

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1924

FOOTBALL

BRISTOL'S FIRST VICTORY AT KINGSHOLM FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS

WELL DESERVED WIN

VISITORS' CLEVER BACKS DECIDE THE ISSUE

The first of the two annual fixtures between Gloucester and Bristol took place at Kingsholm this afternoon, and aroused the usual interest and excitement. Bristol had not won at Kingsholm since 1906, when they triumphed by 8 points to 3, and in 19 matches since 1910-11 had only obtained two victories as against 15 defeats and two drawn games.

The moderate form displayed by Gloucester this season gave Bristol a fine opportunity of breaking their long run of reverses, but under similar circumstances in previous years form has been altogether upset and surprise results recorded.

Gloucester's hope to-day was that their luck would still be in, and their old rivals still left waiting for that cherished victory.

The teams turned out as selected, Hughes making his first appearance of the season, and M. Short (Berry Hill) was given a trial forward for Gloucester.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : T. Millington.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. Brown, G. Thomas, Dr. Taylor, and S. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS : W. Collins and E. Hughes.

FORWARDS : S. Bayliss, F. Ayliffe, F. Ford, A. Hall, J. Merry, H. Collier, M. Short, and W. Hemmings.

BRISTOL

BACK : W. G. Budd.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. Quick, L. J. Corbett, R. C. Pickles, and E. L. Stinchcombe.

HALF-BACKS : C. Carter and L. Waters.

FORWARDS : F. Coventry, M. Shaw, A. H. Hore, J. S. Tucker, F. Cummings, A. E. Richardson, A. F. Hucker, and W. Bryant.

Referee : Mr. Barry (Cardiff).

THE GAME

The afternoon turned out bright and fine, and the ground was in perfect condition for a fast, open game. The attendance at the start was about 5,000. Bristol having lost the toss, Pickles kicked off, but the ball going to touch a scrum was formed at the centre. The visitors got the ball out smartly, and a passing bout left the ball with Pickles, who was "legged" before going far. Bristol again got the ball from the loose, and there was a long throw out to Corbett, who took the ball beautifully and fed Quick, but the latter was pushed to touch.

A big rush by the Gloucester forwards brought the game to beyond mid-field, where some exciting exchanges were fought. Bristol made slight headway, but the Gloucester backs, with a series of passes and a punt by Brown, quickly recovered, and the centre was the scene of operations. Here Bristol were awarded a free, but the exchange of kicks left play practically at the same spot.

From some loose kicking Bristol opened out, and Corbett put Quick on the move, but nothing was done. There was clever fielding and exchange kicking between Millington, Corbett and Quick, ending in the Gloucester custodian finding touch nicely.

Waters missing a pass from Carter, the former was tackled on recovering; but Shaw securing, the County forward passed to Corbett who cross-punted. The situation, however, was saved.

Millington, misjudging a long kick down, was in difficulties, but luckily got the ball away to Brown, who turned the ball to touch. The Gloucester forwards, with a magnificent burst, carried play some 30 yards before being checked.

Bristol heeled, and Waters made headway. His pass, however, was cleverly intercepted by TAYLOR, who had only Budd to beat. Bringing his "dummy" into operation, the Northumbrian finished up by scoring between the posts amidst a salvo of cheering, which was renewed when Millington added the goal points. It was an unlooked-for score, but Taylor deserved every praise for his opportunism. Five points to the good so early in the game was quite an unexpected success for Gloucester.

The game was resumed with excitement increased, Gloucester doing fine work. Collins bluffed Carter nicely and made a dozen yards or so, but was collared when about to pass.

A free to Bristol gained ground, but the Gloucester forwards returned with a sharp rush. Corbett fumbling a pass from Waters, Hughes came up and dribbled away. Budd dropped on the ball, but lost it, and Gloucester went right to the line, where Bristol had an anxious couple of minutes. The pressure was eventually eased by a fine kick out to touch.

Later Bristol excelled in a series of transfers, ending in Corbett cross-kicking, but Brown made his mark. A great touch-finder by Corbett gave Bristol territorial advantage, and Gloucester being penalised, PICKLES landed a good penalty goal.

Gloucester, on the restart, found a footing in the visitors' half, but the Bristol backs broke away nicely. Corbett putting in a short punt, Quick raced up and gathered, but was tackled by Ford near the touch-line. He, however, got rid of the ball to Carter, who yielded to CORBETT, for the latter to walk round behind the posts. Pickles missed the easy place kick, but Bristol were leading by a point.

Gloucester restarted, and play settled in the Bristol half, where Pickles made his mark. His kick was well returned by Brown, who ran across and found touch.

From a line-out Crowther secured and put in a punt, which was gathered by Taylor who fed Brown. The captain had a dash for the corner, but was well tackled.

Heeling by the Gloucester forwards saw Collins feed Hughes, but the latter's transfer was smartly captured by Corbett, who was through and only had Millington in front of him. The International side-stepped and attempted the "dummy," but Millington was not taking it, and Corbett ran straight into his arms. Gloucester were penalised, but the kick availed Bristol little.

Subsequent play was keen, with plenty of open work. Bristol showed clever work behind, but Gloucester tackled well. Then Crowther had a chance from a flying kick across the ground, but he was brought down by Quick, who prevented a pass.

Millington was to the fore next with a good save, but big kicking by Corbett gave the visitors an advantage. Once the ball was kicked to near the line, but Collier got back and sent it dead from the field of play.

Gloucester cleared from the resultant scrum five yards out, but twice Bristol attacked from cross punts by Stinchcombe. Gloucester, however, managed to save, and just before the interval cleared to near the centre.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
BRISTOL 1 goal (p) 1 try
GLOUCESTER 1 goal

The first half had produced some capital football, with Bristol the cleverer side. Gloucester resumed, and early on Thomas missed fielding, allowing the ball to go between his legs to Millington. Fortunately the latter was near, and cleared to touch in face of opposing forwards.

Gloucester being awarded a free, Taylor put in a huge punt, but Stinchcombe sent back well. Off-side by a Bristol forward, however, brought the game back to the visitors' 25. Gloucester did not stay long, for good kicking enabled Bristol to transfer operations to the home half.

Bristol attacked strongly, and Millington only just managed to save from Tucker at the expense of a carry-over. From the scrum which followed the Bristol halves got the ball out, and after a series of exchanges QUICK scored easily. Hore failed at goal.

Gloucester restarted in earnest, and an intercepted pass by Hughes sent Taylor away. The Doctor shook off Pickles and went up to Budd, but his pass, in turn, was captured by Waters, who thus saved an almost certain try.

Bristol cleared from a dangerous situation, but Gloucester rushed back. The visiting backs, however, were very smart, and successfully warded off a sharp attack. Brown was slightly damaged in checking an advance by Bristol, and though continuing to play limped badly.

Gloucester were holding their own forward, but behind the Bristol backs were the smarter set. Collins and Hughes once sent Taylor away but the latter's pass to Crowther went astray. From a penalty Millington had a long shot at goal, which just failed. Pickles took the ball over the line, but ran out and found touch well beyond the 25 flag.

A capital forward rush by the Bristol forwards was stopped with a flying kick by Millington, but the movement led to the visitors gaining a footing in the home end. Some Bristol passing breaking down, Gloucester cleared, Taylor putting in a nice run and cross-punt. Quick, however, was in position, and made his mark.

Not to be denied, Gloucester became strongly aggressive, and the Bristol defence had a warm time. It was a stirring contest, with every inch of ground vigorously contested.

At length Gloucester got the upper hand, and from the loose BROWN picked up and dodged his way over and scored near the posts. Amidst frantic cheering Millington added the points, and Gloucester were one point up.

But the excitement created by this score had hardly subsided before Bristol had regained the lead. From a scrum at mid-field the Bristol backs were placed in possession, and, after fine runs by Pickles and Corbett, QUICK just managed to cross the line. Pickles missed the goal points, and the score was now 12-10.

Bristol had the better of play on the resumption; but Gloucester showed up well when called upon. The play travelled between the two 25's at a good pace, and with both teams striving their hardest the excitement was intense. A cross-kick by Taylor placed Brown in possession, and the captain made a strong effort to beat the defence, but was overpowered. Bristol, with fine kicking, cleared from a dangerous situation, and though Gloucester made a supreme effort at the close, they failed, and Bristol achieved their great ambition at last by winning at Kingsholm by 2 points.

RESULT :

BRISTOL 1 goal (p), 3 tries (12 pts.)

GLOUCESTER 2 goals (10 pts.)

REMARKS

Bristol were well-deserved winners, and no one will begrudge Len Corbett and his men the fruits of victory after such a long series of defeats. It was a stirring game, with plenty of exciting incidents, especially in the second half, when the lead changed hands twice in as many minutes. Bristol's triumph to-day was due to their backs, and the two tries registered by Quick were cleverly conceived and beautifully carried out. Gloucester played pluckily, but behind the scrum all the clever combined play was displayed by Bristol, who had the advantage both in pace and skill.

Gloucester, on the whole, did better than I expected. The rival forwards had a great battle for supremacy, but taking the play all through there was no great difference between the two sets. In the scrums, perhaps, Bristol were smarter in getting the ball out, but in other departments it was a case of honours easy.

Both packs brought off some splendid loose rushes, and the close tackling was keen and vigorous. Shaw, Hore, Tucker and Coventry were generally to the fore for the winners. For Gloucester, Bayliss, Merry, Ayliffe and Collier came under notice for good work. Short scrummaged well, and should prove an asset with more experience of the best class of football.

Behind the scrum, Gloucester's best efforts were mainly individual, with Taylor, Brown and Millington the more distinguished. Taylor did an immense amount of work, and his interception and score in the early stages of the game was one of the tit-bits in an exciting struggle. Collins and Hughes did not get the opportunities that fell to the opposing couple, and there was not much in the way of opening out on the Gloucester side. Hughes, for a first time out after his accident, could hardly be expected to show his best form, and he was so closely watched that he was never able to get in any of those solo efforts so characteristic of his play.

The City three-quarters were very moderate as a line in comparison with the visitors. Taylor did some very effective work at centre, and the few real attacks made by the home team came through him. Thomas was outclassed, and Crowther found Quick a bit more than he could manage. Brown scarcely received a pass, but the captain snapped up the one opening that came his way very smartly.

Bristol possess a well-balanced side, but the Carter-Waters combination at half was not a great success, and Pickles was moved up to outside half when Gloucester became dangerous. The third line accomplished some splendid work, and were always dangerous on the move.

Corbett was the outstanding player for real class play, and the International frequently came to the rescue of his side when matters looked awkward. He and Quick had a capital understanding, the wing man showing dash and resource and taking his passes well. Pickles played soundly in either position he undertook, and Stinchcombe fitted in with the scheme of things admirably. A clever set of players, these Bristol backs, and probably as good a club line as any in the country.

At full back, Millington gave a capital all-round display, his fielding being a feature and his kicking of capital length and well-judged. Budd also made a good show for Bristol, though not of the same class as Chantrill at his best.

Gloucester were beaten, but the City accepted their defeat in good grace, recognising, for the time being, Bristol are the better side. The game lacked nothing in keenness and vigour, but was sportingly contested throughout, and the good play of both sides was impartially recognised.

Some of the spectators were strongly of the opinion that Bristol's first try should not have been allowed, as Quick, when tackled by Ford, was in touch when he passed the ball. On that point I can offer no opinion, but Mr. J. Oates (the Bristol linesman) was close up, and in the best position to judge, and his decision is good enough for me.

Next week : Guy's Hospital, at Kingsholm.

GLOUCESTER A v BRISTOL A

CITY SECOND STRING WELL BEATEN

Play opened on the Gloucester 25, but Prior got possession and, beating man after man, he made a great run, but Everett pulled him up. Bristol got on the move, and S. Thuell crossed with a try, for Carter to convert.

From a forward rush Triggs-Herbert crossed for Gloucester, but the extra points were not added.

Williams, the visiting full-back, following up, enabled Franklin to cross with an unconverted try. Tucker scored for Bristol and Carter converted.

Half-Time :

Bristol A 2 goals

Gloucester A 2 tries

Carter, of Bristol, was injured, and, suffering from concussion, had to leave the field. Spoor, however, got another try for Bristol, Carter converting.

Thuell crossed again for Bristol, the same player afterwards also getting another try, Sage converting.

Abbey raced over and scored for Gloucester, the kick failing.

Result :

Bristol A 4 goals, 1 try (23 points)

Gloucester A 3 tries (9 points)