

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1913

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. CARDIFF.

A SURPRISE AT KINGSHOLM.

SUPERB DISPLAY BY CITY "RESERVES."

The excessive calls of the county and Hudson's injury resulted in Gloucester having a sadly depleted side doing duty against the famous Welsh Metropolitans at Kingsholm on Saturday. Hudson, Johns, Vears, Smart, Hayes, C. Cook, Washbourn, Lewis, and Hamblin were all away, resulting in practically a reserve team turning out.

Cardiff have been doing so well lately, especially against Devon Albion and Bristol, that on paper it looked like the Gloucester boys getting a rare trouncing. However, there were very pleasant recollections of the "reserves" having on previous occasions risen nobly to the occasion.

W. Bowen and Johnny Rogers were out of the Cardiff team, Johnny Thomas playing outside half and W. P. Thomas, the ex-Pontypridd player, taking Bowen's place on the wing.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – F. W. Hayward; F. Webb, E. Bowen, W. Sysum, and T. Powell; W. Dix and W. Wilkes; G. Halford (capt.), S. Millard, A. Saunders, W. Dovey, A. Cook, F. Pegler, J. Harris, and W. J. Pearce.

Cardiff. – R. F. Williams; W. P. Thomas, Tom Evans, W. Spiller, and F. Rogers; W. Morrish and J. Thomas; A. Baker, E. Mithan, M. Griffiths, J. Birch, W. H. Thomas, F. Gaccon, W. S. Goff, and A. Green.

Referee : Mr. J. H. Miles.

THE GAME.

The teams were greeted with cheers when taking the field before a fair gate, the audience including Mr. Henry Terrell, K.C., M.P., and Mr. M. P. Price.

Halford started for Gloucester, and there was no return. From the first scrum Tom Evans kicked out, but Halford charged the kick down and Gloucester were well in the Cardiff 25. Here Gloucester were penalised, but a pretty bit of work at the base of the next scrum by Wilkes kept Gloucester still in the Welshmen's quarter. A free followed to Gloucester, but at the long range Hayward had no chance. The forwards were very quickly up, however, and although there was a return Webb fielded and punted to touch, and the 'Cestrians were still in the Cardiff quarter.

A grand forward burst by Gloucester, with Saunders leading, carried the ball right to the line, and only a lucky flying kick by Morrish saved a score. Cardiff cleared from the next scrum, but a penalty against the visitors for not putting in the scrum fairly was well taken by Hayward who found touch in the Cardiff 25.

Just after Powell gathered nicely, but was collared. The Gloucester forwards, however, were responsible for a nice concerted movement which caused loud applause, and the game was still in the Cardiff 25. The visitors, however, relieved with a loose rush and judicious use of the touch line, and the centre was the venue.

Bowen was conspicuous with a neat touch-finder, but Cardiff gradually worked out. Wilkes found touch well, and again centre play followed. In the loose work the Gloucester forwards were having the better of matters, but the ball went quickly out to Thomas on the wing, and he went away. Hayward, however, was there, and effected a good return. Cardiff opened out, but Webb upset Rogers finely. The ball went straight across the ground, and a wild pass to Thomas went astray, Millard being well up and tackling his man well.

A long kick went to Williams, and he dodged his men well and got in a return. Spiller gained a nice slice of ground with a touch kick, and from the line-out the ball came right across the field to Rogers, who dodged through and scored in the corner. Spiller failed with the kick.

Cardiff were now having the best of the exchanges, and Hayward was forced to run back over his own line to save, which gave a scrum out. From this Spiller received and tried to drop a goal, but Bowen charged his kick down and the forwards cleared.

Strenuous work in the loose followed, and Gloucester reached the centre, and a nice punt by Webb gained twenty yards.

Gloucester got the ball from the next scrum, and Sysum found touch, but the next minute, in bringing off a good tackle of Spiller, he was laid out, but he was able to resume.

A lot of hot scrummaging followed in neutral territory, but when the ball got loose the Cardiffians had the best of matters. Williams was splendidly collared by Dovey, and Gloucester went away right down to the Cardiff 25. In the long lines-out the Cardiff forwards repeatedly tried throwing the ball back, but the Gloucester threes were marking very keenly and upset the openings.

The Gloucester forwards went away grandly from a line-out, but Williams gathered and punted out. A free for off-side was given to Gloucester just outside the quarter flag, and Hayward landed a grand goal amidst tremendous excitement.

Centre play followed till the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 goal (p)
Cardiff 1 try

Halford returned the kick-off, and play settled at the centre. Webb and Sysum put in a nice bit of work on the right, but then the Cardiff halves slung the ball out and Spiller cut through, finding touch in the Gloucester 25. Here the 'Cestrians were awarded a free, but little ground was gained, and a kick by Williams was replied to by Hayward with honours about even.

With a characteristic bit of work Dix gained ground, and then the Gloucester forwards went away with a beautiful bit of footwork. Dix flung the ball out from the next scrum and Wilkes punted across, but Williams saved and punted to touch a couple of yards out. Cardiff cleared from the line-out, and R. P. Williams went to break through, but Powell upset him finely and Gloucester were in a good attacking position, the excitement being intense.

Gradually Cardiff worked out but the Gloucester forwards, who were playing a superb game, kept the ball in the visitors' 25, and Webb brought off a great tackle of Rogers, so that little or no ground was gained. Sysum used the touch-line well, but Spiller punted out and gained a lot of ground. The City forwards, however, worked together well, and centre play followed.

The work in the front was now of the very hottest, both sets of forwards putting in all they knew, and the City boys were giving a splendid account of themselves. A magnificent rush by Gloucester raised the crowd to the greatest enthusiasm. A penalty to the City was charged down, and Spiller went right away, but Halford checked, and with a splendid individual dribble took the ball right to the centre. Here Bobby Williams gathered grandly and punted across, but the ball went astray and Gloucester cleared.

The pace was a perfect cracker, and seldom have the Kingsholm habitués had such a show for their money. The Gloucester boys were surpassing their most sanguine supporters' anticipations and it was a grand game to watch. The Cardiff touch-judge once tried poaching a yard or two, but Mr. Miles would not have it and fetched the line-out back and made the visiting official give way.

Hayward put in a fine line, and Gloucester were up in the Cardiff 25 again. The visitors, however, cleared well and centred play, and from a free gained further ground. In turn a free was awarded Gloucester, but it left matters much "as you were." Another free to Gloucester, however, gave Hayward a chance, and he found touch well, the two Williamses muffing the ball on the bounce.

Gloucester heeled well and Dix punted to touch, gaining more ground. Bobby Williams, however, was very safe and put in a lovely return. A deliberate attempt at tripping by a Cardiff forward was at once spotted by the referee and a penalty awarded, and Gloucester got beyond the centre. Here again Gloucester got the better of the exchanges, Dix shining, and the referee once more had to call the same Cardiff forward to account.

Gloucester were getting the ball back, and nice work by Dix and Wilkes kept play in the Cardiff half. An exchange of kicks, however, ended in Spiller's favour, and the centre was once more the venue when the whistle went for no-side.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal (p) (3 points)

Cardiff 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

I badly wanted to go to Carlisle to see the County perform, but after to-day's grand game I would not have missed it for forty trips North. In sixteen years' regular attendance at Kingsholm I have rarely, if ever, seen better football, and never seen more intense excitement and keen enthusiasm than was engendered by the magnificent performance put up by the Gloucester boys. It was a match calculated to do the Club and the game incalculable good in the district, and a result absolutely justifying the so-called "reserves," who rose to the occasion with the greatest possible spirit and resolution, making a fight against their famous Welsh rivals which will long live in the memories of those who were privileged to see it, and which will for ever shine with brilliant lustre as a red-letter day in the annals of the good old Gloucester Football Club.

Magnificently led by Halford, who played one of the best games of his life, the Gloucester forwards held their redoubtable opponents at every phase of the game, and the work of the City front in the loose was without any exaggeration some of the finest that has ever been shown at Kingsholm.

Having singled out the leader – and he deserved it – I do not intend to individualise any further in the front, because every man was out to the last half-ounce to do his best for the honour of the Club and its sporting traditions. That they rose to the occasion nobly is but their bare due. They surpassed the hopes even of their greatest partisans, and I tender them my very heartiest congratulations on a performance that has not been surpassed for pluck, resolution, hard work and tenacity in the recent history of the Club.

At half Dix and Wilkes, although the former had a lot of trouble with his vis-a-vis, were splendid, and although they were not enabled to open out the game to any great extent until the last ten minutes, when Gloucester certainly looked like scoring again, no one could find fault with their display.

The three-quarters, too, were all out to justify their selection. And they did it grandly. The marking was keen, and although perhaps beaten for pace, the tackling was so good and so deadly that the Cardiffians' outsides never looked like getting away, except in the one solitary instance when the try was scored.

And what of Hayward ? True, he sometimes "guessed" a bit at the bounce of the ball, but otherwise he was very good indeed, and his capital kick levelled the score.

Williams played a grand game at back for the visitors, but certain it was that Cardiff did not like the grueling they got, and the front rank got a bit rough – one man in particular – towards the close. However, they were under the control of the wrong man to stand anything of that sort, and nothing untoward happened.

It was a grand game to watch, and coming on the top of the County's grand win, adds further golden laurels to West of England football.

Scorers : – For Cardiff, Rogers, try; for Gloucester, Hayward, penalty goal.

I understand that already there is a movement on foot to celebrate to-day's great achievement by some of the prominent supporters of the Club entertaining the players to a dinner.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A.

BEATEN BUT NOT DISGRACED.

Unfortunately the 'Cestrians were not at their full strength for the return game on the Cardiff Arms Park. An excellent crowd was present, and an interesting, open game was witnessed. Gottwaltz opened Cardiff's scoring after intercepting a pass from the scrummage, whilst McCarthy followed with another try. Just on the interval Davies added another, neither being converted.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Cardiff A 3 tries

Gloucester A Nil

Play in the second moiety ruled all in favour of Cardiff, who scored on no less than five occasions. Lieut. Gransmore scored the first try after a pretty passing bout. Thomas scored as the result of a forward scramble. Ivor James and Weaver followed suit with tries, neither of which was converted. Gloucester played very pluckily throughout, and although beaten were by no means disgraced.

RESULT :

Cardiff A 8 tries (24 points)

Gloucester A Nil