

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1912

FOOTBALL.

RUGBY.

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD.

FORESTERS BEATEN IN A STRENUOUS GAME.

THREE GLOUCESTER PLAYERS INJURED.

(By W. B.)

The Forest champions again figure on the Gloucester card for four engagements, the first of which was decided at Kingsholm to-day.

Since last season the Cinderford team has undergone material alteration, for in addition to losing Baker to Cheltenham, Robbins, A. Hall, and Meek have all dropped out of the ranks.

The Foresters have found it a difficult matter to replace these players – all county men – and the side on paper is therefore not so powerful as usual. Cinderford, however, always put up a good fight at Kingsholm whatever their strength, and last Mop Monday, with a very scratch fifteen, they beat the City by 10 points to 8.

There was a further change in the Cinderford team, Rhodes dropping out, thus still further weakening the side.

Gloucester had Vears and Halford absent, and W. Hall was indisposed, but consented to play.

The teams lined out ten minutes late as follows :—

| GLOUCESTER.       | POSITIONS.    | CINDERFORD.        |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| C. Cook           | Backs.        | J. Hall            |
| A. Hudson (capt.) | Three-Quarter | J. Powell          |
| L. Hamblin        | Backs         | G. Ellaway         |
| A. Lewis          | "             | Frank Niblett      |
| W. Washbourne     | "             | G. Bevan           |
| W. Dix            | Half-Backs    | T. Young           |
| W. Hall           | "             | B. Prosser         |
| W. Johns          | Forwards      | G. Bowkett (capt.) |
| J. Harris         | "             | A. Redding         |
| N. Hayes          | "             | J. Watkins         |
| J. Meadows        | "             | J. Hyndman         |
| F. Pegler         | "             | F. Russell         |
| S. Smart          | "             | C. Merry           |
| S. Millard        | "             | E. Kilby           |
| H. Berry          | "             | A. Hewlett         |

Referee : Mr. J. Ford (Bristol).

#### THE GAME.

Bowkett started for Cinderford in the presence of a good crowd, there being a strong contingent of Foresters present. Opening play was fought out at the centre until Bowkett, gathering in a line-out, punted hard, the ball striking an opponent and rebounding into the arms of Powell, who kicked high to Cook. The latter fumbled, and Cinderford pressed hard, Hudson being forced over his line. He wrenched himself free and punted out, gaining a good clearance.

The City forwards, with a great rush, got beyond midfield, Bowkett saving in splendid fashion. Some open kicking saw Hamblin pick up, but he threw forward to Washbourne. Then Dix opened out, and Hall and Hamblin handled. The latter passed to Hudson who got off well. He beat J. Hall, but was pulled down from behind. A penalty gained relief for Cinderford, but it was only momentary, Hamblin and Lewis putting in a fine attack, which just failed.

Gloucester continued on the aggressive, and following a fine movement cleverly originated by Dix, and in which Hall and Hamblin shared, Hudson dashed over in the corner for the first try. Hamblin missed the goal-kick.

Cinderford dropped out, but play was confined to their half. The City backs again shone in a fine passing movement, and Hamblin was nearly through on the left. Then Hudson tried a long cross-kick, but the ball went to touch inside the 25. Cinderford eventually cleared by useful kicking, and some faulty handling lost ground. The Foresters further improved, Cook being collared close [1 or 2 words unreadable] and causing his side to be pressed. Gloucester quickly eased the pressure, Smart and [1 or 2 words unreadable] and Johns shining. J. Hall, however, cleared effectively.

Hayes next led a good dribble, and the ball coming nicely to him on the run he made a determined effort to score, but fell a victim to a good tackle by J. Hall. Harris had been off the field for a few minutes with an injured leg, but with one man short the home team did all the attacking. Washbourne, after clever work by Lewis, only missed scoring by inches.

Then came a beautiful bit of work by Hall, who missed Lewis and sent to Hamblin. The latter raced hard, and feinting to pass, slipped through and over the line with a very pretty try. Hamblin missed the goal-kick.

Cinderford dropped out, and the Foresters gradually made headway. Watkins, with a dashing effort, led a sharp attack on the home line, but Dix changed the venue with good work. A kick down to J. Hall was returned to W. Hall, who cross-kicked, but Niblett fielded and ran down. Hudson, however, charged the Cinderfordian and prevented him passing. Niblett felt the effects of coming into contact with the City captain, and there was a brief stoppage whilst he recovered. Harris had been assisted off the field by ambulance men, and Gloucester continued with seven forwards.

There was a grand break-away by the City front, ending in one of the men fielding and passing to Hayes. The latter looked like going in under the posts, but he passed, and the ball went astray – a lucky escape for Cinderford, for the defence was well beaten. The Foresters cleared by the aid of a penalty, but Gloucester came back, and Dix picking up in the loose, worked out a lovely opening, and sent Berry over with a try. The place-kick was a failure.

Resuming, Cinderford failed to get out of their half, the Gloucester forwards going very close with dangerous footwork. Then Dix opened out, and Hall, with a clever bit of work punted and sent the ball over the line, being just beaten in the touch.

On the drop-out there was some fast work at midfield, in which the Gloucester backs showed up well, though good tackling prevented the desired opening. By dint of hard, close forward work Cinderford worked to the City 25, where Dix broke away in clever fashion. A timely pass to Hudson sent the captain away, and punting over J. Hall's head, the ball went over the line. Hudson and Hamblin were well up, but Niblett got back and kicked dead. Half-time was then called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester ..... 3 tries

Cinderford ..... Nil

Johns re-started, Harris still being absent, whilst Hudson and Washbourne were both limping badly. Gloucester at once gained a footing in their opponents' half, but a strong rush by the forwards took play to the other end, where Hamblin was knocked out in saving. He was able to resume, but walked lame.

Cinderford, working with great determination, kept Gloucester strictly on the defensive, and eventually their efforts were rewarded, Watkins scoring under the posts, and Bowkett adding the goal points.

Johns restarted, and play was keener than ever. From a cross-kick by Berry, Gloucester had an opening on the right, but there was no City man there, and the Foresters cleared.

The Cinderford forwards shone in a dashing open movement, which was checked, but the Gloucester seven were overwhelmed in subsequent play. Wheeling with great effect, the visitors were off in another dangerous burst until stopped by W. Hall. The struggle grew with intensity as the game progressed, and the tackling was exceptionally keen.

For off-side, by Niblett, Gloucester were awarded a penalty, Cook finding touch with a nice kick. Just now the players appeared to have got out of hand, and feeling ran very high. Once there was half a dozen players mixed up together on the ground whilst the game proceeded, and then there was a stoppage for something on the far side of the ground.

When the game was resumed Cinderford attacked hotly by forward play, the home players being out of it clean. W. Hall was instrumental in gaining 20 yards with a kick to touch, but still play was in Cinderford's favour. At length Hayes broke away, [1 or 2 words unreadable] but Hamblin dropped the ball. Immediately after Prosser, with a good kick, found touch back in the Gloucester 25.

The Foresters now opened out, but there was a faulty transfer with a possible chance. Gloucester responded with neat exchanges, but Hudson this time missed. Gloucester were now getting the ball better, and Hamblin, from a pass by Hall, cut through smartly. He, however, was tackled from behind. The ball, however, got loose, and Millard snapping it up ran and transferred to Lewis, who raced down the line in fine style and scored a fine try. Hamblin missed the goal, though the shot was well directed.

Washbourn went off the field with this try recorded, and Pegler was brought out of the scrum, reducing the pack to six. By the aid of a penalty Cinderford reached the home 25, but Dix relieved with a nice dribble. The forwards over-ran the ball, and Niblett picking up ran back but passed forward.

At this juncture there was excitement amongst the spectators on the sixpenny side, a couple of men having a good set to until stopped by a policeman.

Two penalties helped Gloucester to maintain a fair position in their half, as the fight forward was uneven with six against eight. Still, Gloucester got the ball back several times, but it was useless getting it to Hudson's wing, for the captain was crippled.

W. Hall twice came into notice with clever work, and Lewis put in a fine dash for twenty yards before being bowled over into touch. Cinderford, by combined forward work and kicking, reached the home half again, only to be sent back by W. Hall.

The Foresters, however, returned to the attack, and from a neat opening by Prosser there should have been a score. Bowkett ran to Cook and then passed out, but Niblett fumbled badly with a certain try in view. The game was keenly contested to the end, but there was no more scoring.

#### RESULT :

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Gloucester ..... | 4 tries (12 points) |
| Cinderford ..... | 1 goal (5 points)   |

#### REMARKS.

There was a striking contrast in the football witnessed in the two portions. In the first half we had a bright, open game, full of good things, and Gloucester showing a distinct superiority in all departments.

Then with the City handicapped in having three players (Harris, Washbourne, and Hudson) crippled, there was a complete change. Cinderford, concentrating their efforts forward – where the home team only had seven men for three parts of the game, and six for a good portion of the second half – struggled determinedly to reduce the odds against them.

In a large measure they were successful, for though only one try was registered against Gloucester, the City lines had several narrow escapes. For some twenty minutes it was all Cinderford, and it was only the heroic defence of the Gloucester Thirteen that saved the side. In such a hurly-burly it was no surprise to find players losing their tempers, though to some extent the spectators were to blame by their partisan shouts.

Gloucester came again splendidly in the last ten minutes, and Alec Lewis' try was a beauty. The score put the game safe for the City, and it was thoroughly deserved, for it would have been wretched luck had the points gone against the home team under the conditions prevailing.

Gloucester's work in the early stages was well done and of good class. The forwards were clever in getting the ball, and Dix and Hall saw to it that the backs were judiciously served. Result – three really fine tries, and several other good scoring chances that might have been turned to account.

The forwards had a severe afternoon's work, and praise is due to the men for sticking to it so well. Cinderford's work was less finished and of a bashing type, but it often spelt danger. The old vanguard in the Foresters' ranks – Bowkett, Watkins, Redding, and Hyndman – were always in the thick of it. The former broke up from the scrum very quickly, and was again and again useful in helping out the backs.

Watkins was prominent in the open, and led one or two movements which might have materialised had proper support been forthcoming. Gloucester were admirably served by Johns, Hayes, Meadows, and Millard in all phases of the game, and Berry did some smart things in the open.

Behind the scrum there was no question that Gloucester held a big advantage all round. The Cinderford backs occasionally came under notice, but they were poor in comparison with the attack of A. Hall, Baker, Rhodes, Meek, and Robbins.

The men who stood out to-day in the Gloucester third line were Lewis and Hamblin. Both got through their work in fine style, missing little in the way of attack and being sound in defence. It was fitting that both players were on the try-getting list.

Washbourne, prior to his injury, was very good, and Hudson showed dash when he scored, but the wing men were unfortunate in getting crocked. Hudson, however, had the satisfaction of completing his 200 tries for the Club, a record on which the City Captain is to be heartily congratulated.

Powell did some effective tackling, but as a line the men were a long way behind Cinderford's standard. At half, Dix and Hall completely outplayed the Foresters' pair. Prosser worked hard, but in tactics and individual ability he could not compare with Dix, who was wonderfully smart in opening out whilst his forwards held the scrums.

Hall, though suffering with influenza, was Gloucester's salvation time after time when things were going badly for the City. His relief kicking was a great feature, and besides he put in some grand work in attack. Cinderford held their own at full back, where J. Hall gave a first-class display, and compared very favourably with Cook.

Scorers for Gloucester : Hudson, Hamblin, Berry, and Lewis tries ; Hamblin failed.

As a result of to-day's game Gloucester have three players on the injured list – Hudson, Washbourne, and Harris – all three suffering from damaged ankles. Neither will be fit for Monday, and the City will have to draw on the reserves. The team to oppose Northampton will be as follows :

C. Cook (Hayward reserve); F. Webb, A. Lewis, L. Hamblin, and F. Bloxsome (Staunton first reserve wing or centre, J. Hamblin centre or half, W. Sysum centre or half); W. Dix and W. Hall; W. Johns, N. Hayes, J. Meadows, H. Berry, L. Smart, F. Pegler, S. Millard, and W. Dovey (reserves A. Cook and E. Yates).



## GLOUCESTER A v. BREAM.

### A POINTLESS DRAW.

This being the first of the fixtures between these teams a fair crowd was present. Bream made a few alterations.

Lodge started, and Gloucester weakly replied, and were early penalised for off-side. Bream started a good passing movement, but the visitors' keen tackling prevented the homesters making any headway.

Jenkins gained a good slice of territory with a nice kick, and put the villagers on the attack. Bream were nearly over once, and kept up the attack. Gloucester all but dribbled to the other end, a series of scrums being formed on the home line, and Bream eventually touched down.

Jenkins worked out a pretty opening, and inter-passing by the forwards took play to the 'Cestrian territory, Lodge being held on the line. Gloucester worked back, but the interval came with no score.

#### HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A ..... Nil

Bream ..... Nil

The visitors were early penalised and Harrison, with a fine kick, found touch in Gloucester's 25.

In ensuing play two of the home forwards got knocked out, but pluckily resumed later.

Robbins came into prominence with a good kick, and Bream took up the attack. Robbins gathering in the loose looked likely to score, but Hayward forced him to pass, and Price was laid low.

The visitors were again penalised for legs up, and Harrison took the kick at goal, but failed.

Gloucester now attempted passing, but Bloxsome failed to take the ball with a clear field. From now to the end matters were even, and time was called with no score.

RESULT :

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Gloucester A ..... | Nil |
| Bream .....        | Nil |

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