

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 24, 1913

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

RUGBY.

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD.

FORESTERS HANDSOMELY BEATEN AT KINGSHOLM.

CLEVER PLAY BY GLOUCESTER BACKS.

This annual Easter Monday attraction secured a good gate at Kingsholm, the weather being bright and fine, and in striking contrast to the conditions prevailing on Saturday. The ground recovered wonderfully from the heavy drenching two days previously.

Gloucester were short of Johns and Vears, whilst Cinderford had Redding away.

The teams lined up ten minutes late as follows : –

Gloucester. – C. Cook; W. Bowen, W. Wilkes, L. Hamblin, and W. Washbourne; W. Dix and A. Lewis; G. Halford (capt.), W. Dovey, F. Pegler, A. Saunders, S. Millard, S. Smart, N. Hayes, and A. Cook.

Cinderford. – J. Hall; H. Nelmes, M. Meek, F. Niblett, and H. Martin; M. Reeves and I. Woolford; A. Sheldon, G. Bowkett (capt.), J. Watkins, A. Hewlett, G. Lodge, E. Kilby, W. Robbins, and O. Colwell.

Referee : Mr. J. Sotheby (Bristol).

## THE GAME.

Bowkett kicked off for Cinderford, and opening play was contested in the home half. A punt by Woolford took play close to the Gloucester line, where Bowen cleverly relieved to touch though hampered by Nelmes. A penalty to Gloucester saw Cook punt out to Bowkett, who was tackled but managed to pass the ball. Later Woolford kicked across and Meek and Martin dribbled down, where Cook saved by dropping on the ball. From a scrum five yards out Dix secured and kicked to Hall, who made a poor attempt to drop a goal.

Gloucester re-started, and aided by a free, got past the centre, but Cinderford quickly returned. Some clever back play by the Foresters got the ball out to Nelmes on the left wing, but Wilkes effected a fine tackle. Cinderford were playing a fast, forward game, and with the backs kicking well they had the better of the exchanges.

A loose kick down touch took Cinderford very close, and Reeves was nearly through. Gloucester were beaten in the scrums so far, but the Cinderford backs, though trying hard, could not beat the defence. Niblett being tackled in possession lost the ball, and Hamblin dribbled clean away, but finally sent to touch. The City forwards made further headway, and at length Dix got the ball away to Wilkes, who fed Hamblin. The latter's pass to Washbourn, however, was smartly intercepted by Martin, who ran and punted to touch at the Gloucester 25.

A penalty to Gloucester for off-side by the visitors followed, and Smart following up Cook's kick, charged down the return, and Meek could do nothing but punt straight to touch. Gloucester rushed a few yards and gained a good position, but Cinderford heeled from the subsequent scrum, and Reeves passed out to Bowkett, who punted to Cook. The City custodian gathered well, and took a drop for goal, but sent wide of the posts, a minor resulting.

Gloucester maintained a footing in their opponents' half on the drop out, and for off-side play at the scrum the City were awarded a free. Cook punted high but nothing resulted, Meek sending to touch.

From the next scrum Lewis brought off a clever run through and pass to Dix, but the latter slipped and fell on facing Hall. Halford and Pegler were prominent with a good bit of footwork which threatened danger to Cinderford, but Hall saved the situation. A little later, from a cross-kick by C. Cook, the Gloucester forwards secured possession and A. Cook scored in the corner. The goal kick failed.

Resuming, Lewis was at fault in taking a pass from Dix, and Cinderford subsequently reached the centre. Play, however, was very scrambling, and of little interest. Cinderford, by neat work, gave trouble with some handling, but a forward pass spoiled it. Then well inside the home half Dix broke away, and after some lovely exchanges and a smart opening by Hamblin, Washbourn raced home and scored behind the posts. C. Cook added the extra points.

Even play followed the resumption, but a missed pass from Lewis to Hamblin enabled Cinderford to secure an advantage. Gloucester tried hard to work out an opening on the right for Washbourn, but the efforts were thwarted and play remained at midfield. Hereabouts there was a temporary stoppage owing to injury to Martin, but he was able to resume after attention from the ambulance men.

Continuing, Dix sneaked away from a scrum beautifully, and slipping Reeves passed to Lewis. The latter made a big attempt to go through, but was collared a few yards from the line. Just before the interval Lewis marked from a punt out by Hall, but Cook's shot for goal was charged down.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 1 goal 1 try  
Cinderford ..... Nil

From Halford's restart a visitor marked, but the kick went back to Halford, who found touch ten yards from the Foresters' goal with his return. From the first scrum Gloucester heeled, but Dix's long pass out fell between Wilkes and Bowen; and Cinderford coming out kicked down to Cook, who was collared in possession.

Lewis gained ground with a useful effort, and then came a sweet movement initiated by Dix. Washbourn received from Lewis, and cutting through smartly passed to Hamblin. The latter rounded Nelmes, and running straight up to the line timed a nice pass to Wilkes, who scored. Hamblin missed the goal points.

From the drop out Hayes received, and threw out to the backs. Lewis gathered and passed to Hamblin, who brought off a splendid run, but the defence held out. Still Gloucester were in a grand attacking position, and from an opening by Dix, Lewis dashed through and scored a good try. Hamblin converted.

Bowkett resumed, and a Gloucester kick being charged down Cinderford reached the home half. Immediately Dix dribbled beautifully, and turned the ball nicely to the centre of the ground on reaching Hall, but the Foresters managed to save. Near the centre A. Cook got clear with a clever run and pass, but the ball was dropped with a good opening.

A big burst by the City forwards, Hayes leading, led to Cinderford being hotly pressed, but only a touch down was given. A minute later Hall conceded another minor, making the touch just in time. Gloucester were having all the game just now, the forwards playing a fine game. Dix, too, was very active at the scrum, and caused no end of trouble to the visitors.

From a drop at goal – a near thing – Cinderford touched down, and next Dix punted across in front of goal, where Meek secured and punted out to Washbourn. The wing man, after beating Martin, passed inside to Hamblin, who raced clean through the opposition and scored a fine try. The same player converted.

Directly after the restart the Gloucester backs were set going again, and Wilkes clearing the opposing centre passed to Hamblin, who ran over with another grand try. Hamblin converted again, making the full points 26 to nil.

Cinderford played up pluckily on the resumption, and Meek intercepting a pass looked dangerous until brought down by Pegler. Another interception took place immediately after by Martin, but the Cinderfordian knocked on. The Foresters attacked for a brief space, but they were beaten off, and a clever run down touch by Lewis, followed by some interpassing, looked likely to materialise, but the final transfer was not accepted.

In subsequent play Gloucester threw the ball about rather recklessly, with the result that the Foresters benefited. The City, however, confined play to their opponents' half, and Hamblin had a shot from a penalty, but failed to land a goal. After this Cinderford played up better, and Cook had to concede a minor from a kick over the line.

The Foresters were dangerous again on the drop out, but were soon beaten off, and when the end came play was at the centre.

RESULT :

Gloucester .... 4 goals, 2 tries (26 points)  
Cinderford ..... Nil

REMARKS.

Cinderford well held their own for the first twenty minutes, but once Gloucester started scoring the Foresters were a thoroughly beaten side. The City's pace and cleverness behind the scrum proved altogether too much for Cinderford, and but for a tendency to recklessness on the part of the home players once they established a big lead, the score might have been added to appreciably.

Cinderford played a hard, vigorous game forward, and the men tackled well, but behind there were several weak spots.

Hamblin played another fine game at centre for Gloucester, and besides his own two tries he had a large share in the points credited to Washbourn and Wilkes.

Dix got through a lot of clever work despite the close attention of Woolford, and Lewis, apart from some ill-judged passes, was seen to great advantage.

Cook gave a finished display at full-back, kicking finely [with] either foot and making few mistakes in handling. Cinderford were best represented behind by Hall, Meek, and Martin, and of the forwards Bowkett, Watkins, and Lodge were very prominent. Of the City pack Halford, Hayes, Cook, and Smart were most noticeable.

#### GLOUCESTER A *v.* SOUTH END.

This match should have been played at Kingsholm on Monday morning, but the Seconds' jerseys were unfit to wear owing to the drenching received at Bristol on Saturday, and the match had to be cancelled. The St. Mark's Club allowed City Club members to witness their match on production of membership card.