

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1913

FOOTBALL.

RUGBY.

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD.

THE FORESTERS DEFEATED.

Gloucester's previous visit to Cinderford this season was a fruitless one, for after the team had made the journey, the ground was found unplayable owing to frost. A good side represented the City to-day, and the Foresters also placed a strong team in the field. The kick-off did not take place until 4.30.

GLOUCESTER.	POSITIONS.	CINDERFORD.
C. Cook	Backs.	J. Hall
W. Washbourne	Three-Quarter	H. Nelmes
L. Hamblin	Backs	M. Meek
W. Wilkes	"	F. Niblett
E. Bowen	"	H. Martin
W. Dix	Half-Backs	M. Reeves
A. Lewis	"	I. Woolford
G. Halford (capt.)	Forwards	A. Redding
S. Millard	"	G. Bowkett (capt.)
W. Johns	"	J. Watkins
G. Vears	"	A. Hewlett
N. Hayes	"	G. Lodge
A. Saunders	"	G. L. Jones
C. Mumford	"	W. Robbins
W. Dovey	"	— . Colwell

Referee : Mr. A. L. Davis (Bristol).

THE GAME.

Rain had fallen heavily during Friday night, rendering the ground rather soft. Another storm swept the ground at the advertised time for the kick-off, delaying the start some 15 minutes. Bevan and Sheldon stood down from the ten selected home forwards.

Mr. Drummond, the prospective Conservative candidate for the Dean Forest Division, kicked off for Cinderford. A scrum was formed at the centre. The Gloucester front, headed by Vears and Hayes, rushed to the home 25, but Bowkett started a forward dribble which took play inside the City half. Dix got the ball away from the scrum, but Wilkes failed to hold.

From some loose footwork the ball was kicked across to Nelmes, who made a good effort to get through, but failed. Cook marked, but the kick brought Gloucester little relief. Meek dropped for goal and Cook touched down.

The City worked out and Dix fed Bowen, who ran finely to well inside the Cinderford half. Their stay was brief, however, Cinderford rushing right down to the Gloucester line. Dix brought relief with a judicious punt to touch. Nelmes passed wildly and a 'Cestrian kicked through to Hall, who fielded nicely. Gloucester had now gained a good footing in the Cinderford half, and Dix attempted to break away, but Jones tackled him finely.

The Citizens were busy in the home 25, and Nelmes failing to field things looked black for Cinderford, but Woolford dribbled away from the scrum and was not checked until near half-way.

A fine forward rush by Cinderford put them in an attacking position, but Gloucester got the ball away and tried passing. Wilkes failed to hold, and Washbourn had to save. Then Cinderford handled, and Meek put Nelmes over, Bowkett failing.

Gloucester came away and Lewis made a lovely opening for Washbourn to score. Cook failed to goal. Play until half-time was keenly fought out near mid-field.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 try
Cinderford 1 try

Play re-opened in Cinderford's half, and Hall marking brought relief. Gloucester came again, and some nice passing saw Bowen beat Nelmes and Hall and score a pretty try. Cook failed.

Cinderford now took up the running, the Citizens' territory being the venue of play, which was somewhat spoiled by storms. Wilkes gained a lot of ground for Gloucester with a good punt. First one half and then the other was the scene of hostilities, neither side being able to claim any advantage, both packs putting in a terrific amount of work.

Then a Cinderford player "skidded" the ball towards his own line, and Halford dashing up scored a try. Cook again failed to add the extra points.

Cinderford then attacked hotly, Gloucester touching down. Following a strong rush by the City forwards the home team returned, and Martin had a chance from a nice handling movement, but could not get round. Still keeping up the pressure, Woolford put his threes in motion, but the passing broke down. Nelmes punted over the Gloucester line, and the City conceded a minor.

Play was now confined to the visitors' half, and Dix was penalised for putting the ball back into the scrum. The kick resulted in Cinderford making desperate efforts a few yards from the Citizen's line. The final came with the game still in the City half.

RESULT :
Gloucester 3 tries (9 points)
Cinderford 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

Gloucester undoubtedly deserved their win, for they were the six points the better behind the scrum. The forwards, however, were more of a match, and in the last half the Cinderford eight were the best; but the back division failed to take advantage of this.

Storms at intervals during the game made the ball greasy, which rendered it difficult to hold. Cook and Hall at full-back for their respective sides, put in a lot of good work. Washbourn and Bowen were best for Gloucester in the three-quarter line. Dix and Woolford had a battle royal at half. Gordon Vears, Hayes, and Halford were the best of the Gloucester forwards, whilst Bowkett, Watkins, and Lodge shone for Cinderford.

GLOUCESTER A v. OLD BOYS.

EASY WIN FOR THE SECONDS.

The return game between these two keen local rivals took place at Kingsholm on Saturday in beautiful weather. The Old Boys had selected a strong side to do duty, while the Seconds were also fairly well represented.

The teams lined out before a moderate attendance as follows :—

Gloucester A. — F. W. Hayward; F. Bloxsome, F. Webb (South End), and T. Powell;[sic] W. E. Sysum and C. Cummings; W. Cromwell, Lewis, W. Parham, Osborne, Russell, Rudman, Curtis, and Hopton.

Old Boys. — R. H. Beard; J. M. Baldwin, A. L. McKay, D. W. L. Richards, and A. G. Holloway; T. Lewis and A. King; J. Webb, C. T. Coulson, P. W. Aas, H. Harris, A. Peart, L. Smith, J. F. Vance, and W. S. Robertson.

Referee : Mr. J. H. Parker (Cheltenham).

The Old Boys started, and the first scrum was formed well in the Seconds' territory, but Hayward with a fine kick found touch past mid-field. Subsequent play saw Gloucester rush from a scrum and carry the game right to their opponents' line, where the Old Boys were awarded a free, which, however, did not afford them much relief. The Seconds continued to press, and Bloxsome gained ground with a useful punt.

Ensuing play was contested right on the visitors' line, but the homesters could not seem to take the ball when a try looked imminent. The Old Boys' forwards came away with a rush, but Webb sent them back with a pretty kick to touch. Then from a scrum the ball was punted right across the ground, and Trevor Powell securing he had a "walk in." Hayward landed a goal.

On the resumption Robertson was prominent with good footwork, and this enabled the Old Boys to obtain a footing in Gloucester's half. Another forward rush, with Robertson again leading, the home 25 was reached. Here Richards was prominent with a neat touch-finder, and then obtaining from the scrum the Seconds indulged in a lovely passing bout, the ball travelling right across the field, but the final transfer, when a try appeared certain, was adjudged forward.

Later Bloxsome received, and running strongly eventually passed inside for Sysum to beat a couple of men and score behind the posts. Hayward goaled.

With ten points against them, the Old Boys played desperately, and in a forward dribble Richards was almost over, but he kicked too hard and the ball went dead. The Seconds came back again, and some scrambling play was witnessed on the Old Boys' 25. The visitors were penalised, but Hayward failed at goal.

Then Bloxsome obtaining, he got near the line before transferring to Powell, who, cleverly beating three or four opponents, scored under the posts. Hayward added the extra points.

On the resumption McKay was prominent with a dashing burst, but he failed to pass Hayward, who sent to touch. At the interval the Seconds were pressing.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 3 goals
Old Boys Nil

Play of a very scrambling character took place when the second half opened until Webb, gathering, ran well and passed to Powell, who, however, delayed his transfer to the wing man, with the result that he was smothered.

From a high punt Bloxsome gathered, and without an opponent in front of him ran over behind the posts. Hayward failed with the easy place-kick.

Playing with the greatest determination, the Old Boys at last gained an opportunity. Securing the ball from the scrum Lewis handed to Richards, who in turn transferred to Baldwin, who went on and scored one of the best tries of the match. He beat several men and then cutting inside extricated himself from a couple more who had to all appearances tackled him safely, and crossed in the corner. Coulson kicked a magnificent goal from the touch-line.

On the resumption Gloucester made a lengthy stay in the visitors' territory, but without, however, adding to their score. Then the Old Boys came away with the ball at their feet, and Hayward was twice tackled in possession, but this gave time for several men to get back, and nothing resulted.

The Seconds worked back to the Old Boys' line, and only desperate tackling on the part of the locals prevented them scoring. With a strong dribble J. H. Webb got his side out of danger, and the game was contested at midfield.

Hayward, with a lovely kick to touch, put Gloucester in a strong attacking position, but they infringed, and the ensuing free gave timely relief to the visitors. Bloxsome cut through well and handed to Powell, but the latter, when apparently clear, was tackled from behind. A blinding rainstorm now swept over the ground, and this, combined with the high wind, made good play impossible. The end soon came.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 3 goals 1 try (18 points)
Old Boys 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS.

Although Gloucester A were the superior team at practically all points, they did not have quite as much of the game as the score suggests. The secret of their success by such a good margin was that they took advantage of their opportunities, which the Old Boys – with the single exception of Baldwin's try – failed to do.

The visitors, too, suffered from lack of skill – or was it over-keenness ? – and when they had the ball could rarely make any definite headway. They were triers all through, however, being beaten by the superior finesse of the homesters. Gloucester, with the help of a very strong wind, gained a winning position during the first half, but the Old Boys failed to retrieve the lost ground when aided by the same strong factor in the second half.

For the homesters Bloxsome and Trevor Powell were very smart in the three-quarter line, while Hayward, at back, kicked a good length and tackled safely. Sysum was the pick of the halves, and the forwards all played a good bustling game.

Baldwin and McKay got through most work in the visitors' third line; while in the pack J. H. Webb, Coulson, and Howard Harris repeatedly caught the eye with dashing dribbles. Beard, at back, suffered by comparison with Hayward; and the halves could do little as the forwards rarely got the ball back.