

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1923.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER'S RECORD INTACT.

CARDIFF'S STRENUOUS EFFORTS FAIL.

TERRIFIC GAME ENDS EIGHT POINTS EACH.

Three Welsh teams – Cardiff, Newport and Cross Keys – were engaged on English grounds to-day, and the visit of the famous Welsh metropolitans to Kingsholm aroused all the old-time interest and excitement. Gloucester held a splendid record against the Cardiffians at home, having retained an unbeaten certificate since 1909-10. Of the eight matches played since then the City had won six and drawn two, and scored in the aggregate 71 points to 29.

This season Gloucester were undefeated, and Cardiff, though losing to Bristol by the goal-kick, had some good performances to their credit, including a draw with Newport. The Welshmen placed a powerful side in the field this afternoon, four of the back division (Male, Johnson, Cornish, and Delahay) having been "capped" for Wales. Gloucester were unfortunate in having two players (Stone and Collins) on the injured list, but for the vacant centre position the Club had the services of A. M. David, the old Oxford Blue, who figured in the ranks of the City on several occasions last year. At scrum half, Gough deputised for Collins, and thus resumed the position he held for the Premiers for the greater portion of the previous season.

Cardiff made one change in the team this morning, J. Powell taking the place of G. Rees. The weather was fine and the ground in splendid condition. The attendance numbered about 7,000 at the start.

Teams :

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : R. James.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. Brown, T. Millington (captain), A. M. David, and N. Daniell.

HALF-BACKS : T. Gough and E. Hughes.

FORWARDS : A. Hall, G. Holford, T. Voyce, F. Ayliffe, S. Bayliss, J. Merry, H. W. Collier, and T. Coulson.

CARDIFF.

BACK : B. O. Male.

THREE-QUARTERS : T. Johnson, R. A. Cornish, Daph[sic] Davies, and J. Powell.

HALF-BACKS : W. Delahay and Danny Davies.

FORWARDS : Idris Richards (captain), W. Cornish, J. Grant, J. Prosser, D. G. Davies, F. Stevens, W. J. Ould, and P. Rowlands.

REFEREE : Mr. Gil Evans.

THE GAME.

When the players lined out, Brown and Millington faced Cornish and Powell at three-quarter, David and Daniell being opposed to Daff Davies and Johnson. Cardiff lost the toss, and Richards kicked off against the sun. Holford returned to touch, and the first line-out took place inside the home half. There was a knock-on, and a scrum following, the Welshmen got the ball away nicely. Pretty passing took place, and the result was a cut through by Daff Davies. The Cardiff centre ran hard for the corner, but James got across and with a fine tackle threw his man to touch-in-goal. James was temporarily laid out, but was soon able to recover.

This was an early escape for Gloucester, but immediately after the drop-out the Cardiff backs were away again, but good defence checked on the 25 line. James, with a capital clearance to touch, brought the City well out, and Voyce headed a forward rush to the centre.

From a throw-out from touch the ball was secured by Gough, who punted across and high. Millington came along and took the ball beautifully, and though tackled parted with the ball. DAVID gathered, and with a determined burst beat Male and scored a try near the posts amidst great cheering. Millington added the goal points, and Gloucester were five points up – a good start, for it was the City's first real attack.

Cardiff restarted, and a fine kick by R. Cornish put the Welshmen well down. Wheeling a scrum the visitors rushed 20 yards until checked by Brown. A penalty followed to Cardiff, but Johnson failed in his attempt for goal, and a minute later missed from another shot from a fairly easy position.

Play was confined to the City 25, where Delahay fed Davies with one hand, but the latter missed, and nothing resulted. Gloucester were now awarded a free, but Male returned beautifully to touch, and no ground [was] accrued by the City. The strong wind caused several mistakes on either side in handling, but Gloucester benefited.

Cardiff being again penalised, Millington punted high, but Cornish, who received, beat several City players, finally sending to touch inside the home quarter. Cardiff attacked strongly from this point, and made one or two openings, but failed at the critical moment. Daff Davies made one strong bid for a score but was forced to pass close in and Gough saved.

The Welshmen made a determined rush from the next scrum, and in checking Gough was injured and had to leave the field. Hall came out to scrum half, but Gloucester were hard pressed. Heeling by the City forwards saw some quick exchanges between Hall, Hughes and Millington. Daniell, however, was upset as soon as he received the ball. Gough now came back and immediately the Welsh backs were in motion. Cornish cross-kicked right in front of the posts, where Grant was just baulked of a score.

From the subsequent scrum, however, Cardiff crossed with a very simple try. The ball came out to DELAHAY, who feinted to swing out a pass, and quietly trotted over the line and behind the posts. Male kicked a goal, and the sides were level.

On the resumption play was fast and keen, but lacking in brilliance. A good rush by the City forwards carried them some distance, but Cardiff beat them back with strong footwork. The ball was kicked past James, but Brown raced back and saved. Matters looked dangerous for the home team, but the forwards brought relief, and later David got in a useful kick.

Cardiff, however, were getting the ball back well, and clever passing placed Johnson in possession. The International was quickly upset, but Cardiff made tracks for the home line with a loose rush. Cardiff were controlling the ball in the scrums, but Delahay's trickiness in putting it in had a lot to do with their success. The Cardiffian was several times penalised, and with the resultant kicks Gloucester kept play at the centre.

From a line-out Cardiff broke away in irresistible style, but a clever pick up and kick to touch by Millington checked effectively. So far the Gloucester backs had seldom handled, but Cardiff were repeatedly in possession. The passing was good up to a point, but broke down with possible openings in view. Just before the interval the Welshmen made a hot attack, but Johnson was beaten by Brown in the race for possession.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
GLOUCESTER 1 goal
CARDIFF 1 goal

The first half had shown Cardiff decidedly the better team, and Gloucester were lucky in being on level terms. The City backs had done practically nothing in attack, due to the ineffectiveness of the forwards to get the ball back. On the resumption Cardiff early gained territorial advantage, but Gloucester stuck to their opponents well. A free to the visitors saw James reply well, and then the City forwards, led by Holford, rushed away in grand style.

Some 50 yards were covered and the ball taken to Male before the movement was checked. Cardiff worked back with a sharp burst and useful kicks, and exciting play followed in the home half. Again the Gloucester front distinguished themselves in the loose, Daff Davies being lucky to get the ball back to Male to kick to touch.

Continuing their determined work the City carried another scrum and dashed away to their opponents' line. It looked promising for a score, but something happened almost on the mark and Cardiff were awarded a free.

Back Gloucester came immediately after, and desperately exciting play followed ten yards from the Cardiff line. The Welshmen cleared a little, but for an infringement they were penalised. Millington had a shot for goal, but sent wide and a visitor made his mark.

Just now Gloucester were all over their opponents, and Cardiff's defences were assailed again and again. The defence was stubborn and held out for a time. The City, however, were not to be denied and the forwards renewing their efforts carried the line, en masse, and HALL, picking up, plunged over with a try, amidst terrific cheering. Millington's shot for goal was a failure, but Gloucester had gained a three points' lead.

Cardiff restarted with a big kick, which Voyce replied to. Later Millington made a good mark under difficulties, and then ensued a strenuous struggle forward, in which a good deal of unnecessary kicking of men on the ground took place. Gloucester made a strong movement with loose rushing, but Cardiff replied similarly, and the contest waged hot and strong. James defended and cleared splendidly at times, but Gloucester were forced on their quarter line. Delahay sending out a reverse pass, Cornish took a drop at goal, which had every appearance of being successful. The Gloucester stopped whilst DAFF DAVIES followed the ball over the line and touched down[*sic*]. A try was awarded, and thus for the second time in the match Cardiff had a gift score. No goal resulted and honours were again even.

Following the restart the Gloucester backs brought off one of the best bits of combined work. Gough, Hughes, Millington and David handled perfectly, and the latter dashing ahead passed Male, but was collared from behind. Millington gathered and punted to the line, where Cardiff just managed to save.

Gloucester tried hard after this to get the lead again, but found the defence too good. Then Cardiff rushed to the other end, where some close and deadly tackling was witnessed. Male, making a drop for goal, was charged down. Bayliss gathered and got away in fine style. He handed to Ayliffe, who made further ground, and then passed out wide to Holford. The latter in turn served Voyce, but a fine movement ended level.

Gloucester maintained their advantage for a few minutes, but a free against the City saw Johnson gain a nice slice of ground with a punt to touch. Millington responded finely for Gloucester, finding touch 40 yards up the field to the Cardiff 25. With this kick the whistle sounded "No side," and a vigorous game ended in a draw,.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal 1 try (8 pts.)
CARDIFF 1 goal 1 try (8 pts.)

REMARKS.

A strenuous game, full of exciting incidents, yet the football was too keen to allow of much in the way of brilliance. A draw was a fair indication of the run of the play, for if Cardiff were clearly on top in the first half, the City held the advantage on the change over, thanks to the great efforts of the forward division.

Once again the Gloucester eight took a long time to settle down, but when Holford managed to get his men in the right mood there was no holding them. On several occasions the City forwards broke away with almost irresistible rushes, and only a great defence such as was possessed by Cardiff could have held out successfully.

It was rousing football between the rival packs, and at times some of the players were inclined to get out of hand. One bad feature was the kicking of players on the ground by the Cardiff men, one such instance taking place right in front of the Press seats with David the unfortunate victim.

Cardiff for the most part were distinctly superior in heeling, but Delahay assisted not a little by the manner in which he put the ball in at the feet of his forwards. He incurred a number of penalties in consequence, but fortunately for Cardiff Millington was not in form to-day with his goal kicking.

In out of touch play the Cardiff players, too, were the more effective until the second half, when the Gloucester forwards came into their own. The form of the home men all round after the change of ends was a revelation, and they lasted finely to the end.

Some splendid work was accomplished in the open, and the loose rushing was carried through with a determination that spelt danger every time. Holford was generally the leader in these onward movements, and the old International played his most effective game of the season. He received wholehearted support from the other members of the pack, of whom Hall, Ayliffe, Voyce, and Coulson came particularly under notice.

Cardiff had a hefty pack, and they worked tremendously hard all through. They gave the City a worrying time in the early stages, and plied their backs with the ball to some purpose. They were very fast in the open, skilful with their feet, and tackled unerringly.

That Gloucester were able to hold them and in turn assume superiority was a tribute to the City men's fitness and resolution. Richards, Grant, Prosser and W. Cornish were a dangerous quartette in all phases of play, but the whole pack more than sustained their reputation.

Behind the scrums the Cardiff backs were the more distinguished, and yet individuals failed badly when it came to scoring. At half Delahay was very smart in getting the ball away, and the way he bluffed the City players when he scored was simplicity itself. Just a half-feint to pass and the Gloucester men were put off their vigilance, and looked on whilst the Welshman practically walked over the line and behind the posts! Simple and easy when you saw how it was done!

And Cardiff's second try! Even more of a gift. Cornish dropped for goal, and there was a loud shout from spectators behind the posts, which gave the impression that the ball had gone between. Whether this shouting misled the Gloucester players I cannot say, but no one went for the ball as it dropped except Daff Davies, the Cardiff centre. He followed up, got possession, and touched down, and a try was awarded. Thus twice in the afternoon the City team were caught napping. The moral is obvious.

The Cardiff three-quarters accomplished a lot of clever combination, but finish was lacking, and there were times when the men kicked instead of going through. Cornish and Daff Davies got in some tricky runs, and the former kicked nicely, but neither of the wings were given a lot to do. With the chances they had the Welshmen should have established a winning lead before the interval. I can imagine what Gwyn Nicholls, Gabe and Company would have done with similar opportunities.

The Gloucester backs were only occasionally employed in attack, and did not make a great impression with what they attempted. Gough worked hard against a smart opponent, and did quite as well as expected. Hughes was best in defence, and the same may be said of the men in the rear. David made full use of the chance that came his way when he opened the scoring, and once in the second half he went through the defence beautifully, only to be tackled from behind after clearing Male. The Old Oxonian's marking was very effective, and in this particular department his services were extremely valuable. Millington did well with the few chances he had, and the wing men, limited in opportunities to a large extent, made a fair show.

James was tested often and severely to-day, but the City custodian came through the ordeal successfully, and compared favourably with Male, both in fielding, kicking and saving.

Next week : Gloucestershire v. Devon, at Torquay (County Championship); Gloucester v. Clifton, at Kingsholm.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A.

VISITORS FIVE POINTS DOWN.

Played at Cardiff. Dr. Wallace, Cardiff's last year's custodian, turned out at left centre for the Reserves. Cardiff did all the early attacking, and on two occasions Alf Davies, the inside half, crossed, but was recalled each time for off-side. Wallace just failed with a penalty from 35 yards. Rayer scored a try between the posts after Manns had misfielded.

HALF-TIME :

Cardiff A 1 goal
Gloucester A Nil

In the second half Cardiff re-opened strongly, but a great dribble by Mansell took play to the home line, where loose passing was indulged in. Later from a line-out Ions scored a try for Cardiff. In the last minute Gloucester returned to the attack, and Carter dived over from a line-out near the Cardiff line.

RESULT :

Cardiff A..... 1 goal 1 try (8 points)
Gloucester A 1 try (3 points)