

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1913

FOOTBALL.

RUGBY.

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM.

A GAME IN THE SLUSH.

FOURTEEN POINTS' WIN FOR THE CITY.

(By W.B.)

The first meeting of the season between these local rivals was down for decision at Kingsholm to-day, and with Cheltenham's excellent run of successes the match had been keenly anticipated.

Unfortunately for the City Club finances the weather again took a bad turn, heavy rain falling all the morning, and the conditions generally were wretched in the extreme.

The rain continued to fall pitilessly, and the ground resembled miniature lakes in places.

There was a consultation as to whether the game should be brought off, but eventually it was decided to play.

The "gate" naturally was absolutely spoiled, and only a few hundred spectators were present.

There was only one change in the teams, Smart standing down in the City ranks, and Millard coming in.

The following were the teams :—

| GLOUCESTER. | POSITIONS. | CHELTENHAM. |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| C. Cook | Backs. | B. Davy |
| A. Hudson (capt.) | Three-Quarter | H. Hughes |
| L. Hamblin | Backs | H. Rudge |
| A. Lewis | " | A. Bendall |
| W. Washbourne | " | D. Sullivan |
| W. Dix | Half-Backs | S. Young |
| W. Wilkes | " | J. Baker |
| G. Halford | Forwards | L. H. Peckover |
| S. Millard | " | C. Bennett |
| W. Johns | " | F. T. Wixey |
| N. Hayes | " | H. Wixey |
| G. Vears | " | ? J. Hopkins |
| A. Saunders | " | ? F. Burnell |
| Lieut. Carleton | " | F. Vick |
| E. Nash | " | J. Cresswell |

Referee : Mr. J. H. Miles.

THE GAME.

The teams took the field twenty minutes late, Cheltenham starting from the Dean's Walk goal. Hayes received and burst through, but his pass was knocked on. Gloucester broke away from the first scrum, Wilkes dribbling nicely and keeping the ball in play. The men ploughed through the slush and Davy was at once pressed. Young brought relief cleverly, but Gloucester returned to the attack, and Davy was again called upon to save.

From a pass by Dix, Lewis cut through and passed to Hamblin. The latter served Washbourne, who raced round, but fell victim to Davy and Hughes. A penalty to Cheltenham brought relief, but Millard and Johns dribbled back, and Cheltenham were forced to defend.

Gloucester again opened out, but Lewis was tackled and threw the ball away. The Cheltenham backs now showed up with some pretty exchanges, and Hughes punted, but Cook fielded and returned to Davy, who sent back to the home 25.

Gloucester were here awarded a penalty, but Cook did not find touch and no ground was made. Breaking away in the loose the Gloucester forwards rushed right away to the other end, where Davy turned the ball to touch. Dix and Washbourne tried hard to work the short side of the scrum, but the pass was ruled forward. Later Hudson kicked over the line and forced a minor.

Resuming, the Cheltenham forwards heeled, and Baker fed Young who, however, had to kick straight to touch. Ensuing play was in the Cheltenham 25, where the City halves opened out. Lewis cut through smartly, but passed to an opponent. In some loose play the ball was again sent over the Town line and Davy touched down.

Cook replied well to the drop-out, and Gloucester were on the attack. The forwards dribbled close to the line, where Cheltenham had a narrow escape. From the ensuing scrum the ball came out on the Cheltenham side and over the line, but Dix was too smart for Baker and touched down for a try. Cook added the goal points.

Cheltenham re-started, and centre play followed. The going was dreadful, and it was terribly hard work for the players. The Town forwards were checked by Cook, and then off-side by a visiting forward gave Gloucester a good slice of ground. Dix, with a kick over the line, caused Cheltenham to concede another minor.

Following the drop-out there was some good forward play on both sides, but the City gained an advantage with a desperate rush. Davy was collared close in, and a minute later Gloucester were nearly over. Picking up in the loose Johns "ballooned" a pass to Lewis, but the centre had no chance to do anything, and Cheltenham came away to more favourable quarters.

A penalty against Johns for off-side enabled Cheltenham to reach the centre, but they were quickly sent back through the instrumentality of Carleton. Matters looked dangerous for Cheltenham, but a touchdown saved the visitors.

Cook, who was kicking well despite the conditions, found touch well from the drop-out, and Gloucester were again in the Town 25. In some loose play Wilkes dribbled away down touch, and a visitor being at fault in trying to save Wilkes had an easy try. Cook missed the goal points.

In ensuing play Lewis shone with a pretty run, but his pass was not accepted. Baker and Hughes tried to work an opening on Cheltenham's right, but the ball was fumbled and Hayes kicked down to Davy, who sent out of play. Immediately after Carleton secured and ran over with a try near the posts. Cook, however, could not raise the heavy ball with his goal kick. Soon after the interval was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 goal 2 tries
Cheltenham Nil

Gloucester at once resumed, and the City rushed to the Town half. Lewis, from a kick by Nash, picked up and had a good opening, but his pass was intercepted. H. Wixey led Cheltenham to beyond midfield, and a long kick down caused Cook to run back and field and punt out. A good rush by the Town forwards was not checked, and the ball being taken over the City line Cook had to kick dead.

Cheltenham showed up strongly again on the re-start, but fumbling by the backs allowed Washbourne and Lewis to come right away. The final kick sent the ball in a pool of water, where it stopped dead, to the amusement of the crowd.

Cheltenham were pressed for a couple of minutes, but the forwards brought relief. Wilkes, from a pass by Dix, cut inside and tried hard to get clear but he was pulled down and lost the ball.

Cheltenham worked out, but they were beaten back by a rush of the Gloucester forwards. Then in a loose burst the Town rushed half the length of the field, and Gloucester were pressed severely for the first time.

Useful punts changed the venue, only to see Bendall kick to Hudson. The latter failed to field, and Cheltenham were dangerous. Hudson and Dix were prominent in bringing Gloucester out to the centre, and the captain later had a run through, but his pass was captured by Hughes, who, however, knocked on.

Another rush by Cheltenham caused Gloucester to defend. Twice the Town went very close but the home team succeeded in staving off disaster.

Palpable off-side by the visitors gave Gloucester a penalty and Cook found touch well beyond the 25. From here Johns, Hayes, and Nash led a fine loose rush, which Davy checked very cleverly.

Cheltenham responded with similar tactics and Gloucester were very hard pressed. From a scrum right on the line Gloucester heeled, and Dix Wilkes, Hamblin and Washbourne handled perfectly. Davy however knocked on the re-pass from Washbourne, and a lovely movement was brought to a close.

Gloucester now played up strongly, and a penalty for off-side by Baker was well followed up, Cheltenham being penned. From a scrum Dix beat his opponent, but being collared from behind he dropped the ball. Wilkes backing up, the outside half controlled the ball beautifully, and taking it over the line scored near the posts. Cook failed at goal.

Cheltenham made efforts towards the end to open their account, but met with no success.

RESULT :

Gloucester ... 1 goal 3 tries (14 points)
Cheltenham Nil

REMARKS.

Such a game, and played under such conditions, calls for little comment. Gloucester were full value for their points on the day, but the best intentions of the players were frequently upset by the state of the ground and ball.

There was some fine loose forward work at times on both sides, and it was these tactics that paid. Occasionally the backs handled smartly, the movement by Gloucester near the end, when Davy intercepted Washbourne's re-pass, being perfectly carried out.

Wilkes showed capital all-round form at outside half for Gloucester, and his try at the finish was the best individual effort of the match. Dix and Baker had a duel at half-back, with honours fairly even.

Lewis did the best work for the city at three-quarter, but the opportunities on either side were limited. Both Cook and Davy were excellent at full back.

Scorers for Gloucester : Wilkes (2), Dix, and Carleton; Cook converted one.

Next week ; Bristol, away.

The annual dinner of the Gloucester F. C. takes place to-night at the Saracen's Head, the First and Second team players being invited.