

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1913

FOOTBALL.

RUGBY.

GLOUCESTER v. NEATH.

STRENUOUS GAME IN WALES.

CITY TEAM BADLY BEATEN.

The City team spent the week-end in South Wales, playing Neath to-day and Llanelly on Monday.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in getting a fifteen together, and the side was only made up this morning. The absentees included L. Hamblin, G. Vears, W. Johns, and S. Smart. Mr. George Romans was in charge of the team, and the party made their headquarters in Swansea.

The attendance was not up to the usual standard because of the fast expiring season, the chilling climatic conditions, and the late start, due to train delay and the rather belated arrival of the visitors.

Neath, like Gloucester, had several men away.

Gloucester. – C. Cook; A. Hudson (captain), W. Wilkes, E. Bowen, and W. Washbourn; W. Dix and A. Lewis; G. Halford, N. Hayes, H. G. Kingscote, C. Mumford, S. Millard, F. Lewis, A. Cook, and W. Dovey.

Neath. – Glyn Gethin; T. O. Jones, R. Stroud, Handel Richards, and Tom Owen; Shon Evans and another; F. David (captain), F. Perrett, W. Hopkins, D. M. Davies, R. Green, T. Jenkins, T. Thomas, and another.

Referee : Mr. E. Roberts (Llanelly).

## THE GAME.

Gloucester received a cordial reception when they fielded at 4.15. Fred David started for Neath from the Union end, and some scrambling play saw the game settle for a time in neutral ground. Some smart passing by the home backs gained a good deal of ground, but Handel Richards, on the right, failed to take his pass, which was, however, a difficult one, and little territory was gained.

The Gloucester backs got prettily into their stride, and Washbourn ran strongly on the left. When in difficulties, however, he punted. T. O. Jones received, and passed back sharply to Glyn Gethin, who skilfully cleared to half-way.

The Gloucester backs again got away, and Hudson, on the right, became dangerous with a neat pick up and a clever punt, but Gethin again cleared in wonderful style. Some remarkable individualism was witnessed shortly after, when Gethin, instead of touching down to a penalty, raced out, and punting, carried play well into Gloucester ground.

Presently the Citizens, who were playing with the wind, received another penalty, but the attempt for goal fell low, and Gethin conceded a minor. Gloucester were making good use of the wind, and frequently found touch well in Neath's 25. The first quarter of an hour's play revealed a bright game, with Gloucester having rather the better of the argument. Neath were again penalised, but the kick for goal was a failure, and poor at that.

Upon the resumption the Neath forwards rushed play into Gloucester ground, and T. O. Jones dropped a magnificent goal against the wind.

Subsequently Tim Jenkins broke away, and some fine passing was witnessed between the Neath men, particularly Stroud and Owen, whose interchanges nearly led to a tangible result.

In the succeeding play the tactics of both sides became rather furious, and David Jones, one of the Neath men, had to temporarily retire. The Citizens struggled hard to equalise. Both sides played with bulldog pertinacity, but nothing further was scored to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Neath .....1 goal (d)  
Gloucester ..... Nil

The stern struggle was continued after a brief interval. Now Neath had the wind advantage, but they played with a strong sun in their eyes. T. O. Jones kicked across, and this nearly yielded a try. Gloucester managed to clear, but the clearance was due to the bungling in the attack rather than to any strength of the defence.

Neath continued the attack, but Dix very smartly raised the siege on several occasions. A mark yielded nothing to Neath. Yet there was no questioning the fact that they meant business. Handel Richards made a dash and just failed to get through. Then Gethin got hurt in a collision with Wilkes and had to retire. Stroud was sent to full back and W. Hopkins to the centre. Almost immediately afterwards brilliant passing resulted in Owen scoring a corner try, which Fred David failed to convert.

Then Owen, fielding a high kick grandly, dashed over with his second unconverted try.

The pace now slackened down considerably. Gloucester came with a few brilliant rushes, but the second half was well half through, and they had failed to penetrate the defence. Really they were dangerous on but a couple of occasions. Handel Richards and Shon Evans added tries, Green converting the last.

RESULT :

Neath ..... 2 goals (1d) 3 tries (18 points)  
Gloucester ..... Nil.