

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1928

GLO'STER 9 Pts., CHELTENHAM 3 Pts.

LOCAL RIVALS IN KEEN GAME AT KINGSHOLM

CHELTENHAM'S PLUCKY FIGHT

Gloucester had Cheltenham for opponents at Kingsholm this afternoon, this being the return fixture between the clubs. In the first game, which had an unpleasant termination, Gloucester won by 9 pts. to nil, the score being made up of two penalty goals and a try.

The Gloucester team was only completed at the last minute. Lieut. Home was not available at half-back, having previously promised to assist Hereford, and Jack Stephens and Joe Davies, though on the ground, were not anxious to turn out, the former suffering with a bad knee, and Davies with a bad cold. Both, however, were pressed into service, and Benbow occupied the outside half position.

There was one change in the Cheltenham side, Lieut. Billson taking the place of Rice-Evans at centre three-quarter.

The afternoon turned out fine, but the ground was on the heavy side after the recent rains. The attendance was about 4,000 when the teams lined out ten minutes late as follow : —

## GLOUCESTER.

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. N. Loveridge, L. Abbey, J. Stephens, and I. H. Storrie.

HALF-BACKS : L. J. Tomlinson and F. Benbow.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby (capt.), A. Carpenter, E. Comley, T. Hiam, F. Russell, W. Cuffe, F. Wadley, and J. Davies.

## CHELTENHAM.

BACK : C. Fry.

THREE-QUARTERS : L. Goddard, K. R. Thomas, Lieut. Billson, and W. Fellows.

HALF-BACKS : E. Goodwin and G. Davies.

FORWARDS : D. Stayt (capt.), Ivor Morris, G. B. C. Stephens, O. A. St. J. Dawnay, H. Wilkins, T. Field, H. Beck, and K. J. Fisher.

Referee : Mr. C. F. Gilbert (Birmingham).

### THE GAME

Stephens kicked off for Gloucester, but there was a knock-on and a scrum was formed twenty yards inside the Town half. The visitors were the first to get the ball out, but the passing broke down and Stephens started a dribble in which Abbey and the forwards joined. The ball was taken to the corner, where Cheltenham saved luckily.

Useful kicks brought the town out to more favourable quarters, but Gloucester started passing from a line out. Abbey punted across away from Fry, who was only just able to get to the ball in front of Loveridge. For lying on the ball Cheltenham were penalised outside the 25, but Boughton's shot for goal, a splendid effort, went just wide of the upright. Thomas pluckily ran the ball out and found touch with a useful kick.

G. Davies further improved with a nice punt, but the game was quickly transferred to the other half of the field thanks to a big kick by Stephens. A movement by Benbow led to a Gloucester attack, but in the face of a sharp forward rush Goddard relieved in good style. Loose work by the Town front enabled the visitors to reach the centre, where a mark was made. The kick was charged down, and Wadley gathering, broke away in fine style. After making some 20 yards he threw a pass to RUSSELL, who though tackled just outside managed to get the ball over the line for a try. Boughton made a splendid effort to convert, the ball falling a yard short of the bar.

From the restart Saxby received, and clearing the opposition forwards ran down touch and cross-kicked. The ball bounced awkwardly for the City forwards up, but it was recovered and taken to the line, where Fry carried over to save.

Tomlinson nearly slipped over from the ensuing scrum, being thrown into touch just in time. Gloucester still pressed, and for palpable off-side Cheltenham were penalised, BOUGHTON landing a good goal from a fairly easy position. Gloucester were thus six points up in about ten minutes.

On the resumption a forward pass by Storrie caused a scrum on the home 25, but Gloucester soon broke away with passing. Abbey ran well and punted ahead, but Fry made a capital mark. Ensuing play favoured the City, and Tomlinson and Loveridge combining in a pretty bit of play on the short side of the scrum there was a fine opening. The inside pass, however, was ruled forward and Cheltenham escaped.

The Town gained relief with a nice kick, but almost immediately Tomlinson slipped Goodwin and sent Storrie away on the right. With Wadley and Russell up, there was every chance of a score, but again the transfer was forward. Gloucester kept up the pressure, the forwards heeling well, but the backs could not bring off a concerted movement.

Boughton was prominent with some fine touch-kicking, which confined play to the Cheltenham half. The Town opened out, but the passing failed, and Storrie took the ball ahead, the visitors saving close in.

A free to Cheltenham was well returned by Boughton, who put in a huge punt under the goal posts, but Fry made a good mark with the City full-back on top of him. The kick was of no benefit as the Town players got in front of the kicker, and a scrum was formed ten yards out. Gloucester pushed their opponents bodily over the mark, where the two packs collapsed, and the referee ordered a drop out.

Subsequent play did not produce much in the way of skilled football, but was pretty keen. In some loose play Loveridge picked up and initiated passing, Abbey giving Storrie a chance. The right winger, after travelling a few yards, cross-punted, and Davies took the ball beautifully with a clear opening, but was ruled off-side.

The game continued to operate in the Town half, where Goodwin nearly let his side down with a wild pass. Abbey was conspicuous with a sharp dash and attempt to break through, but did not meet with the anticipated success. Failure to handle caused a promising bout of City passing to break down, and there was further fumbling with possible openings. Gloucester were attacking strongly at the interval.

HALF-TIME :  
GLOUCESTER .... 1 goal (p) 1 try  
CHELTENHAM ..... Nil

Cheltenham re-started, the ball going to Wadley, who handed to Saxby, for the captain to find touch beyond the centre with his punt. From the long line-out Cheltenham handled prettily, Goddard passing back inside and nearly letting Thomas in. Having obtained a good position the Town asserted pressure and the Gloucester defence was seriously tested for the first time in the match.

From a scrum Goodwin fed G. Davies, who cut through cleverly and punted over Boughton's head to the goal mouth. He was sharp on the ball, but Davies got back in time to gain the touch – a lucky escape for the City.

From the drop-out Gloucester went away, Davies being to the fore with a run and kick. Goddard, however, was in position and safely cleared. Tomlinson, opening out, Abbey tried a quick pass to Stephens, but it did not come off, and Billson gathering, he ran clear but threw a forward pass to Fellows. The Gloucester backs were faulty in succeeding play and also lacked thrust. Tomlinson was conspicuous with a clever break through and pass, but Benbow could not do anything. Again the latter was put on the move, but with Abbey and Storrie on his right he cut inside and was brought down.

Play just now was all in favour of Gloucester, but the home team could not gain the desired opening. At length the City forwards heeled, and Tomlinson getting round on the short side of the scrum fed STORRIE, who beat Goddard and Fry with a clever swerve and scored wide out. Boughton made a poor attempt to convert. Gloucester were now leading 9-0 – the same score recorded at Cheltenham.

The Town gained a slight advantage when the game was resumed, and neat passing all along the line looked promising. Goddard, however, knocked-on in trying to field the ball on the bounce from the kick ahead, and the movement came to nought. Cheltenham opened out again a minute later, but Davies, attempting the short punt, placed the ball straight into the hands of Boughton who found touch with a beauty.

The Gloucester forwards, with a spirited loose rush, in which Stephens joined, looked likely to clear the defence, but Goddard saved splendidly when matters looked ugly for his side. The Cheltenham left wing followed up his kick closely, and Boughton was tackled and pushed to touch. Scrappy play followed, there being little finished play on either side.

Gloucester had a glorious chance after fumbling by the Town backs, but there was no one capable of taking advantage. There was another opening a little later, but Stephens' pass to Abbey was adjudged forward. The City had the better of the exchanges, but the backs were not good enough, the handling being very poor. From their own 25, Cheltenham came away with some splendid passing, but Stephens tackled both Thomas and Goddard, and put an effective check to further progress.

Gloucester were well on top again now, and there was a strong attack on the right. Storrie took his pass all right, but he failed in his attempt to get the ball inside the field of play with his punt, and it rolled to touch. Boughton later forced a minor with a fruitless shot at goal from a penalty.

Cheltenham worked out to the 25, where Goodwin served Thomas. Neat exchanges and a punt which Boughton missed saw Goddard field with a clear run home. He looked all over a scorer, but Stephens got across and, with a deadly tackle, got his man to touch a yard outside. Gloucester cleared a few yards, but they were subsequently penalised in front of the posts, and G. DAVIES kicked an easy goal.

Gloucester restarted, and at once made a dash for their opponents' goal, but nothing resulted and the end came soon afterwards.

#### RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal (p), 2 tries (9 pts.)

CHELTENHAM ..... 1 goal (p) (3 pts.)

#### REMARKS

Gloucester won, as they deserved to do on the run of play, but at no point did the football reach a very high standard. Still it was an interesting game to watch – as keen and determined as one could wish, yet free from anything unpleasant. This was a gratifying feature, at which the officials of both clubs will rejoice.

Gloucester had a far greater share of the game, and it was only at rare intervals that the Town were dangerous, but the City were disappointed in many ways. Attacks were initiated with every promise, but faulty handling or mistaken tactics lost numerous openings. On the few occasions the Cheltenham backs did get going, they showed a better idea of combination and team work.

The tussle forward was vigorous and determined, with the Gloucester eight the more adaptable, both in the tight and loose. Cheltenham, however, kept well together, and in the second half they had an equal share of the ball in the tight scrums. The City forwards were very successful in their combined rushes, and in the line outs, too, honours rested with the Kingsholm men. Wadley and Russell were exceptionally keen workers, and Saxby, Davies and Comley were also seen to advantage.

For Cheltenham, Morris, Stayt, and Field were distinguished, but in doing so well against the strong Gloucester pack the whole eight could take full credit.

Outside there was no single player outstanding, but there was a lot of useful work accomplished. Tomlinson was very nippy at the base of the scrum, and worked the short side effectively on several occasions. Some of his transfers were of the impossible order, but on the whole Benbow did not miss much and never knew when he was beaten.

Goodwin, the old Gloucester A scrum worker, has not made much advance since leaving the City Club. He was always smart in swinging out his passes, but his defence is still a weak point.

G. Davies displayed ability as pivot, and was the brains in all the Cheltenham attacks.

At three-quarter, Gloucester should have done much better with the chances afforded them. Stephens was too closely watched to do much damage in attack, but he effected some remarkable tackling, and twice saved Gloucester from disaster.

Abbey was uncertain in taking his passes, and he might have given Storrie a little more attention. The Old Cryptian has his weak points, but one thing can be said in his favour – he will go for the line, and does not waste much time about it. That try of his was a very smart effort. Loveridge was useful, and quite equal to looking after Fellows.

Cheltenham were best served by Billson and Goddard in the third line, though Thomas and Fellows had their good moments.

At full back Boughton gave a splendid exhibition, and outshone Fry.

Next week : Gloucester v. Llanelly, at Llanelly; Gloucester A v. Hereford, at Kingsholm; Gloucester Boys v. Bristol Boys, at Kingsholm (kick-off 2.0 o'clock).

## GLOUCESTER A v. WIDDEN OLD BOYS

Owing to the Oxleaze ground being unfit, the match between Gloucester A and Widden Old Boys this afternoon was cancelled.

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