

**THE CITIZEN**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1913**

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. LEICESTER.

"THE DOUBLE EVENT."

CITY AGAIN THE SUPERIOR.

For their return match with Leicester, at Kingsholm, Gloucester fielded a good side, though W. Johns was absent from the forwards. The City surprised the Midlanders at home the first Saturday in the New Year by capturing their ground record. Leicester were naturally anxious to take revenge to-day. Leicester, short of H. Lawrie and Hopkins, but had the assistance of A. Redding, the Cinderford and County forward. The inevitable rain set in at 1.30, and the conditions were again of the most dismal description. Naturally the "gate" suffered severely.

The teams were : —

GLOUCESTER.	POSITIONS.	LEICESTER.
C. Cook	Backs.	J. W. Bream
A. Hudson (capt.)	Three-Quarter	P. W. Lawrie
A. Lewis	Backs	F. N. Tarr
L. Hamblin	"	S. A. Hunter
W. Washbourn	"	O. J. Hargreave
W. Dix	Half-Backs	F. M. Taylor
W. Wilkes	"	G. W. Wood
G. Halford	Forwards	W. J. Allen
G. Vears	"	A. Redding
W. Dovey	"	G. Ward
N. Hayes	"	G. Greasley
S. Smart	"	W. Dalby
A. Saunders	"	W. Bucklar
S. Millard	"	F. Taylor
A. Cook	"	W. Burton

Referee : Mr. J. Southby (Bristol).

## THE GAME.

The ground was very sloppy in front of the grandstand as a result of the continuous heavy rain. Halford kicked off for Gloucester from the Dean's Walk goal, and a visitor marking touch was found at the centre with the resultant kick. Several lines-out and scrums followed, ending in Leicester heeling, but Wood hesitating, was collared and the ball rolling loose Lewis took a flying kick and sent to Bream, who put the ball straight to touch.

Dix, beating Wood from the next scrum, gained some dozen yards, and then the City were awarded a free. Cook took the kick, but the Gloucester men got in front of the ball, and nothing was gained. Again Wood was penalised for a scrum infringement, and Cook this time punted high for the forwards to get under. Leicester, however, saved.

A passing movement initiated by Wood saw Hargreave throw yards forward but the referee allowed the game to go on, and Lawrie kicked to touch. Another penalty fell to the City, and from the next scrum Dix opened out beautifully. The ball went nicely across the field, but Hudson failed to take from Lewis, and a possible opening was lost.

The visiting forwards, with loose work, got away and kicked to Cook, who put in a fine return, but failed to find touch. Good play by Vears put Leicester in danger, and for an off-side tackle the Midlanders were penalised. Cook took a shot for goal from near the centre and made a fine effort, the ball striking the post.

Gloucester still attacked, but Leicester opened out in their own 25, Hunter making a fine run and pass to Tarr. The latter fed Lawrie, who dashed ahead, but he was beaten off. From a scrum, however, the visitors worked the short side, and Lawrie sprinted over in the corner with the first try. The kick at goal failed.

Gloucester dropped out, and from some loose play at the centre Hamblin kicked hard. Lewis raced up and made a big effort to cross, but he was tackled outside, and though he let the ball go, Hudson just failed to touch down. Gloucester attacked strongly, and the backs combined in a sweet movement. Hamblin cut several men beautifully and secured an opening, but he was collared from behind, and his pass went astray. Leicester cleared with a dribble, the home players failing to check on the greasy ground until the centre was reached. A penalty fell to Leicester for off-side by Gloucester, but the City quickly recovered the ground gained. Halford broke away and the ball being kicked across to the wing Washbourn had a clear field, but he unfortunately over-ran the ball, which rolled to touch.

Gloucester were having the better of the exchanges but not the best of luck, being unfortunate with the run of the ball when things looked promising. Play was confined to the Leicester 25, where Allen was penalised for palpable off-side. Cook again had a place for goal, and with a good kick gained the equalising points, the ball skimming the cross-bar and going over.

Leicester re-started, and a mistake by Hudson gave the visitors a footing in the home half. Gloucester changed the venue, and there was a spell of even play at midfield. Dalby, at length, broke away with the ball at his feet, but Cook saved, and then in some loose play Dix picked up and fed Washbourn. The wing man made off at a good pace, but Hunter brought him down from behind and saved the situation.

Vears earned applause with a fine save at the feet of the visiting front, and Lewis followed with a clever pick up and kick to touch. Mistakes in handling followed in subsequent play, and from one of these Lewis kicked down the field and collared Bream. The latter, however, passed to Tarr, who punted nicely to touch. Ensuing play favoured the City whose forwards were prominent with some dashing footwork. One effort clean beat the defence, and Dix taking the ball cleverly over the line, Millard fell on it after Hunter had missed. Cook missed the goal points.

Dix replied to the drop-out, and Gloucester were again in their opponents' half. Wood and Lawrie brought play out with clever inter-passing, but the final pass was not received. Tarr and Lawrie next tried a move on the left but the wing man missed the ball and Hudson dribbled to touch inside the Leicester 25. Here Dix opened out from a line, and Hudson threw wide to Hamblin. The centre, however, punted aimlessly over the line, and Wood touched down. Leicester resumed, and play was even to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester ..... 1 goal (p) 1 try  
Leicester ..... 1 try

Leicester restarted, the ball just dropping in the field of play and going to touch at the home 25. From the first scrum the "Tigers" heeled, but Dix just failed to intercept. Wilkes, however, was on the alert, and he dribbled clear to the other end. Dalby, who was playing wing forward for the visitors, picked up and started a passing movement, only to see a forward transfer from Taylor to Hunter. Gloucester got the ball out from the subsequent scrum and Dix fed Wilkes, who punted straight to Bream, gaining little ground, for the return went to touch.

Carrying a scrummage the Gloucester forwards were away in a body until checked by Bream, who cleared nicely under difficulties. Hamblin, however, replied with a neat touch-finder, and then a Gloucester forward made a strong effort to cross, being held up outside. Leicester relieved from a dangerous position, and ensuing play was rather tame, lines-out and scrums following in quick succession.

At length Hamblin got in a cross-kick which Lewis went for, but Tarr robbed him and punted out to Cook, who returned to touch. The forwards continued to monopolise the play, but the heavy ground appeared to be a sore handicap to the players. A mis-kick by Washbourn allowed Leicester to clear, and further mistakes in fielding caused Gloucester to be pressed. From a favourable position Wood got the ball away to his threes, but Hunter knocked on with a possible opening.

Dix, with a clever dribble, brought relief to the City, but the position was soon lost. Lewis cut across and saved after Hamblin and Washbourn were at fault, but other errors let Leicester very close in. A big effort saw Gloucester relieve, and this was followed up with some fine work by Hayes and Halford. The former kicked ahead, and there was a desperate race for the ball, Lawrie getting back and just turning the ball out of play. Gloucester struggled hard for a score, but they eventually lost the ball, and Lawrie cleared effectively.

From a scrum in midfield the Leicester halves initiated a bout of passing. Hunter got away after being partially tackled, and fed Hargreave, but the Gloucester defence prevailed. The "Tigers," however, were dangerous, and the City had to be on the qui vive to keep their lines intact. A scrum ensued in front of the home posts, but the Leicester backs muddled and Cook making his mark cleared with a capital touch-finder. Leicester, however, continued operations [in] the home half, though play was entirely lacking in incident. Cook was prominent with some fine kicking which enabled Gloucester to hold their own, but the backs were erratic when the ball came out.

However, amends were made a few minutes later for all the mistakes, for one of the finest tries ever seen on the ground followed. At the centre Gloucester heeled and Dix set Wilkes on the move cleverly. The outside half, using fine judgment, slipped past Taylor and ran up to Tarr. He then yielded to Lewis, who dashed away with Hudson on his right and Hamblin on his left. Lawrie and Tarr both anticipated a pass to the wing, but the transfer went the reverse way to Hamblin, who took the ball beautifully and raced home behind the posts. Hamblin converted and Gloucester led by eight points.

The end was near and nothing of note occurred in the remaining minutes over which play extended, and Gloucester retired with the distinction of having lowered the Leicester colours for the second time this season.

RESULT :

Gloucester .....	2 goals (1p) 1 try (11 pts.)
Leicester .....	1 try (3 pts.)

## REMARKS.

Leicester have been appearing at Kingsholm regularly for the past fifteen years or so, yet I cannot recall the "Tigers" playing up to their club reputation with the exception of about a couple of instances. To-day the Midlanders had out practically their strongest combination, but it was only at rare intervals the side reached the standard of play one would expect from such exponents of the game. Behind, certainly, the Midlanders were for the most part disappointing, though I cannot say the home backs were any too good.

Of the whole of the three-quarters I should pick out Alec Lewis as the most finished player. The ex-Old Boy has shown most consistent form all the season, and to-day the amount of work he did, especially in saving and clearing, was remarkable. His judgment in attack, too, was splendid and that move of his in passing inside to Hamblin, for the latter to score the last try, was one of the cleverest bits of headwork imaginable. Hamblin was hardly fit to play, the county centre suffering from a bad cold, and that he was unable to do himself justice was understood by those in the know. Still, he made no mistake in going for the line when he scored, and his swerving run put an opponent, who was racing up behind, off.

Washbourn and Hudson were only moderate on the respective wings, the captain missing an apparently fine opening from a pass by Lewis early in the game. Tarr did a lot of sound work for Leicester, but Hunter, the Yorkshire county centre was erratic. Lawrie was the best of the two wings, but was only occasionally prominent.

The Leicester half-backs did not have such a good time as in the county match on Thursday. Dix repeatedly got the better of Wood at the scrum; he opened out the game very cleverly, and was often dangerous with smart footwork. Wilkes was quick on his feet, and played a very intelligent game all through. He kicked at times with admirable judgment, and evidence as to his ability to cut out an opening was clearly emphasised in the movement which led up to Hamblin's try.

For some time the Gloucester forwards have been rather weak at heeling, but the City pack got the ball back well to-day, though out-weighted in the scrums. In loose play the home players worked with resolution, and showed plenty of keenness. Hayes, Halford, Smart, and Saunders I frequently noticed for special efforts, and Vears, as usual, tackled with great effect and stopped the rushes of opposing forwards in fearless style.

Leicester had a winger in Dalby, who gave trouble sometimes, but he was inclined to infringe the off-side rule in his endeavours to dribble the ball away from Dix. Allen and Redding were hard workers, but from the size of the men there must have been more than one non-pusher in the tight.

Cook came out well over his rival at full-back. He scarcely made a mistake in fielding, and his relief kicking, when Leicester were dangerous, was of great assistance.

Scorers for Gloucester : Cook, penalty goal; Millard and Hamblin, tries.

Next week : Pontypool, away.