

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1912

FOOTBALL.

RUGBY.

GLOUCESTER v. LLANELLY.

FAMOUS SCARLETS AT KINGSHOLM.

CITY'S FIRST SERIOUS TEST.

WELSHMAN BEATEN BY EIGHT POINTS.

(By W.B.)

Gloucester were engaged in their first serious test of the season to-day, Llanelly providing the opposition at Kingsholm.

Meetings between the sides have generally produced exciting football, and the City, though only claiming one victory against the Scarlets in Wales, have a good list of triumphs to their credit at home. Since the days of Cliff Bowen, Owen Badger, Evan Lloyd, Ben Davies, Dai Morgan, and other brilliant stars, Llanelly have lost a good deal of their prowess, but the Welshmen can still field a useful side, and to-day's fifteen included several youngsters of promise.

Gloucester were unfortunate in not being able to command full strength to meet their opponents from the Principality, for in addition to C. Cook (who, however, hopes to be fit by next week), G. Holford, G. Vears, and W. Johns were all unable to play. The vice-captain is still nursing his bad knee, Vears has developed an abscess in the jaw, and Johns is suffering with an injured arm. The absence of such a trio of experienced players weakened the pack seriously, though Griffiths, Mumford, and Millard were useful substitutes.

Llanelly also had two changes – E. Thomas (centre) and H. Hiams (forward) for Davies and Stagg. The weather was brilliantly fine, though a tricky wind was in evidence at periods.

There was a good crowd present when the teams lined out as follows:–

GLOUCESTER.	POSITIONS.	LLANELLY.
F. W. Hayward	Backs.	F. Rees
A. Hudson (capt.)	Three-Quarter	W. Watts
L. Hamblin	Backs	D. Thomas
A. Lewis	"	E. Thomas
W. Washbourne	"	S. Rees
W. Dix	Half-Backs	D. Lloyd
W. Hall	"	L. Bennett
C. Mumford	Forwards	H. Hiams
S. Millard	"	A. J. Stacey
H. Berry	"	D. M. Job
F. Pegler	"	S. Phillips
S. Smart	"	G. Evans
N. Hayes	"	J. Morgans
J. Meadows	"	R. Williams
G. Griffiths	"	A. Howells

Referee : Mr. J. H. Miles.

#### THE GAME.

Gloucester lost the toss, and the City team had to face a strong sun. Llanelly's kick-off was well returned by Dix to touch, but from the ensuing line-out a scrum followed. Lloyd was first away, and with a tricky punt sent to touch on the home 25. Dix and Hall brought relief, and later Hall, with a nicely-judged kick, took play beyond the centre.

Opening out, the City half-backs started a nice bout of passing, but Washbourne could not break through and was well tackled. Llanelly changed the venue with a useful kick, but Lewis, fielding, ran round and passed, but his transfer was knocked on by an opponent. Gloucester again got the ball out, and Hall punted on, but F. Rees made a clever save in the teeth of opposition.

Even play followed until Dix found touch with a clever kick under difficulties in the Welshmen's 25. Here the Gloucester forwards put their backs down and rushed well, but Watts and F. Rees staved off disaster. The City, however, persevered, and an other rush took the ball over the line, but only a minor resulted.

On the drop-out centre play was witnessed till Hall, from a clever pass by Dix, attempted a dash through, but he was brought down. Off-side by Hall gave Llanelly a penalty, but Rees' kick was splendidly returned by Dix, who again got the ball over the touch-line.

Gloucester confined play to their opponents' half for a short time, but Llanelly eventually cleared with a high punt, from which Hayward made a good mark. The ensuing kick gained some 20 yards, but the Welshmen worked back to the centre. Here Gloucester tried passing, but Lewis failed to take from Hamblin, and a visitor picking up sent to Hayward, who made a good save.

Hall was prominent with a brilliant dash through, being unlucky in not clearing, and then Hudson with a big punt sent to the middle of the field, Rees just saving in the nick of time. Next came a clever bit of work by Llanelly. E. Thomas, giving Lewis and Washbourne the "dummy," came through well and punted across, but Hudson and Hayward relieved the situation.

Play was fast and keen in the City half, where a forward gathered and passed to Hamblin, who kicked ahead. Lewis raced hard and robbed Rees, but another visitor got back and tuned the ball to touch.

Gloucester went very close after this, but the Welshmen were very nippy and eased the pressure with useful kicks to touch. Dix came under notice with a neat bit of intercepting, but he passed forward with a possible chance.

Losing the ball in a scrum near the line, the City forwards allowed their opponents to come away, but Hudson checked. Gloucester rushed back, Meadows and Hayes being to the fore, and Llanelly were again pressed.

It was a terribly keen fight forward, and there was not much in it. A visitor was warned for a rough tackle on Hudson, and after this incident there was some bright back play by the Welshmen. A pass back by Hudson was taken by a visitor, who cross-kicked, but with a lovely opening the ball was knocked on.

The Welshmen were having the better of the exchanges just now, and there was a determined attack on the left wing, but it brought no result.

Then Pegler came through beautifully with the ball at his feet, and kicked down the field. Washbourne ran hard, but five yards outside he and an opponent came together – it looked very much like a foul on the part of the Llanelly man – and the ball went astray. The Welshmen cleared from a dangerous position, but from a penalty Hayward had a shot for goal, a splendid kick failing, although the direction was a fine one.

Some weak fielding by the City backs was recovered by Hamblin in good style, and Gloucester subsequently made a spirited attack. Off-side, however, spoiled it, Llanelly getting a free right on their line. The kick brought the necessary relief, and then followed a spell of even play until half-time was reached.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... Nil  
Llanelly ..... Nil

Gloucester restarted, and both teams commenced in earnest. The Llanelly backs, who were kicking with good judgment, gained an advantage for their side, but the Gloucester forwards, with determined loose work, regained the ground. The Welsh saving, however, was clean and safe, and the City could not gain an opening.

Faulty handling by the home backs led to ground being lost, and for some infringement Llanelly were awarded a penalty. F. Rees took a shot for goal on the centre line, but his kick was short, and Hamblin punted out.

Griffiths and Meadows were conspicuous in an onward movement by the City forwards, D. Thomas saving very cleverly under pressure. Hall was overpowered in trying a break-through, and Dix getting a kick charged down things looked bad for the City. The situation, however, was saved, and Gloucester got out of danger. Back Llanelly came in quick time, and but for a forward pass close in the City lines must have fallen.

Hall, with a great burst, started Gloucester away, but the subsequent pass went astray, and Llanelly easily checked. Another passing movement a little later broke down, and then from a free Llanelly forced a minor. The Welshmen worked hard to get a score, but they were held splendidly. The City responded with a terrific burst, Hayes and Smart going clear and getting past F. Rees. There was a race, but Smart's final kick sent the ball over the dead-ball line, and only a minor resulted – hard lines !

On the drop-out Llanelly paid a visit to the home end, but Hayward was [word unreadable] and kicked well. The City forwards [word unreadable] in a loose scrum, but later Millard picked up and brought off a strong run and pass. Hayes continued the movement with his feet, and Washbourne joining in the visitors were beaten for pace, and the latter scored a good try. Hamblin's kick at goal struck the cross-bar and the ball rebounded into the field of play.

Llanelly restarted, and Hayward knocking on in taking the ball the visitors gained a footing in the home half. Gloucester showed up with some smart passing, but Hudson was just upset when nearly through. Hall twice came to the rescue with good kicks, but Llanelly returned, a long kick down being fumbled by Hudson near the line.

It was an anxious time for the City, but there was a grand sequel. Hall cleverly dribbled away from a scrum and kicked the ball hard past Rees. An exciting time followed. Hamblin came along and gathered, and with an opening raced hard for the line. Being pressed, he yielded at the right moment to Lewis, who sprinted round and behind the posts amidst great cheering. Hamblin added the goal points.

Llanelly restarted, but Gloucester, with their eight points' lead, were playing a winning game. Smart work by Hall and Hudson took the City well down, the captain being pushed to touch when going very strongly. Llanelly changed the venue with a long kick, and another penalty falling to their lot Rees had a drop for goal. The ball, however, was short, and Hudson punted out in good style.

Next Llanelly indulged in some sharp exchanges, but Washbourne floored S. Rees before he could travel far. Exchange kicking ended favourably to Llanelly, who got very close. Gloucester, however, were safe in defence, and their lines remained intact. A determined attack by the Llanelly left wing was nipped in the bud by Washbourne, and with a fruitless drop at goal the end came.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)  
Llanelly ..... Nil

#### REMARKS.

If the game lacked particular brilliance as regards back play, it was keen and vigorous enough in all conscience, and full of incident. True to their conditions, Llanelly proved a side of sterling worth, and Gloucester were tested to the full in gaining winning points.

In actual play the Welshmen had quite their full share, and more than once they were a trifle unlucky in not gaining the coveted try. Gloucester, too, had rough luck in more than one instance, and in this particular it was a case of "honours easy."

With the City pack short of such tried players as Johns, Vears, and Halford – men whose knowledge of Welsh tactics means much to a side – I was doubtful as to the outcome of the struggle forward to-day, but there was not much to grumble at taking all things into consideration. Llanelly were nippier and faster on the ball, and were better together in the scrums, but the home eight made up for any weakness in those phases of the game by their superb work in the loose.

Hayes again stood out prominently, his dashes and footwork being of the best, whilst he tackled with a deadliness that was most effective. He had splendid supporters in Smart, Millard, Pegler, and Meadows. Millard fully justified his place, and he should in future be high up in the reserve list for the premier ranks. He has weight and dash, and only wants the necessary finishing off – which is bound to come with more experience in first-class football – to develop into a fine forward.

There were times when the City front appeared badly in need of a leader, a slackness noticeable being slowness in getting back when a half or three-quarter was tackled. However, one must not be too critical under the conditions prevailing. The men, to their credit, took a severe gruelling well, and if they were beaten in some departments it was certainly not for the want of trying.

Outside the scrum the contest was equally keen. The Gloucester backs, in the first half especially, had plenty of the ball, but the close marking and sure tackling of the visitors did not allow of many openings. On the hard ground the ball proved "lively," and mistakes in handling on both sides were fairly numerous. Dix had a smart scrum worker opposed to him in Lloyd, but the Gloucester man fed Hall nicely, was conspicuous with some neat footwork, and all-round gave a neat display.

Hall was keenly marked, but the City outside half nevertheless accomplished much that was of real class, and his effort from the Gloucester goal-line, which led to the second try, stood out as one of the finest incidents of the game.

The Gloucester three-quarters were not up to concert pitch in combination, but one must bear in mind they were up against an exceedingly smart line – players who know the game and do not give much away. The tackling of the visitors was of the low and sure order, and with every man on the alert it was too risky to take liberties in throwing the ball about.

Lewis, I thought, was superior to Hamblin on the day's play, his clever relief kicking and good judgment being prominent features. Washbourne did some effective tackling in the second half, when things were going none too well for the City, and he showed commendable enterprise when he got across and scored the first try.

Hudson's chances in attack were few, but he was good in defence. There was a lot of kicking indulged in by both sets of backs, and for the most part it was always well done. For Llanelly, who occasionally passed prettily, E. Thomas and Rees proved the stronger wing, though D. Thomas and Watts made no mistakes.

Both teams were well served at full-back. Hayward proved his ability as a safe and sound custodian in no uncertain manner. His kicking was clean and well-judged, and I only saw one mistake in fielding. Fred Rees had far more closer defensive work to do than the Gloucesterian, and he effected some wonderful clearances in the first half. The ex-Swansea player should prove a valuable help to the Scarlets.

Scorers for Gloucester : W. Washbourne and A. Lewis, tries. L. Hamblin converted one.

Next week : Cinderford, at Kingsholm.



GLOUCESTER A v. BLAKENEY.

At Blakeney.

Gloucester A ... 3 goals 4 tries (27 points)  
Blakeney ..... Nil

JC