloucester.

Gloucester kicked off against a fairly strong wind. In the first five minutes Chantrill got away cleverly, and picking up on the bounce kicked over Ashmead's head and scored. Conway, however, failed at goal. Strong forward play enabled Manchester to attack, but the Gloucester backs by smart passing removed the danger, Dix and Millington starting a couple of fine movements. In the course of a Gloucester attack Webb dropped for goal, but was wide.

A few minutes later the Gloucester backs and forwards got away with quick passing, and Ayliffe scored wide of the posts. Millington failed at goal. There was a short stoppage due an injury to Dix, who, however, resumed.

In loose play in mid-field the ball was kicked over the head of the Manchester full back, and Phelps, following up fast, got the touch in the corner. Millington made a fine but unsuccessful attempt at goal. Delightfully fast and interesting play followed, the Manchester forwards playing extremely well, whilst the Gloucester backs were responsible for much smart passing and running.

Manchester nearly scored by means of a forward rush, and the Gloucester forwards being penalised for obstruction, Conway kicked an easy goal, bringing the scores level. Again Anderson scored cleverly from a scrummage close in, but Conway failed at goal. Just previously Millington had been near with a penalty shot for Gloucester.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Manchester	1 goal (p), 2 tries
Gloucester	2 tries

Manchester started the second half in the absence of Folds and Anderson, and before these players appeared Gloucester rushed to the home line, and Sherwell missing, Phelps scored an easy try. Millington again missed the goal.

Hardly had the game been resumed when the Gloucester forwards went down in a body, Hall scoring near the posts, but Millington's shot was charged down. Folds had to leave the field. Gloucester were now playing much too well for the opposition, and a neat round of passing enabled Burford to score, Voyce missing the shot. Gloucester, now leading by 15 to 9, played brilliantly, and Webb scored after fine passing, Dix kicking the goal.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 3 goals, 3 tries (30 pts.)
MANCHESTER 1 goal (p), 2 tries (9 pts.)

EXCITING WIND-UP AT KINGSHOLM

GLOUCESTER A RETAIN UNBEATEN HOME RECORD

WHITECROFT BEATEN BY TWO POINTS

Whitecroft were the visitors to Kingsholm on Saturday afternoon to oppose Gloucester A in the last match in the Reserves' fixture list. At Whitecroft, earlier in the season, the City Seconds had a keen struggle, and secured victory only by three points. There was a good attendance.

Teams : –

Gloucester A. : H. Adams; S. Brown, W. Washbourne, T. Burns, and H. Ashmeade; F. Brown and F. Meadows; J. Webb, S. Bayliss, T. Bridges, J. Hawker, M. Evans, R. Collier, J. Merrett, and T. Taylor.

Whitecroft : R. Wildin; H. Price, B. Browning, A. T. James and A. Phipps; L. Morse and H. Lawrence; T. Morgan, F. Fletcher, C. Morse, L. James, G. Morgan, P. Moore, S. Hook, and H. Berry.

Referee : Mr. W. A. Thomas.

Whitecroft started and at once worked in the home 25, but "feet up" lost them the advantage, and an exchange of kicks ending in Adams' favour. Gloucester secured the ball from the first scrum, and Meadows ran well and kicked, but the ball bounced awkwardly and went to touch.

After play at the centre the home forwards broke away and dribbled to the Whitecroft goal-line, but one of the visitors fell on the ball. The drop-out brought little relief to the visitors, and in the course of a struggle Merrett eventually made a mark. He attempted a drop for goal, but with the wind against him the distance was too great.

A promising passing movement, initiated by F. Brown and participated in by Meadows, Washbourne and Burns, saw the latter splendidly tackled by Wildin, who stopped what appeared to be a certain try.

Whitecroft worked out with a promising movement, but a brilliant forward burst again changed the venue. The defence was much too keen for the Seconds to do anything, and in a couple of minutes the Foresters were back in the home territory.

A fine burst by Jack Webb led to another near thing. He passed to Burns, who in turn fed Washbourne. The latter ran well and then yielded to Sid Brown, who found himself hampered, however, and cross-kicked, the ball going over the line, but only a minor resulted.

This was followed by an equally dangerous movement by Whitecroft, the threes picking up in the loose and by passing beautifully got to within a yard of the home line, where Burns with a determined tackle smashed the attempt.

A score was not long delayed, and came after a marvellous run by Sid Brown. The wing man received from the scrum, dodged a couple of opponents near, swerved inside, and after dodging three more men scored near the other corner. Adams failed with the kick from a difficult angle.

Nothing daunted, Whitecroft came away with a tremendous rush, and reached the home 25, where in the course of a struggle before goal the ball was kicked over the line, and Fletcher touched down. Wilding made no mistake with the easy place kick, and gave his side a two points' lead.

The struggle now was strenuous, Gloucester forcing the visitors to their 25, where the ball was kicked to Wildin. The latter took a flying kick, the ball, unluckily for his side, going into Ashmeade' hands, who was unmarked on the left, and ran over with Gloucester's second try without opposition. Something went wrong with Adams' kick, the ball crossing the field instead of finding the posts.

Putting the ball in at his forwards' feet led to Brown being penalised, but Wildin's attempt to kick a goal was a failure and Gloucester came away, the threes handling, sending Brown over in the corner. He had juggled a bit with the ball, and the referee called him back.

Off-side by Whitecroft gave Adams a chance to put in a useful and successful kick for goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A 1 goal (p), 2 tries
Whitecroft 1 goal

On the resumption, Whitecroft had the sun and wind against them. They restarted strongly, however, and getting the ball from the scrum kicked well down. The home forwards relieved and eventually reached the visitors' quarter, Whitecroft eventually conceding a minor from a fruitless drop at goal by Adams from a penalty.

On the drop-out the Foresters reached the home line, where the ball was kicked dead. On the drop-out the game was immediately taken to the visitors' quarter, where, after a chance had been missed by a forward pass the threes handled well. Ashmeade finally made a dash for the corner, and succeeded in getting over with a couple of opponents hanging on. From the difficult position the extra points were not added.

Whitecroft came away again on the restart, and with a determined effort reached the home 25. Here F. Brown failed to pick up when the ball came out from the scrum, and Morse, dashing up, dribbled over and scored an unconverted try.

Resuming, the Seconds were awarded a penalty and Burns essayed a shot for goal, which proved a splendid and fruitless effort. The Foresters were now called upon to defend resolutely, and had some difficulty in keeping the Seconds out. They eventually gained relief, and play was at mid-field for a time.

There was no tiring on the part of the visitors, and they penetrated to the Gloucester line, Adams only just saving by picking up from the feet of the forwards. Whitecroft lost the advantage of their favourable position by off-side play, and were forced out of the home 25.

Another penalty in favour of Gloucester led to a scrum in a good position, but the visitors worked out of danger. Their forwards put in some good footwork and carried play to the Gloucester 25. Here Morgan picked up in a melee and, with a strong burst, ran over and grounded in a position from which Wildin had no difficulty in adding the goal points.

With a lead of only two points in favour of the home team excitement ran high, and a dash into the Gloucester territory looked dangerous until Ashmeade picked up and put in a good touch-finder. The end came with Gloucester attacking.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 2 goals (p), 3 tries (15 pts.)

Whitecroft 2 goals, 1 try (13 points)

REMARKS

It is singular the first home match – against Bream, when the Seconds proved victorious by a solitary point – and the last should have proved the most trying for the Reserves. The calls of the premier team had weakened the forwards, and it was here that the Seconds were at a disadvantage.

Both in the scrums and in the loose they were equalled, if not surpassed, by the Foresters, who were a hefty lot, and put in some strenuous work both in the scrums and in the loose.

Brown, the Seconds' scrum half, had his work cut out to-day, and found a keen opponent in Morse, who had a fair share of the ball. It was the combination of the Gloucester threes, aided by Meadows, who again played well, which saved the situation. They were keen in defence, and handled effectively when they had the chance, while the visiting backs, except for a couple of useful movements, relied more on touch-finding.

With more combination behind the result might have been different. There was little to choose between Adams and Wildin, the rival full backs, who both kicked and tackled well. The Reserves are to be congratulated on preserving their ground record intact.

JC