

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1929

GLOUCESTER'S SPLENDID WIN

LEICESTER WELL BEATEN SIDE IN FAST AND KEEN GAME
AT KINGSHOLM

WELL MATCHED FORWARDS

Leicester made four changes in the selected team for the match with Gloucester at Kingsholm, the absentees including Day, Odbert, Farndon, and Coleman. The side, however, had three Internationals – Prentice and Buckingham (England), and Beamish (Ireland).

Gloucester fielded as chosen, Saxby returning to captain the team.

The weather, though fine, was bitterly cold in the shade.

The ground, which was covered in the early part of the week against frost, was in splendid condition, and favoured a fast open game.

The attendance was about 4,000 when the teams took the field : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : I. H. Storrie, Glyn Thomas, J. Stephens, and R. James.

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

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

Ninth forward : F. Russell.

LEICESTER

BACK : C. Manson.

THREE-QUARTERS : G. H. Wood, E. M. Barlow, R. A. Buckingham, and J. F. Cramphorn.

HALF-BACKS : W. E. Squirrel and L. W. Burton.

FORWARDS : F. D. Prentice, G. R. Beamish, P. E. Dunkley, J. F. Edmiston, A. P. Palmer, A. C. Hall, H. Biers, and D. Jones.

Referee : Capt. Burge (Welsh Union).

THE GAME

Gloucester won the toss, and the visitors kicked off. The ball went straight to Tomlinson who slipped the opposing forwards and punted nicely to touch ten yards inside the Leicester half. The Midlanders opened out at once from the scrum, but Stephens effected a smothering tackle and put a check to the movement at once. A dribble through by Benbow gained ground for the City, and later the same player further improved with a sharp run. He, however, was pulled down, and his pass being captured by an opponent, the ball was sent out to Wood, who ran for 20 yards before being thrown to touch.

A fine dash by the home forwards looked promising, and clever passing between Stephens and James had the defence beaten had the former been able to take the ball the second time. Gloucester kept on the aggressive, but a penalty to Leicester saw the visitors punt out to Boughton. The latter fielded and took a drop for goal, a great effort just falling short. Leicester ran the ball out, and Benbow misfielding in the open a visiting forward kicked ahead. James, however, got back and saved.

Good open work on both sides was spoiled by forward or dropped passes. Once Seabrook broke away beautifully but his inside transfer was ruled forward. The City had moments of promise but the attacks broke down, and Leicester centred. Here Stephens, from a pass by Benbow, went clean through and beat the opposition cleverly. He worked out a lovely opening but Seabrook knocked on with the line at his mercy.

A big rush by the City front took the ball to the line, where Manson effected a good save. Useful kicking by Leicester gained relief, and Benbow and James being at fault in trying to gather, Boughton had some difficulty in getting the ball to touch.

Centre play followed, but the backs on either side could not bring off a combined movement. From a line out Seabrook and Saxby were well away but good tackling checked. Gloucester made progress, but they lost their advantage. Benbow tried a cut through but dropped the ball, and Leicester dribbled back to midfield. A strong run by Wood made further ground for the Midlanders, but they were beaten back, Boughton and Thomas shining.

For an infringement at the scrum Leicester were penalised, Boughton making another fine effort to land a goal from near the centre.

Ensuing play, though keen, was very scrappy until Smith broke away cleverly from a scrum and reached Boughton. He then passed to Dunkley, but the latter was at once tackled by James and another. The ball getting loose Leicester made a desperate effort to cross, but Barlow was served with a forward pass.

A long punt down, misfielded by Manson allowed Gloucester to clear, and the City forwards, with strong rushes, attacked, but lost the ball at the critical moment. Crompton, sneaking the ball from a kick across, had a fine opening, but he cut across the field when opposed by Boughton and kicked to touch, losing a splendid opportunity.

Gloucester worked hard, and Tomlinson, with a sharp move, fed James on the short side of the scrum. The vice-captain ran strongly and kicked past Manson, but an opponent got back and touched down.

Gloucester continued to have the better of the game, and following a dashing burst James just failed to score in the corner. A minute later Boughton again had hard lines with a magnificent attempt to drop a goal.

Gloucester confined operations to the Leicester quarters, but the City could not get the desired opening. The forwards were pretty well matched, but the backs were too faulty to do anything. Dunkley shone in a good effort for Leicester, and then Boughton distinguished himself with a solo effort, following up a short punt and tackling Manson before he could get the ball away. Gloucester worked strongly to gain a score before the interval, but something would always go wrong at the last moment.

In one dashing movement James took the ball under the goal-mouth, but in a general scramble Gloucester could not get the ball over the mark. Tomlinson was laid out, but soon recovered. Leicester were in a dangerous position, but getting the ball they came clear away, and only a forward pass stopped a likely try.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER Nil
LEICESTER Nil

Gloucester again showed bad finishing; on the run of play they should have been a few points up. The football was strenuous, but both sets of backs were off colour. Gloucester restarted and at once attacked through Benbow, who kicked through and had Manson in difficulties. Stephens made a [passage of 5 or 6 words unreadable] fielded and dashed over the line, only to be recalled for a previous infringement. At the ensuing scrum Smith was badly off-side and from the resultant penalty BOUGHTON landed a neat goal, giving Gloucester first points.

From the restart, Leicester dashed off, and the Gloucester line was placed in danger. Tomlinson was penalised at the scrum, and Prentice took a shot for goal, but the ball hit a Gloucester forward and rebounded to the kicker, who was at once pulled down. Gloucester soon after were awarded a free kick, but gained nothing, as Boughton sent to the open and Manson replied with a good touch-finder. Leicester tried passing, but Buckingham was forced to kick, and the ball going to Boughton it was sent to touch at midfield.

A fine run by Buckingham was checked with a leg tackle, and the same player was well stopped again a little later. Prentice had another long shot at goal from a penalty, but the kick fell short and Stephens and James brought the game out to beyond the centre. Weak tackling by the City forwards allowed the visitors to make headway, but Stephens checked at the right moment. A smart breakaway by Tomlinson gave Gloucester an opening, but Buckingham got back and effectively cleared.

A round of passing by the Gloucester backs gave Storrie a chance on the right, but the winger could not beat the defence and was forced to kick. Gloucester had one or two possible openings but luck was against them. After a movement by Stephens and James had broken down, Thomas recovered with a brilliant dash down touch and cross-kick. The Gloucester forwards were up in a bunch and the ball was forced over the line, but the try was not allowed. Immediately after, however, smart work by Tomlinson gave CUFFE a try, and Boughton kicked a fine goal.

On the restart Leicester gained a footing in the home end, and from a penalty in front of goal Prentice hit the upright. The ball rebounded into the field of play and Gloucester managed to clear luckily. Just now Leicester gave the ball plenty of air, but the backs, like the Gloucester men, could not finish satisfactorily. Gloucester worked out with good forward play, and James came into prominence with a pretty bit of work. The City were on the aggressive, and Thomas with a left foot kick sent across to the left and over the line. James dashed up and looked to have got the touch, but only a minor was awarded.

Leicester were kept on the defensive after the drop-out, and Saxby with a determined effort made a bold bid for a try. Right on the line he was overhauled and prevented from getting the ball down. The captain missed placing a goal from a mark shortly afterwards, but Leicester trying a break-away lost the ball. Benbow snapped it up, and after a short run passed to STEPHENS, who crossed with a good try. Boughton failed at goal.

Gloucester were well ahead now, but the City did not relax their efforts. Leicester, too, kept up the pace, and some fast football was witnessed.

A dangerous Leicester movement was stopped on the right, and then Saxby shone with a strong burst and punt which took play close to the visitors' line. Relief was obtained but Gloucester came back immediately. Benbow opened out but Stephens' pass to James was intercepted by CRAMPHORN, who had a clear field with the exception of Boughton. He kicked over the full back's head and in the race for the touch for a try was successful. Prentice failed at goal.

The remaining minutes were evenly contested, Gloucester gaining a well-deserved victory.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ... 2 goals (1p) 1 try (11 pts.)

LEICESTER 1 try (3 pts.)

REMARKS

Gloucester's splendid victory this afternoon made some amends for the disappointing reverses inflicted on the City at home by English clubs in the first part of the season. And there was no question that in this game winning points went to the better team. Gloucester's form was not above criticism, but as a side they showed the more adaptability, and with a shade of luck, coupled with a bit more finish in attack, would have won more decisively.

There was some rousing football during the afternoon, and the contest forward was exceptionally keen. The packs on the whole were well matched, first one side and then the other gaining the advantage. The City eight got the ball fairly well at times in the tight but now and again it hung in the back row, and this slowness of delivery to Tomlinson made the half-back's work very difficult. There was some deadly tackling on both sides, but at intervals individual players slipped the defence very easily.

Gloucester were well served in the heavy scrummaging by Carpenter, Cuffe and Wadley; Saxby was a tremendous worker throughout – that one effort of his deserved a try – and Seabrook and Davies operated with success as wing forwards. It was a capital performance to hold and, at times, beat the powerful opposition led by Prentice. The International was not so much in the picture as usual, but he kept his men going all the time. Dunkley, the English Trial forward, was fast and clever in the open, and Beamish (the Irish International) and Coleman were solid workers.

Tomlinson was unlucky in regard to mishaps, and during the match was laid out three times. He, however, held his end up splendidly, and was very nippy in everything he did. Once or twice he broke through cleverly and timely punts to touch warded off danger on more than one occasion. Benbow was pretty safe with his hands, and he gave a decent service to his centres when opportunity served. He led up to the try scored by Stephens, and there were other occasions when he used his feet effectively and nearly beat the defence.

The introduction of Glyn Thomas at centre improved the home third line, and the ex-Swansea player should be given further opportunities. There was no great advance in general attack, but there was much promise in some of the movements. Stephens played a strong, dashing game, and was especially effective in defence. He made one glorious run which should have had a tangible result, but his pass was dropped with an open line. Stephens was responsible for breaking up several dangerous aggressive movements by Leicester, getting well into his opponents and spoiling the passing. James and Storrie were useful on the wings, the vice-captain getting more to do and just failing in several praiseworthy efforts to score.

Boughton was at his best at full back, and scarcely made a mistake. He made two splendid attempts to drop goals and his punting, touch-finding and general resource were excellent. Manson, on the other side, was erratic; at times doing splendidly, and at others being very casual and kicking poorly.

Leicester were best served behind by Buckingham and Cramphorn, but the former was not up to International standard. Smith was a hard worker at the scrum but inclined to get off-side, and he gave away the first points – Boughton's penalty goal. In the second half the Leicester backs showed a good deal of enterprise, but their only score was a snap try by Cramphorn, and this came from a mistake in passing by the home backs.

Next week : Thursday; Gloucester v. St. Thomas' Hospital, at Kingsholm (benefit for Royal Infirmary, kick-off 3 o'clock); Saturday, Gloucester v. Northampton, at home.

GLOUCESTER A v. CHELTENHAM A

Following the first team match Cheltenham A received Gloucester A on the Athletic Ground. Early in the game Abbey scored an unconverted try for Gloucester. A few minutes later Foulkes got over with a try. Cheltenham took up the attack and Fisher crossed but was called back. Mounthead, however, was more fortunate when he crossed, but his try was not improve upon.

Half-time :

Gloucester A2 tries

Cheltenham A 1 try

In the second half tries were obtained by Lewis and Loveridge for Gloucester. Price converted Loveridge's try.

Result :

Gloucester A 1 goal 3 tries (14 points)

Cheltenham A 1 try (3 points)