

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1921.

FOOTBALL.

CARDIFF BEATEN BY THE GOAL-KICK.

VIGOROUS GAME UNDER WRETCHED CONDITIONS.

The old-time rivalry between Gloucester and Cardiff was revived to-day, when the teams met at Kingsholm for the first of the two annual fixtures.

Exceptional interest was taken in the contest, the result of which was generally regarded as being open, with Gloucester slight favourites for the reason that the City were performing on their favourite ground, where they had not suffered defeat since losing to Newport on January 31st, 1920.

Cardiff's last success at Kingsholm was as far back as season 1909-10, when the Welshmen triumphed by 20 points to 8. Since then the teams had engaged in six matches at the City Club headquarters, of which Gloucester won five, the other game being drawn.

The results were : –

1910-11	–	Gloucester won 10-0.
1911-12	–	Gloucester won 11-0.
1912-13	–	Drawn, 3 points each.
1913-14	–	Gloucester won 6-4.
1919-20	–	Gloucester won 10-3
1920-21	–	Gloucester won 16-11.

This season both clubs have done well, Gloucester being unbeaten; whilst Cardiff's defeat was sustained at Bristol last month. Since that reverse, however, the Welsh Metropolitans had drawn with Newport and beaten Swansea at St. Helen's – performances which revealed ability of a high standard.

The weather was very unsettled and stormy, whilst a gusty wind was blowing which was likely to give the players trouble. Despite the conditions, however, there was a splendid attendance.

Gloucester made one change in the team, Frank Ayliffe, suffering with a slight chill, standing down for Wright.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : A. J. Kerwood.

THREE-QUARTERS : N. Daniell, E. H. Hughes, W. Washbourne, and S. A. Brown.

HALF-BACKS : W. Dix and T. Millington.

FORWARDS : S. Smart (capt.), A. T. Voyce, G. Holford, A. Wright, A. Hall, J. Harris, Major Roderick, and J. F. Lawson.

CARDIFF.

BACK : Dr. T. Wallace.

THREE-QUARTERS : T. Johnson, A. Payne, Clem Lewis, and J. Dangerfield.

HALF-BACKS : T. C. Dean and D. E. Davies.

FORWARDS : Idris Richards, A. Dalrymple, J. Grant, J. Hopkins, D. J. Llewellyn, W. Cornish, D. Marsden-Jones, and Ivor Thomas.

Referee : Mr. F. W. Nicholls (Leicester).

THE GAME.

The rain, if unpleasant for the spectators, had done a lot of good to the ground, which looked in splendid condition. Gloucester lost the toss, and the Cardiff captain naturally deputed the home side to face the wind and rain.

The kick-off was returned to touch well inside the City half, but from the first scrum Cardiff were penalised, and Millington sent well up the field with his kick. A line-out followed, but nothing resulted, and then the Cardiff half-back tried to open out. The ball, however, was missed, and Washbourne dribbled through nicely. Wallace failed to gather, and Gloucester taking the ball over the line, Daniell raced up and touched down for a try within two minutes of the start. Millington added the goal points amidst a great shout of cheering.

Cardiff resumed, and a strenuous struggle was witnessed forward. The Welshmen found the wind a great help, but Gloucester put up a great fight. Hall was prominent with a strong burst and pass, but Cardiff worked back with a loose rush. The ball was very slippery to handle, and failure to accept passes lost Cardiff a good chance. Dix being penalised for off-side, Wallace had a shot for goal, but the ball fell short and went over the line for a minor.

Resuming, Hall was again in the picture for sterling work, but play was confined to the home half. Dean making his mark punted high towards the Gloucester posts, but Millington fielded beautifully and got in a fine touch-finder. Cardiff again lost ground through attempting to open out, Washbourne nipping in and making good headway.

Some deadly tackling by Gloucester checked the visitors well, but Lewis, with a smart bit of work, sent Johnson away on the right wing. The Welsh International ran clean away, but fell a victim to a splendid tackle by Kerwood on the 25 line. Aided by the wind Cardiff by kicking set up a warm attack in the right corner, but the defence was equal to all occasions.

Gloucester had to concede another minor from a kick over the line, and on the drop-out centre play was witnessed, the tackling on both sides being terrific. Gloucester fought hard and well against the elements, but had a very severe handicap. Cardiff pluckily tried handling despite conditions, but they did not make much ground.

Johnson, from a pass by Lewis, tried hard to beat the defence, but the tackling was too good. Still Cardiff were having all the game, and Gloucester had to be very wide awake to keep their lines intact. The Gloucester forwards battled finely against a powerful opposition, using their feet well at every opportunity. In this connection Harris, Holford and Roderick were seen to special advantage.

For some few minutes play hovered at the centre, until the Cardiff halves opened out. Lewis and Johnson, however, were well matched, and their movements gained no ground. A splendid loose rush by the home front beat the opposition, but Wallace partly checked. The City, however, carried on and over the line, Harris just being beaten for the touch – very hard lines.

Gloucester were playing finely together, and clever work by Washbourne gave the Welshmen something to think about. For an infringement Cardiff were penalised, and Millington, from near the centre, only just failed to land a goal.

Subsequent play was fast and interesting. Dix and Millington got the ball out, and the latter punted to Wallace, who with a big return found touch at the Gloucester 25. Rain was now falling heavily, and made it very difficult for the players. Play favoured Cardiff again, big kicking giving the visitors an advantage. The City forwards, however, were doing grandly, and Kerwood and Millington both brought off some good touch-finders.

From a line-out just inside the home half the Cardiff forwards broke away with the ball at their feet, but Kerwood saved finely near the line. Gloucester cleared from a dangerous position with a forward burst, but Cardiff worked back again, where in a melee something happened which caused the referee to caution the players.

From this point Gloucester came clean away through Voyce and Daniell, and the good work was continued until the Cardiff 25 was reached. Gloucester pressed severely with strong forward play, and the Cardiff line was in serious danger.

The visitors got the ball out and punted down the field, but Kerwood gathered, dodged a couple of opponents, and got in a fine touch-finder, amidst loud cheering. A smart tackle of Lewis by Hughes ended in a general scramble, and the players were called for a breather. Just before half-time Voyce narrowly missed a score, a touch-down being awarded.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
GLOUCESTER 1 goal
CARDIFF Nil

Gloucester had done splendidly in keeping Cardiff out with the handicap of the conditions so much against them. There was no response to Cardiff's re-start, and the visitors rushing well were not stopped until a dozen yards from the home line. Matters looked very dangerous for the City until Cardiff tried passing, and the ball going astray Washbourne kicked out and cleared.

The Cardiff forwards were fast on the ball, and another loose rush took place close to the City goal-line. Millington was instrumental in averting danger, a capital kick bringing the City out to more favourable quarters. The rain pelted down worse than ever, and the conditions for reporting the match were just about as bad as they could be.

The game was mostly forward, and in the loose rushes the Cardiff men held a superiority. Millington was twice knocked out in stopping rushes, but the vice-captain pluckily kept on the field.

After a spell of play in the Gloucester end Millington transferred to the centre with a timely touch-finder. The Gloucester forwards dribbling finely went clean down to Wallace, who, however, effectually checked. The City struggled hard to add to their lead, but they were met with a sterling defence. Millington had a shot for goal from a penalty, but his forwards got in front and the men had to scrum back. At times the players got out of temper, and several times the referee had to stop the game for the men to cool down.

Cardiff, by brilliant forward rushes, made some hot attacks. Once they crossed the home line, but lost the ball and only a touch-down resulted. In turn the City had a spell of attacking, but they were checked before getting dangerous.

Near the end Cardiff broke away, and after some cross dribbling they got the ball over the mark in the corner, where Dean touched down for a try. Wallace missed the goal, and Gloucester still held the lead.

The last few minutes were hotly contested, and the tackling at times exceeded the legitimate. Gloucester managed to hold their own, and the end came with the record still intact.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (5 points)

CARDIFF 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

Gloucester gained winning points, but on the day's play a draw would have best represented the merits of the rival teams. The conditions prevailing were wretched in the extreme, and they became worse as the game progressed. Forward, it was a terrific contest for supremacy, with Cardiff perhaps the more successful. Gloucester did finely in the first half against the odds, but they did not take the advantage of the wind to the extent their opponents did before the cross over. Millington, perhaps, was an exception, the City fly half again and again coming to the rescue of his side with beautiful touch kicks.

What back play was witnessed was nearly all done by Cardiff, but it is questionable if the Welshmen would not have done better if they had kept the ball on the ground. There were a few occasions when the ball was handled cleverly, and Johnson made a couple of powerful bursts, but more often than not the movements fizzled out badly.

Dean and Dix had a rare duel at half-back with little in it, but Millington was more resourceful than Davies outside. Indeed, the City vice-captain stood out as one of the best players on the field.

At three-quarter, Lewis and Johnson were the more prominent for Cardiff, but it was not a day for the three-quarters. Wallace, at back, performed admirably for Cardiff, though he was at fault when Gloucester obtained their try early in the game. It was a lucky score, and the same may be said of Cardiff's try towards the close.

Forward. both packs were seen to great advantage, but there was a distinct tendency to over-keenness, and things occurred which did not redound to the credit of such clubs.

Gloucester did fairly well in the scrums, but though accomplishing much good work in the open, they were not so effective on the whole as the Cardiff eight, for whom Cornish, Dalrymple and Thomas were the pick. Gloucester were best represented by Voyce, Roderick, Lawson, and Holford, though there was little to choose between the men.

The City third line got little of the ball as regards attack, but they defended well. Washbourne was seen to advantage in the first half, and Daniell had the pull of Dangerfield both in pace and resource. Hughes and Brown did useful work and made no mistakes.

Kerwood was subjected to a severe test in his first match for Gloucester, but he proved his worth, and gave the best display of a full back for the City this season. He tackled and saved well, and his kicking was highly meritorious. On to-day's form Kerwood should be a permanency.

The conditions for reporting the game were the worst I have experienced at Kingsholm. It was impossible to write at times, and in the second half my note-book was so soaked that I was forced to give up the attempt.

Next week : Gloucester v United Services, at Portsmouth; Gloucester A v. Bream, at Kingsholm.

W.B.

CITY SECONDS DEFEATED AT CARDIFF.

FIELD GOALS DECIDE THE ISSUE.

The City Seconds were at Cardiff to-day, where they sustained their one solitary defeat last season by 15 points to nil.

Rain and wind combined with mud rendered open play impossible. In the forward play the Cardiff Reserves held the superiority, but Collett and Boucher put in fine kicks. The only score in the first half was a fine drop goal by Lindsay for Cardiff when he was surrounded.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Cardiff 1 goal (d)
Gloucester Nil

In the second half, after conceding three minors in quick succession, Gloucester woke up, and the forwards played dashing football, but could not break through the defence. Lindsay added to Cardiff's score with a fine penalty goal.

Gough was the outstanding man on the Gloucester side, tackling fearlessly and continually beating the opposing half-backs.

RESULT :

Cardiff ... 2 goals (1d, 1p) (7 points)
Gloucester Nil