

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1898

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

COUNTY MATCH AT KINGSHOLM

GLOUCESTERSHIRE v. GLAMORGAN

These counties met in friendly rivalry for the first time at Kingsholm this afternoon. The weather fortunately turned out fine, and the prospect of seeing a good exhibition of football attracted a numerous crowd to the City Club's enclosure.

There were several alterations in the Gloucestershire team from the original selection, the brothers Stout, Hailing, Jarman, and Champain all sending back word that they would be unable to turn out.

The absence of the two proper centres – Percy Stout and Hailing – was expected to weaken the back division severely, especially in defence.

The teams were as follows : –

FULL-BACK

B. Hipwood (Gloucester) T. Jones (Penygraig)

THREE-QUARTER BACK

R. Parsons (Bristol) W. Llewellyn (Llwynypia)
F. M. Luce (Oxford) D. Rees (Swansea)
G. F. Collett (Cheltenham C.) L. Deere (Mountain Ash)
E. Hussey (Bristol) I. Edmunds (Llwynypia)

HALF-BACKS

W. Needs (Bristol) Dan Jones (Aberavon)
Car Cummings (Gloucester) E, Lewis (Treherbert)

FORWARDS

Bert Lewis (Gloucester)	D. Evans (Penygraig)
C. Hall (Gloucester) capt.	F. Vigors (Neath)
F. Goulding (Gloucester)	W. H. Alexander (Llwynypia)
A. H. Click (Gloucester)	W. F. Rees (Pontypridd)
H. R. T. Bingham (Bristol)	J. Jenkins (Treherbert)
W. Leighton (Cinderford)	T. Madden (Aberavon)
W. Mudway (Cinderford)	Hopkin Davies (Swansea)
P. Smith (Stroud)	J. Matthews (Bridgend)

Referee : Mr. F. H. Fox (Somerset).

THE GAME

Glamorgan won the toss, and the game was started by C. Hall from the Worcester-street goal. A capital return was made, and play opened at the centre. Carrying a scrum in fine style, the Gloucestershire forwards made some dozen yards or so, but Llewellyn kicked nicely into touch.

A penalty to the visitors enabled them to get beyond the centre, but Collett though hotly pressed got a nice punt into touch. From the line-out the Glamorgan backs tried to get off, but a wild pass was taken advantage of by Collett and Luce, who dribbled down the field in good style. Dan Jones, by some good work, took play back into the home end, but a free to Gloucestershire removed the pressure.

The Glamorgan halves were here prominent with some tricky work, and a pass out to Deere gave the latter an opening, but Hipwood tackled his man splendidly. For a moment or two Gloucestershire were hard pressed, but bad passing by the Glamorgan backs enabled the home men to reach the centre. A good punt was well followed up by the Gloucestershire forwards, and the game for the next few minutes hovered in the visitors' 25. Glamorgan, however, soon came away, and following some loose forward work the ball was kicked over the line and a touch-down was conceded. Hall dropped out, and ensuing play was contested in the Glamorgan half.

A flying kick by Cummings gave Gloucester[*sic*] the advantage, and then Luce, picking up smartly in the open, gave a good pass to Collett. The old Cheltonian, however, was hauled down when on the quarter line. By wheeling a scrum Glamorgan rushed to the centre, but they were almost immediately driven back. The Gloucestershire forwards now heeled out smartly, and a bout of passing started by Cummings gave Luce an opportunity. When just getting clear, however, the Oxonian had the misfortune to lose the ball. Gloucestershire now attacked strongly, but they were beaten off.

A grand run by Deere looked promising for Glamorgan, but Luce tackled the Mountain Ash man in grand style. The visiting backs now showed up with some passing, but the collaring of the home men was very sure. Deere was brought down by Luce and Collett when he looked all over a scorer, and the Cheltonian also robbed him of possession of the ball, Luce eventually kicking into touch well inside the Glamorgan half.

The home centres, receiving from Needs, exhibited some pretty play, the result of which was that Collett almost scored. Gloucestershire made desperate efforts to score, and Needs made one big attempt to get over, but he was foiled. Immediately after the ball was sent over the line, but after a general scramble the Glamorgan custodian kicked dead.

On the drop-out the Glamorgan forwards were prominent with some good footwork, but their rushes were checked each time. Cummings served Needs very cleverly, and Luce made one brilliant opening for Hussey, but the latter fumbled the ball when he had a clear run in – decidedly hard lines for the home men.

Gloucester[*sic*] attacked strongly for two or three minutes, but Glamorgan worked out, and eventually found a footing in the home quarters. Here the Welshmen tried some passing, but Collett cleverly intercepted, and getting the ball at his feet dribbled half the length of the ground. The ball was easily controlled past the visiting custodian, but just as a score seemed certain Llewellyn dashed up and saved grandly. Play to the interval was fast and interesting, but there was no score.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucestershire Nil
GlamorganNil

Glamorgan re-started operations, Luce replying nicely into touch. From the first scrum formed the visiting halves got possession. Dan Jones, however, tried to do something on his own, but he was quickly stopped. Play hovered near the centre for a couple of minutes till Cummings started his third line in motion. Luce, however, knocked-on, when a favourable opportunity presented itself.

From the following scrum the ball was kicked down to the Glamorgan full-back, but Lewis dashing out from the thick of the fray completely smothered his opponent amidst the cheers of the crowd. The ball was dribbled on by Collett, but it went into touch a few yards outside. The Welshmen soon relieved their lines, but Needs started a brilliant bit of combined play in which Luce shared honours with the Bristolian, but Parsons was finely collared by Llewellyn when making for the line.

Ensuing play was fast and furious, and there was some really clever play exhibited on both sides. Deere had another fine run down the touch-line, but Hipwood checked his career when he looked all over a scorer. The effort, however, led to a sharp attack on the Gloucestershire line, and a couple of minutes later the home men were lucky to escape a score by kicking dead, after several futile attempts by players on both sides to touch down.

Gloucester[*sic*] dropped out, and the home forwards were soon prominent with a very fine combined dribble. The ball eventually got across to Needs, who picked up and passed to Luce. The Oxonian ran strongly, but Llewellyn again proved the saviour of his side with another grand tackle. The visitors' backs after this exhibited some pretty passing, but the tackling of the home men was very keen. By the aid of some splendid forward work Gloucestershire assumed the aggressive, and the Glamorgan defence was severely taxed.

Gradually the visitors worked out until the centre was reached. Here Cummings got the ball from a scrum and passed to Needs, who made off down the touch-line. When confronted by Llewellyn the Bristolian handed inside to Hall, who subsequently re-passed to Needs, for the latter to run over with an exceptionally clever try, amidst loud cheers. Collett failed at goal, though the attempt was a good one.

Glamorgan dropped out, but Gloucester[sic] continued to have considerably the better of exchanges.

RESULT :

Gloucestershire 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)
Glamorgan Nil

REMARKS

Gloucestershire are to be warmly congratulated on their success, which was in every way, thoroughly deserved. The game opened rather tamely, but after the first ten minutes a great improvement was observed, and play at times was really brilliant. The ball was given plenty of air, and though both back divisions made mistakes in handling there were some very pretty combined movements.

On the Gloucestershire side Collett and Luce played beautifully together in the centre, and though they were more conspicuous in attack their defence was also sound.

Luce made several very fine runs, and gave Hussey and Parsons good chances of scoring. Hussey, however, mull'd his pass badly in the first half, whilst Parsons was not fast enough to get clear of Llewellyn.

At half-back Needs was fairly in his element, and made rings round Dan Jones, last year's Welsh International. The Bristolian was well served by Cummings, who played a hard game throughout.

The Gloucestershire forwards were seen to great advantage in all departments, heeling out cleanly when they had the chance, and exhibiting great dash and resource in the open. In footwork, perhaps they were not quite so clever as the Glamorgan eight, but in other respects the home team held their own splendidly.

The tackling of the players generally was very keen, and they all did a fair share of the hard scrimmaging. Hall, Bingham, Goulding, Lewis, and Percy Smith were the more noticeable in the open, but none worked harder than Fred Click, Leighton, and Mudway. Hipwood was very safe at full back, and did better than the opposing custodian, who was uncertain in his handling at times.

For Glamorgan, Deere and Llewellyn outclassed their colleagues in the three-quarter line, the former running strongly, whilst Llewellyn tackled grandly and saved two or three certain tries. Of the forwards Dai Evans, Vigors, and Hopkin Davies were the pick of a hard-working lot. The gate amounted to £46.