

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1931

GLOUCESTER 5 Pts., O. M. TAYLORS 5 Pts.

SPLENDIDLY CONTESTED GAME

TAYLORS THE BETTER TEAM

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Owing to the England-Springboks match next Saturday, Saxby, Carpenter and Tanner stood down from the Gloucester team this afternoon. Gloucester were also short of Franklin, A. E. Brookes and Comley. The Taylors were three short of their selected team. The weather was bright and fine, and there was the usual popular holiday crowd.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : V. Sheppard, M. A. McCanlis, J. C. Brooks, and G. W. Parker.

HALF-BACKS : H. Aplin and Roy James.

FORWARDS : F. Wadley, J. Hemming, A. Welshman, K. Smith, T. Hiam, Dr. Steele-Perkins, J. Dean, and F. G. Merrett.

OLD MERCHANT TAYLORS

BACK : F. F. Spragg.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. C. Fletcher, F. J. Huskisson, L. Bywater, and R. G. Turnbull.

HALF-BACKS : H. D. Heck and W. D. Heck.

FORWARDS : T. G. Blumson, R. F. Tebbutt (captain), E. H. Edmonds, J. R. Dothie, P. R. L. Heath, C. L. B. Thompson, P. O. C. Edwards, and F. W. English.

Referee : Major Partridge (Newport).

THE GAME

The Taylors started with the sun in their faces, and the opening play was contested in the home half. The visitors opened out beautifully from a line-out, and the ball was got across to Huskisson on the right, but he was well tackled.

A penalty fell to the City, and Boughton gained 20 yards with the kick, but opening out from the loose the Taylors set up a strong attack. Turnbull beat Brooks and Boughton, but the former got back and brought off a good tackle. Boughton relieved with a fine punt to touch, but the Taylors, giving the ball plenty of air, were continually on the move. After one lovely round of handling Huskisson raced away, but he was brought down by McCanlis with a grand tackle.

BOUGHTON'S FINE KICKING

Play continued to favour the visitors, who were very smart in open play. Hemming led the City forwards in a good dribble, and Spragg was collared in possession. The visitors quickly cleared, but Boughton put his side back with two lovely touch-finders with his left foot. Scrambling play followed in the Taylors' half, but the home backs' attempts to gain an opening were checked.

Gloucester, with well-judged kicking, kept up the offensive, but the Londoners tackled splendidly. From their own 25 the Taylors started passing, and Huskisson was well away, but Boughton went in to his man and brought him down splendidly.

TAYLORS MORE CONVINCING

The Taylors were proving far superior in getting the ball from the scrums and loose, and Gloucester were mainly engaged in chasing the opposing backs. Aplin eventually managed to get the ball away and McCanlis punted ahead, but Spragg fielded on the run and punted to touch.

All the best football so far had come from the Taylors. and only sound defence kept the City line intact. Sheppard, with a useful run, took Gloucester to the centre, where Boughton ran across and punted high, Spragg being forced to kick quickly. He sent back to Boughton, who passed inside to James. There were a couple of further exchanges, but Merrett's transfer to Hemming was ruled forward.

Play continued fast and open, but Gloucester were showing disappointing form, the forwards failing in the scrums. A long throw to the left by Brooks saw Sheppard in a strong run down touch, handing off well. He was collared from behind and passed inside, but the ball was lost.

JAMES' FINE EFFORT

Next James, receiving from Aplin, cut through beautifully, and there appeared every chance of a score with McCanlis racing up on his left. James, however, punted over the line, Spragg picking up just in time. He threw the ball away out of bounds, and the referee ruled for a touch down.

Gloucester just missed a try in the next two minutes owing to the bounce of the ball beating Spragg. A huge punt by Bywater took play to the other end, but Brooks eased the pressure.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER	Nil
TAYLORS	Nil

Gloucester had missed Saxby's leadership forward, and play in the first half ruled strongly in favour of the Taylors.

On the restart James and Brooks were distinguished with a smart bit of work on the short side of the scrum, and immediately after Boughton made a splendid effort to drop a goal from the touch line.

Gloucester continued on the aggressive, James being to the fore with a brilliant run and pass, but the Taylors saved.

Again James shone in a clever move and throwing out wide McCanlis gathered and sent Sheppard in with a try – a splendid movement. Boughton, with a well-judged kick, converted.

On the restart there was another fine piece of combination between the Gloucester backs. Sheppard tried hard to hand off Huskisson, but the latter held on and forced a pass, which was forward.

Beautiful kicking by James put Gloucester well down, but the City were beaten off. Turnbull came into prominence with a fine dodgy run and kick past Boughton, but the full back got back and sent to touch, though under severe pressure.

TAYLORS' EQUALISE

Gloucester were showing infinitely better form all-round this half. The forwards heeled well, and Aplin, James and McCanlis worked well together. One quick pass back from James to McCanlis was well taken by the latter, but he subsequently lost it after going through.

Gloucester were well on top just now, but there was a brilliant breakaway by the Taylors, and a series of passes ended in EDWARDS scoring – the try being heartily applauded. Tebbutt landed a goal, and the teams were on level terms.

Gloucester restarted with vigour, and gained a footing in their opponents' half.

Spragg, fielding a kick, dashed through and started passing, the movement not being stopped until well over the middle line.

The Gloucester forwards rushed back with a powerful burst, and Spragg was dispossessed of the ball. The movement was continued, but help was forthcoming, and the City were stopped at the 25 line.

Strenuous work followed on either side until the Taylors broke away.

EXCITING PLAY

Bywater went through splendidly, He cleared Boughton but unfortunately passed the ball and a knock-on took place – hard lines for the visitors.

Sheppard replied with a splendid run for Gloucester, but he could not beat Spragg, and then Boughton had a long drop for goal from a long range, the ball falling a couple of yards short.

The last five minutes were keenly contested, both teams working strenuously for winning points. James brought off another clever run, but his pass to the left was too high and went astray with a good scoring chance. The Taylors worked out of danger through Bywater, and in turn took up the aggressive. Nothing further, however, was done.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (5 points)

TAYLORS 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS

A splendidly-contested game, which delighted the large holiday crowd. Gloucester, with six reserves in the side, made a gallant show in the second half, but the Taylors were clearly the better team. The visiting forwards were greatly superior in heeling, and the backs held the advantage in combination. James, McCanlis and Sheppard did splendid individually for the City behind the scrum, and Boughton was in fine form. Spragg saved repeatedly at full back for the Taylors, for whom Bywater and Turnbull at three-quarter were very dangerous.

Next week's matches : Monday, Gloucester Juniors v. The Rest, at Kingsholm (kick-off 2.45 p.m.). Saturday : England v. The Springboks, at Twickenham; Gloucester v. Cheltenham, at Cheltenham; Gloucester United v. Cheltenham United, at Kingsholm.