

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1929

GLOUCESTER SHARE HONOURS WITH BRISTOL

DESPERATELY KEEN GAME AT KINGSHOLM

GLOUCESTER DRAW LEVEL IN LAST FIVE MINUTES

CITY FORWARDS IN GREAT FORM

For the "match of the season" at Kingsholm – the return meeting between Gloucester and Bristol – perfect conditions prevailed, and the attendance was easily a record for the season. In the first game Bristol gained a pronounced victory by 19 points to 3 – their biggest win over the old rivals – and on the day's play there was no question as to the winners' superiority. Gloucester's form since has been inconsistent, but the recent victories over Leicester, Northampton, and Newport, and the splendid fight made against Swansea at St. Helen's last week encouraged the hope that the City would go very close if not actually reversing the previous result.

Gloucester turned out full strength, Saxby, McCanlis, Seabrook, Hiam, and Cuffe returning to the ranks. Bristol also fielded the selected team, the only absentee being J. N. Hazell, the County forward.

The ground was in splendid condition for a fast, open game.

Teams : –

## GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : Roy James, J. Stephens, M. A. McCanlis, and L. Abbey.

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

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby, J. Davies, F. Wadley, A. Carpenter, T. Hiam, W. Cuffe, J. Hemming, and J. F. Seabrook.

## BRISTOL

BACK : T. W. Brown.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. W. Lillicrap, E. L. Stinchcombe, D. W. Burland, and H. Sherman.

HALF-BACKS : C. B. Carter and E. T. Collins.

FORWARDS : M. V. Shaw, J. S. Tucker, F. J. Coventry, W. Bryant, P. G. Lambert, H. J. Ferris, H. Coward, and C. J. Robinson.

Referee : Mr. T. H. Vile (Welsh Union).

## THE GAME

The visitors received a hearty reception from the crowd, and the cheering was renewed when Saxby led the home players out. Bristol had to face the strong sun, and from the kick-off the ball was fumbled. The visiting forwards were well up, but a pass out went astray and Gloucester saved. A mistake by Benbow later allowed Bristol to start a passing move, and Lillicrap cross-kicked nicely, but the situation was cleared by Benbow. A penalty to Gloucester was beautifully returned by Brown to touch, but a breakaway by the home forwards took play beyond half way. Here Hemming shone with a strong burst, and Hiam also made headway. Bristol were hard pressed but a fine kick by Brown brought relief.

Boughton failing to gather from a high punt, a scrum followed on the City 25, where from some loose play Carter picked up and broke through. Swinging out a long pass BURLAND recovered and hitting off a couple of attempts at tackling he went over the line and behind the posts for a fine try. The same player converted, and Bristol were five points up in as many minutes.

Gloucester resumed and play was contested at a fast pace. The home forwards were checked in a promising rush, and then good kicking sent to the City half. Gloucester worked back with dashing work, but a knock-on stopped a promising move.

Twice the Bristol forwards were in evidence with dashing loose play, but they were prevented from getting dangerous. A disaster for the home team, however, followed shortly afterwards. Tomlinson got the ball away to Benbow, but the latter threw a wretched transfer to McCanlis. Burland came through with a clever dribble, and picking up on the run ran clear. STINCHCOMBE was in attendance, and taking a nice pass from his co-centre, had an unopposed run over. Burland failed at goal, but Bristol were eight points up – a substantial lead in such a needle game. Gloucester, however, had shown poor form and contributed to both scores by their own mistakes.

On the restart Gloucester confined play to midfield, where both sides were penalised for infringements. Boughton had a long shot for goal, but the kick fell short. Gloucester heeled from subsequent scrums, but the backs could not do much. It was left to the forwards to set up the attack, and with a sweeping burst the Bristol line just escaped in the left corner.

Working desperately Gloucester made a strong bid for a score, but a wild pass by Tomlinson allowed the visitors to clear to Boughton, who was collared in possession. Mistakes on both sides followed, finally ending in a kick over the Bristol line. Brown was hard pressed by Abbey, but managed to elude his opponent and kick to touch. It was hard, keen football, but Bristol were showing by far the more finished game.

A fine kick under pressure by Burland gave the visitors 30 yards, and Stephens being at fault in gathering the ball, Gloucester were forced into their half. Benbow left the field limping, but returned in a couple of minutes.

In the meantime Bristol had got on the aggressive, and the home defence was seriously tested. Burland cleared the opposition cleverly on one occasion, and there were other weaknesses in the play of the home men which let the side down.

Play continued to favour Bristol, Burland being seen to great advantage. Seabrook shone in a good burst down touch, but Hemming, to whom he passed, was collared immediately. For off-side by Stephens Gloucester were penalised, and BURLAND, with a magnificent kick from 40 yards range, landed a goal, the effort being loudly applauded. Eleven points up, Bristol were on good terms with themselves, and they had every reason to be satisfied, for their form all round had been vastly superior to that of the home team.

The Gloucester forwards showed up gallantly with some fine loose work, which was checked by Carter. Still the City were not to be put off, and Tomlinson opening out from a scrum, the ball came along the line nicely via Benbow, Stephens, and McCanlis. The latter dashed ahead, and working out an opening for ABBEY, the right wing went over the line with a splendid try. The goal kick by Boughton failed, but Gloucester had opened their account, and that was encouraging.

Restarting, some clever back play was witnessed on both sides. Shaw started passing movements from the line out twice in quick succession, but Stinchcombe was stopped before he could get away. Once Stephens was going through well for Gloucester, but stumbled and lost the ball.

Gloucester confined operations to their opponents' half, where Bristol were twice penalised. In the second instance BOUGHTON took a place for goal from near touch and well outside the 25 line. The ball rose high, and curling inside the upright, went over the cross-bar – a lovely shot. Half-time was then called.

HALF-TIME :

BRISTOL ..... 2 goals (1p) 1 try  
GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal (p) 1 try

It had been a fine first half with Bristol fully entitled to their lead. Saxby restarted for Gloucester, and from the first lineout the City captain was distinguished with a great burst which took him well down the field. He transferred to Seabrook on his right, but the latter was collared before travelling many yards.

Bristol eased the pressure caused with short bursts from the line out, Shaw being distinguished. Back Gloucester came with an almost unstoppable rush and the visitors' line was in great danger.

Exciting play followed just inside the Bristol 25, where a penalty was awarded Gloucester. Boughton had another place for goal but the ball did not rise enough and struck a visiting forward. It rebounded to the feet of the home forwards, but nothing was done.

Brown changed the situation, and from some loose play later opened out to Lillicrap, but the latter was well tackled by McCanlis. Brown had previously been heavily charged by Stephens and was laid out. After attention, however, he was able to resume.

The Gloucester forwards were going great guns, and carrying the scrums in fine style. Another combined burst took them right down to Brown, but the latter relieved nicely. The football was very close now, and the Bristol backs saw little of the ball.

Benbow, from a pass by Tomlinson, tried a break-through, but was upset. Good kicking gave Bristol an advantage territorially, but a sharp movement by Tomlinson, who robbed Carter of the ball and punted ahead, led to operations being contested in the visitors' 25. But the football was too close to provide any real incidents.

Gloucester at length did get the ball away, and McCanlis went through strongly, but lost the ball. Bristol followed suit immediately, and neat passing gave Sherman a chance on the right. He was clear with the exception of Boughton, and punted over the latter's head and over the line, but just lost the touch – a very narrow thing.

The exchanges were of the keenest possible description on the drop out, but the football lacked the bright open character of the first half, and there was little to chronicle. Bristol were better together again now, and the City had to work hard to keep their position on the 25.

Bristol made one sharp attack on the right, but Sherman could not move, and he repassed to Stinchcombe, and he kicked over the line. Off-side by Robinson, however, caused his side to be penalised. Gloucester shifted play to the other end with a passing move, Abbey finally kicking to touch.

Bristol later was forced to concede a minor. More penalties, chiefly against Bristol, spoiled the game, but with one kick Boughton found touch well inside the Bristol 25.

Gloucester played up strongly now to equalise, and Tomlinson dribbling away from a scrum, kicked through to the line. DAVIES followed up with great dash, and beating Brown, picked up just outside and scored under the posts amidst great excitement. No charge was allowed, and Boughton kicking a neat goal the sides were level.

Only a few minutes remained for play, and the rival teams went all out for the winning points. Brown did fine work for Bristol, but the Gloucester defence held out. In turn the City rushed to the other end, where James brought off a good run, but his pass inside was not accepted. Bristol had to touch down twice from kicks over the line, but later the visitors got well down, and were awarded a penalty. Burland shot for goal, but sent wide of the upright, Boughton punting out to touch.

Bristol attacked at the finish, but there was no further scoring.

#### RESULT :

GLO'STER .... 2 goals (1p) 1 try (11 pts.)

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

#### REMARKS

"A fine spirited game; no grousing." This was the comment made by Mervyn Shaw the Bristol captain, after the match – one of the hardest every played between the two clubs.

To the home forwards the City were indebted for saving the game; their work in the second half was great, and the formidable pack led by Shaw was for the most part held in subjection. It was a grim contest, the exchanges being terrific, but the players never lost their heads, and hard knocks were given and taken in the true sporting spirit.

Bristol showed fine football in the first half, and Burland's opportunism and strong running were outstanding features. In all that pertains to finished Rugby the visitors were certainly the superior side in the earlier stages, and Gloucester appeared to be a well-beaten team. The forwards were always doing well, but the backs fumbled repeatedly, and it was due to mistakes that led up to both tries scored by Burland and Stinchcombe. In pace, cleverness and combination Bristol were seen to advantage, and had the visitors been able to command the same service of the ball in the second half, things would have gone badly for Gloucester.

But the change of end brought about the command of the Gloucester pack, and it was only from the loose the Bristol outsiders were able to get chances of attack. There were long periods when the ball was kept too close to provide any thrilling incidents, and it was left to the forwards to serve up the few exciting moments witnessed.

The City front by no means did badly in the scrums, but their finest work was accomplished in the loose and lines out. At times they went clean through in a body, and only the alertness and smart relief work of Brown enabled his side to escape danger. Gloucester had a fine lead from Saxby, and his best supports were Davies, Wadley and Hemming. Seabrook rendered efficient service in the open, and backed up well.

The Bristol forwards fell off for a period in the second half, but they came again and were fairly on terms in the closing stages. Shaw, Tucker, Bryant and Coventry were keen and hard workers, and the captain was very successful at times in starting attacks. Ferris, the old Gloucester A forward, who was playing his second game for the Bristol Seniors, was useful in out-of-touch play, where he always did well.

Robinson was very fast on the ball, but was too impetuous, and he had one or two penalties given against him. In the desperate exchanges there was much good work, and if Bristol had the more polished performers, Gloucester, as a pack, were the better combination on the day's play.

Behind the scrum I fully anticipated Bristol holding the upper hand, and this was clearly asserted for quite half the game. There was better individual and combined work from the opposition, but I have seen the wing men (Sherman and Lillicrap) to more advantage. Burland stood out for sterling play, both in attack and defence, and he was mainly responsible for all the scoring for Bristol.

At half-back, Carter had the pull over Tomlinson in the finer points of the game, and when he had the service from his forwards the Bristolian sent out some clever transfers. Collins was not consistent and was inclined to hold on too long. Benbow did not shape so well for Gloucester, and was smothered on several occasions, whilst his handling was faulty. But he was not alone in this respect.

Stephens was least effective than in any game for some time, and McCanlis was the more prominent of the two home centres. Abbey found Lillicrap too fast to get round, but the left-winger showed plenty of dash and scored his try well. James, on the other wing, got few passes, but accomplished a few good things in the second half.

Brown played a brilliant game at full back for Bristol, and on the day he had the advantage over Boughton. The International never made a mistake, and his soundness, judgment and general ability commanded admiration. Boughton made one or two slips, but he served his side admirably at times, and the penalty goal he kicked was a very fine effort.

Next week : Gloucester v. Cardiff; at Kingsholm. Gloucester A. v. Hereford; at Hereford.



CITY SECONDS' GOOD WIN  
TWO POINTS' VICTORY OVER BRISTOL A  
LOVERIDGE IN SPLENDID FORM

The sun was shining brilliantly at the Memorial Ground, Bristol, when Bristol A entertained Gloucester A before a large attendance. Play was slow at the start and the crowd were first roused by a long touch-finder by Hore, which gave Bristol an attacking position. They soon lost this, however, as the result of a strong rush by the Gloucester forwards, led by Foulkes and Rea. Back came Bristol and this time they met with success, M. C. Gussie rounding off a good passing bout by going over in the corner. The kick failed.

The home side continued to be on top, but there was little to enthuse about in the play, which was of a scrambling nature. A well executed movement – Gloucester's best so far – saw Loveridge sail away from the opposition and score wide out. The same player converted from a difficult angle.

Half-time :

Gloucester A ..... 1 goal  
Bristol A ..... 1 try

Soon after the resumption Bristol, who gained the ascendancy added to their score, with a try by Harvey, who fell over from a line-out, with two men hanging on to him. Hore converted.

Gloucester now had a turn and after a free kick had failed to find its mark, Loveridge followed up so well that he gained possession [and] with a flying leap went over. He again converted, thus giving his side the victory.

Result :

Gloucester A .... 2 goals (10 points)  
Bristol A ..... 1 goal 1 try (8 points)