

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1912

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. CARDIFF.

CITIZENS UNLUCKY TO LOSE.

Gloucester's injured list was added to this week by the disablement of W. Johns and F. Webb at Devonport, whilst Sysum and Bowen (of the Reserves) were also crocked. The greatest difficulty was therefore experienced in fixing up the team to meet Cardiff on the Arms Park. Fortunately G. Holford was able to make a start, and A. Saunders (the old Lydney forward), and Pegler completed the pack. The vacancy at three-quarter was filled by A. Robbins, formerly of Cinderford and Bream, who has not played for three weeks. Cardiff had some changes, Spencer coming in for Williams at back, Bowen, the ex-Abertillery man, appearing in the three-quarter line, and Morrish displacing Lewis at half.

GLOUCESTER.	POSITIONS.	CARDIFF.
C. Cook	Backs.	F. Spencer
W. Washbourne	Three-Quarter	W. Spiller
A. Lewis	Backs	Tom Evans
L. Hamblin	"	G. Heslop
A. Robbins	"	W. Bowen
W. Dix	Half-Backs	W. Morrish
W. Hall	"	J. Rogers
G. Vears	Forwards	E. Mithan
G. Holford	"	J. Daley
N. Hayes	"	A. Baker
S. Smart	"	M. Griffiths
A. Saunders	"	J. Birch
E. Millard	"	J. S. Michael
W. Dovey	"	F. Gaccon
F. Pegler	"	W. S. Goff

Referee : Mr. R. Pollock.

THE GAME.

Wretched weather prevailed, rain falling heavily all the morning, and the attendance consequently was small, the huge stands being comparatively empty. Gloucester started, and from the kick-off the Cardiff backs started passing, but the movement was checked. The City kicked down, but the Welshmen continued to get the ball, and there was some clever handling, but Evans slipped in trying to dash through.

Cardiff maintained the advantage, but the Gloucester forwards at length broke away and tackled Spencer in possession. Cardiff retaliated with a spirited burst, which was checked by Lewis, and then Hall put the City down with a clever touch-finder. Rain was falling in torrents now, and footholds for the players was very difficult.

Dix was prominent with some tricky play at the centre, but Spiller gathered, and Bowen made a good run until pulled down by Cook. Two penalties fell to Cardiff after this, and Rogers nearly dropped a goal on one occasion. Following the drop-out Gloucester came right away with a brilliant dribble, and matters looked dangerous until Spiller got back and saved. Gloucester attacked strongly and, Hall feinting, Lewis and Washbourne made headway, the latter being pushed to touch outside.

Cardiff relieved, but Gloucester returned with dashing footwork, and the home team were pressed. Cardiff cleared luckily with a flying kick, and the Gloucester backs failing to gather they dribbled right down to the City goal. A penalty brought relief and centre play followed. Here Cardiff opened out, but Spiller was grandly tackled by Robbins.

The home team forced a minor after this, and subsequent play was even. Robbins was prominent with a tricky kick under difficulties, which placed Gloucester beyond the centre, and Cook maintained the position with a nice touch kick from a penalty. The ground was churned up like a quagmire now, and the game was confined to the forwards.

Dix eventually fed Hall, and Hamblin broke through beautifully, but succumbed to a tackle from behind. Cardiff gradually worked out, Bowen showing up with a smart effort. Then Heslop attempted a drop at goal, but sent wide. The Welshmen attacked resolutely afterwards, and the Gloucester line was in dire danger. Close in Dix was penalised, but Rogers missed the shot at goal. Gloucester showed up with some strong work in succeeding play, the forwards playing well and the backs tackling closely. Spiller once attempted to break through, but Hamblin smothered him and the ball, and nothing resulted.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester Nil
Cardiff Nil

Cardiff restarted, and from the first line-out Millard started a rush which was then taken up by Washbourne. The Cardiff backs were beaten and the ball taken over the line, but the City men were beaten for the touch – a very near thing for a try. Spiller and Heslop, by neat play, put Cardiff beyond the centre on the drop-out, and later a big forward burst took the home team right on the line. Lewis cleared pluckily, but from the next scrum Dix was penalised, and from the easy position Rogers landed a goal.

On the restart the Cardiff backs twice handled very smartly, but the final transfer was missed. Gloucester responded gamely, the forwards working well together. Birch took play back with a single-handed dribble, and the City were placed on the defensive. Spiller tried an attack on the right, but it failed. Success, however, attended the next movement, for Evans burst through from a pass by Rogers, and though tackled by Hall was credited with a try. The place-kick failed.

Nettled by these reverses, the City showed dashing form in the loose, but the Cardiff backs recovered. Taking advantage of fumbling by Spiller, Hamblin and Lewis made headway, but Spencer checked by punting to touch. Gloucester lost their position. Subsequently loose footwork carrying them close to the line.[sic] The defence, however, held out.

Magnificent work by the City front completely changed the venue, and there was a possible chance, but the ball was over-run. For a few minutes Gloucester attacked hotly, but Cardiff defended stoutly. Failure to field the greasy ball allowed the Cardiffians to get out of danger.

Following a passing bout, Brown cross-kicked in front of goal, but Pegler got back and saved cleverly, though at the expense of being knocked out, and forced to retire. Gloucester resumed with seven forwards, and the City were hard pressed. For "legs up" Gloucester were penalised in front of the posts, but this time Rogers missed the goal-kick.

With the odds against them Gloucester struggled manfully. Spiller and Heslop were stopped well in quick succession. Then the City gained much-needed relief by the aid of a penalty. Lewis had hard lines in knocking on when going through, and Hamblin slipped a little later when dribbling cleverly.

In the last minutes Gloucester played up wonderfully, and the Cardiff line twice had a narrow escape. Vears and Dix got round a scrum and picked up, and though partly on the stumble the latter took a left-foot kick and dropped a splendid goal.

Cardiff re-started, but immediately after the end came.

RESULT :

Cardiff 1 goal (p) 1 try (6 points)
Gloucester 1 goal (d) (4 points)

REMARKS.

Gloucester did splendidly to-day, and were unlucky in being beaten. Cardiff's try was certainly a doubtful point, for Evans apparently did not ground the ball at all. However, the referee ruled in favour of Cardiff, and Gloucester had to accept. Considering the treacherous ground it was a well-contested game, and there were many bright incidents.

Cardiff controlled the ball in the scrum better than the City, but the visitors were magnificent in the loose, and their dashing bursts earned frequent applause. Halford led his men finely, and the whole front put their backs into the work in a style that was reminiscent of the City at their best.

Outside the advantage as regards attack rested with the Welshmen, but the visitors were great in defence, the marking of Spiller being very close. Robbins did all that was required of him, and the other players in the third line shone at intervals.

Dix and Hall got through a lot of sound work, and the former's drop goal was one of the cleverest efforts imaginable. Cook was safe at back.

Cardiff were best served by Rogers, Evans, and Bowen behind.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A.

A POINTLESS DRAW.

These old rivals met at Kingsholm on Saturday in miserably wet weather before a mere handful of spectators. The Seconds, owing to the calls of the premier team, and also owing to injuries, had many changes.

The teams were : –

Gloucester A. – F. W. Hayward; F. Bloxsome, H. C. Barnes, E. Bowen, R. Ellis; W. Hughes, W. Wilks; C. Mumford, W. Rudman, C. Merchant, G. Griffiths, F. Yates, A. Cook, W. Parham, A. Russell.

Cardiff A. – S. R. Jackson; Lieut. Gransmore, R. D. Jones, Ivor James, F. J. Rogers; D. J. Evans, G. K. Davies; R. H. Gunn (capt.), W. H. Thomas, D. Callan, C. M. Newberry, T. Whitney, P. Gottwaltz, E. D. Thomas, A. Titt.

Referee : Mr. J. Such (Cheltenham).

From the kick-off a scrum was called at the centre, and Cardiff, thanks to a nice opening made by Davies, at once tried passing. A palpable knock-on went unnoticed by the referee, and Hayward was called upon. He saved all right, and a clever break away by Hughes took Gloucester well into the Cardiff quarter. A penalty to Cardiff went over the dead ball line.

Gloucester had the best of the succeeding exchanges, and forced Cardiff back into their own 25, where Wilks was prominent with a clever touch-finder. A Cardiff three-quarter punted clear, but all his forwards were off-side, and were fetched back with a clear run in before them.

Rogers put in some useful touch-kicking, and Jackson saved well, but neither side could get far from the centre. Hayward put in a good run and punt to touch, and a moment later saved well under difficulties, but Cardiff worked down and were in an attacking position. Gloucester, however, worked out of danger, and carried the game to the other end, Hayward showing up well with a clever save right at the opposing forwards' feet.

Gloucester kept up the pressure, but when they got the ball out they were not allowed to make much headway. They had hard luck in losing Bloxsome, who had to be carried off with an injured ankle, Cook coming out of the scrum. Ground and ball were both very slippery, and neither side could gain much advantage.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A Nil
Cardiff A Nil

A bad mull at the start let Cardiff well up into the Gloucester 25, but Hayward and Mumford put in some good work, the former especially using the touch-line well, and Gloucester pressed, Hughes being very nearly over. Cardiff cleared, and the ball got among the three-quarters, but a knock-on spoilt what looked like a certain try.

Rogers made a desperate dash for the line, but Bowen floored him splendidly just outside. The 'Cestrians then went away with tremendous dash and carried the ball with them, upsetting the Cardiffians altogether by the fire and energy of their play. It was an exciting few minutes, and capital play to watch. Gloucester pressed, but a clever move by Jones and Gransmore looked promising for the visitors. The recipient of the inside pass, however, was upset and danger averted.

In spite of being one short, the 'Cestrians were playing up splendidly, and were having more than their share of the ball. Several times, however, the passing went wrong, the greasy nature of the ball no doubt having a lot to do with this. Give and take play followed to the end, but there was no score.

RESULT :

Gloucester A	Nil
Cardiff A	Nil

REMARKS.

The game was contested under wretched weather conditions, and naturally there were many mistakes in handling, but apart from this Gloucester A are to be heartily congratulated on putting up a splendid fight against odds. For apart from the fact that the injury to Bloxsome deprived them of the services of a good man, there is always a shock to the morale of the team when the captain goes.

The forwards played a rattling game in spite of being only seven to eight, and the match also went to serve the useful purpose of proving that in Hughes and Wilkes at half, and Bowen at three-quarter, the Club have three very useful recruits, who lead one to believe that they will be of sterling service in the future. The day was anything but an ideal one on which to expect exact football, but the lads triumphed over difficulties very cleverly, and altogether pleased the crowd.