

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1897

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. PENARTH

THE CITY CLUB'S FIRST WELSH MATCH

A DISAPPOINTING GAME

GLOUCESTER MAINTAIN THEIR UNBEATEN RECORD

THE VISITORS DEFEATED BY TWO TRIES

The visit of any Welsh combination to Gloucester always creates plenty of interest, and though Penarth has not the power of attraction as some of the older organisations from the Principality, a capital attendance turned up at Kingsholm to witness what promised to be an interesting contest.

The visitors had played five matches prior to their appearance to-day, three of which were won and two lost. This record compared unfavourably with that of the home team, for the latter had won the whole of their six previous engagements, and had scored 85 points to their opponents' nil.

For this afternoon's game Gloucester were without Goddard (suffering with an injury to the thigh) and Goulding, but these were the only absentees. The former's place in the centre was filled by the inclusion of J. Cook, of the A team; whilst the forward rank was the same as played against Bristol. There were several new faces in the Penarth ranks, but the side was regarded as a fairly representative one. The weather was fine, and the ground was in grand condition.

The Penarth men arrived on the ground in good time, but Hipwood was ten minutes late in turning up, and it was 3.25 before the players entered the enclosure, the men lining out as follows : –

GLOUCESTER	Positions	PENARTH
B. Hipwood	Backs	C. Thornley
W. H. Taylor (capt.)	Three-quarters	R. C. Thomas
J. Cook	"	W. J. Evans
P. W. Stout	"	H. Alexander
G. F. Clutterbuck	"	G. W. Shepherd
A. Stephens	Half-backs	G. Hughes
Car Cummings	"	C. Sweet-Escott
C. Williams	Forwards	T. Morris
C. Hall	"	W. Gibbs
C. Rose	"	R. Morel
F. M. Stout	"	R. Blake
A. Pitt	"	J. Matthews
A. H. Click	"	H. Hutchings
T. Hatherall	"	F. Kirby
Bert Lewis	"	T. Cochrane

Referee : Mr. F. Gill (Bristol)

THE GAME

Taylor was successful in the toss, and Penarth started operations from the Worcester-street goal. Hipwood put in a fine return, and no reply being made the ball went into touch inside the visitors' half. Percy Stout was early prominent with a splendid punt which carried hostilities further into the enemies' camp. Here Cummings got cleverly away from a scrum, but Taylor failed to take the final pass – not a good one – and a visitor receiving he kicked into touch.

A penalty fell to Penarth for an infringement by the home forwards, but Taylor, with a clever punt, kept the game in the Penarth half. Carrying a scrum in fine style, the Gloucester forwards made tracks towards their opponents' goal, and Thornley only saved a few yards outside.

A couple of scrums followed near the line, from one of which Click got hold and scored in the corner amidst cheers. Percy Stout took the shot for goal from the difficult angle, but the ball went wide.

Penarth dropped out, and by the aid of a good kick by Evans play was taken inside the Gloucester half. For an infringement the city team were penalised, but Gibbs' shot for goal was a good bit wide of its mark. Percy Stout, however, touched down.

The same player re-started, and the Gloucester forwards going off with a grand rush the Penarth lines were again placed in serious danger. By a lucky kick the visitors relieved, and another free enabled them a minute later to get to the centre. Getting possession from a line out Rose secured a splendid opening, but a knock on spoiled the chance of scoring.

A couple more "frees" fell to the visitors, and these, together with a clever bout of passing amongst their backs, enabled them to reach the home 25. From a throw out Alexander secured, and the visiting captain made a splendid attempt to cross, but he was held on the line, and losing possession Frank Stout touched down.

The drop-out was charged down, but Cummings and Cook between them got Gloucester out of a tight place. Subsequently Percy Stout, with a well-judged punt, further improved matters for the home side, and play now hovered well inside the Penarth half. Thornley and Evans here made their marks for the visitors in quick succession, but little ground was made.

Now followed a series of kicks between players on either side, which became somewhat monotonous. Hipwood at length ran up, and, collaring his man before he could reply, the city custodian took part in a capital rush towards the Penarth goal. Alexander saved nicely, and getting in a useful kick the visitors managed to ward off danger.

Now followed some loose scrambling play, in which both sides appeared to be all at sea. It eventually ended in a line-out taking place about five yards from the Penarth line. Here Stephens got possession, and tried hard to get through, but he was held outside. For getting round the wrong side of the scrum the visiting halves were penalised, but Percy Stout failed at his shot for goal. Penarth, however, conceded a minor.

The visitors dropped out, and after some desultory play Cook made his mark from a punt by Thornley. Again the elder Stout had the ball placed for him, but his kick was no more successful than his previous efforts.

Following the kick-out Percy Stout with a grand punt found touch near the Penarth line, and for the next few minutes the visitors were sorely pressed. Clutterbuck, Stephens, and Cummings each made a determined effort to get over, but they were stopped in the nick of time.

At length, however, success rewarded the persistent attacks of the home men, Taylor scoring a few yards from the touch-line, after a series of exchanges between Stephens, Cummings, and Cook. Percy Stout's kick at goal, although a brilliant attempt, again went wide of the posts. Half-time was now sounded.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 2 tries (6 points)
Penarth Nil

Gloucester resumed, and there being no reply, the home team immediately assumed the offensive. Following a sharp rush the Gloucester men nearly got over in the corner, but Thornley saved.

By useful dribbling Penarth relieved their goal, but Gloucester quickly got back with a forward rush. Percy Stout made his mark just outside the 25 flag, and the Gloucester centre took a drop for goal, but the ball bounced under the posts, and only a touchdown was recorded.

Taylor received the drop-out, and the City captain made tracks across the ground, but he ran full tilt into the arms of an opponent, and was hauled down. From the scrum which ensued the ball was kicked down to Thornley, who made his mark. The Penarth custodian punted to Percy Stout, who got off capitally, but his pass to Taylor was too low and the ball rolled into touch.

Ensuing play was of a very scrambling nature, and there were occasions when there was too much playing the man instead of the ball.

The game was kept near midfield for some few minutes, until the Penarth forwards, getting away with a loose rush, made things look dangerous for the home team. Percy Stout was collared with the ball in his possession, and a scrummage ensued only a few yards from the Gloucester line. By dint of hard work by the forwards the city team relieved, but the visitors got back again. George Clutterbuck, receiving from Stephens, made a determined effort to clear, but on passing the ball was intercepted by an opponent, who kicked into touch inside the Gloucester quarter.

A short delay took place owing to an injury to Clutterbuck, but on resuming Cummings quickly removed the slight pressure. Some loose kicking by the home backs was well followed up by Hall, Rose, and Pitt, and Evans being tackled and dispossessed of the ball, a good opening presented itself to the home side. Alexander, however, raced back, and, picking up neatly, got in a good kick into touch.

Gloucester now played up strongly, and the forwards showing up with some good loose work, the Penarth 25 was reached. In a combined rush for the line several Gloucester men took the ball over in company with a visitor and a general scramble ensued, but only a minor was awarded.

Re-starting, Gloucester again held the advantage, and Percy Stout only just missed dropping a goal. The kick-out was well returned, but for off-side play by the Gloucester forwards the home men were ordered back to the centre. Taylor mulling a kick by one of the visiting backs, gave Penarth a fine chance of scoring, but Hipwood and Cummings managed to stave off disaster.

Working well together Gloucester again attacked, but they were beaten off, and in the last two or three minutes Penarth had slightly the better of the exchanges. A bad mistake by Taylor enabled the visitors to get very dangerous, and from a bout of passing Evans looked like going in. His pass to Shepherd, however, was a poor one, and the latter was surrounded before he could move. Immediately after no-side was called.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 tries (6 points)
Penarth Nil

REMARKS

It was a disappointing game, the play throughout being of a very ragged description. Gloucester undoubtedly held a big advantage, and with a little more tact and resource might very easily have added two or three more tries to the score.

Penarth only got really dangerous about twice during the whole game, and their display altogether was very much below what was expected of them.

Considering the favourable conditions which prevailed, the poor exhibition which was afforded came as a big surprise. The visitors generally play a nice open game, but this afternoon their backs were practically idle as regards attacking work. The fact that their forwards were beaten almost from the start no doubt upset the half-backs a good bit, but the few chances the latter did get were not put to good use.

Alexander was about the only visiting three-quarter who did anything to call for special mention, though Thomas and Evans kicked well. The veteran Shepherd was practically wasted at wing three-quarter for he only got about one pass, and then he was hemmed in on all sides directly he received the leather.

Of the Gloucester back division Cummings and Stephens performed fairly well, but nothing exceptionally smart was accomplished. As a pair, the Gloucester half-backs had a good deal the better of their opponents, who were very slow and uncertain.

In the Gloucester third line Percy Stout worked hard, but he was not so effective as in the match against the Midland Counties. Stout kicked splendidly all through the game, and he experienced very hard luck in not placing three or four goals.

The combination of the home three-quarters was often at fault, and mistakes in handling occurred too often to please the spectators. Cook made few mistakes as far as could be seen, but he did not get many opportunities to show his undoubted cleverness in attack.

Clutterbuck again proved the most useful wing man, Taylor making more than one mull, which might have ended in disaster had a less sound custodian than Hipwood been in the rear. The Gloucester forwards always held the whip hand of their rivals, but several times they spoiled good openings by either kicking too hard or over-running the ball.

The City pack exhibited an improvement in getting the ball in the tight scrums, and their wheeling tactics were generally well conceived. In the line outs Lewis and Rose did good work; whilst Hall, Stout, and Pitt were the most prominent in the loose rushes.

Gibbs was often conspicuous for Penarth, Matthews, Blake, and Morel being the pick of the others. Thornley, at full-back, kicked well, and did not do at all badly in the position.

The gate money amounted to £42.

GLOUCESTER A v. BREAM.

This match was played at Bream.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 1 goal 1 try (8 points)
Bream Nil

Broady and G. Hall scored. A fast game.

JC