

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1898

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. PENARTH

CITY CLUB'S CONCLUDING MATCH

HONOURS EASY

At Penarth, this being the last match on the Gloucester card. The City Club were not at full strength, the absentees including Percy Stout, Car Cummings, C. Rose, and E. Goulding; whilst W. Hughes missed the train. Gloucester won the first match by 2 tries to nil; and seeing how very moderately the Welshmen have been performing this season the visitors fully anticipated another victory.

The teams were :—

GLOUCESTER	Positions	PENARTH
Ben Hipwood	Back	C. Thornley
W. H. Taylor	Three-quarters	H. Alexander
C. Smith	"	E. Thomas
F. M. Luce	"	W. Knight
G. F. Clutterbuck	"	H. James
A. Stephens	Half-backs	G. Hughes
G. Hall	"	— . Ackland
C. Williams	Forwards	T. Morris
C. Hall	"	H. Hutchings
A. H. Click	"	W. Gibbs
F. M. Stout	"	C. Warburton
B. L. Watkins	"	R. Morel
G. H. Smith	"	R. Blake
J. Lewis	"	F. Kirby
E. Emery (sub.)	"	D. Heap

THE GAME.

On arriving at Penarth, Emery, the old Cardiff scrummager, was persuaded to play in place of Hughes, and it was found that Penarth were deprived of the services of Cecil Sweet Escott and the veteran forward Matthews, though Ackland and Heap, who took their places, have been among the premiers half a dozen times this season.

It was a glorious afternoon. Scarcely a breath of wind prevailed, but a brilliant sun severely handicapped the home side, who had lost the toss. The referee (Mr. Jones, Newport) had the teams facing each other at 3.50.

For the first fifteen minutes Penarth forced the pace, the game being more vigorous than scientific. At the outset Kirby made a dashing run, and a score was assured had Gibbs taken the pass.

Following up a mark kick, Heap was only prevented from scoring by a grand tackle by Hipwood. Then, after a pass from a scrambling scrummage about six yards from the goal mouth, Alexander was held up on the line by Hall.

During the initial quarter of an hour the citizens had been almost wholly confined to defence. Thomas, on the right wing, was then injured by a kick on the knee, and Kirby was brought out of the home pack.

The referee had a word to say to Emery soon afterwards, and then Thornley missed taking a high punt from Stephens, with the result that Taylor dashed up and secured the ball, which the Gloucester captain very cleverly dribbled onward, and out-distancing his pursuers scored a fine try, lucky in its inception. Clutterbuck's kick at goal failed.

During the next five minutes the left wing distinguished himself, and Luce had hard lines in not scoring a second try, Thornley's tackle being magnificent.

The visiting forwards now shone, but their efforts in the loose were counterbalanced by fine fielding and smart screw punting on the part of Alexander. The game was now mostly on Penarth's side of the field, and after Luce and Taylor had made gallant attempts to break through Hipwood made his mark a little inside half-way, but a minor only was gained by Clutterbuck.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 try
Penarth Nil

Stout's re-start went into touch, and his second essay was received by Thomas, who had returned about ten minutes before the interval. That he had not fairly recovered was, however, evident, for his kick was feeble one.

Two of the visiting forwards handled, but a chance for the right wing was lost through forward passing. The Seaside's repeated their tactics of the first half by forcing the pace, and Hipwood twice saved with flying kicks. With Gloucester penned the home backs resorted to passing, and Alexander and Thomas came within an ace of scoring. A few yards from their 25 flag the Citizens were penalised for not placing the ball properly in the scrum, and what was the first penalty kick was only a yard short of gaining a goal.

At length Gloucester played up, and a screw punt by Luce was instrumental in removing the scene to the home quarters. From the first scrum Clutterbuck received a smart pass from Stephens, and scored in the extreme corner. The same player failed to convert.

The game was virtually won now, but Gloucester got inexplicably careless. Clutterbuck made a strong gallop to within a yard of the goal, where he lost the ball, and Alexander securing temporarily relieved. Bad passing on the left wing lost a certain try, for the defence had been broken through. Pluckily pegging away Penarth took advantage of mulling, and got outside their quarters, Alexander carrying play to half-way by jumping for the ball on the line-out.

Thornley was checked from replying to a punt by Taylor, and then a capital round of passing was intercepted between Smith and his captain. This enabled the homesters to travel into Gloucester territory, where, after Taylor had taken a penalty kick for an illegal tackle, Hughes made a grand opening but passed before Alexander could get up to him.

This fault saved the visitors a try, but before they could drive out the Seasideers Kirby, heading a forward rush after Stephens had miskicked, notched a try, which Gibbs unquestionably goaled. The referee did not think so, however, and cries of dissent from the spectators behind the goal came in accompaniment of the kicker's protest.

Almost immediately after the drop-out Penarth were given a second try, and in this case too an obvious error was made by the referee. Hipwood had kicked from his goal, and Thornley, the opposing full-back, responded. His kick was directed to the right touch-line, where a number of his scrummagers were clustered. Smith failed to get near and Hipwood allowed the ball to roll over his line, evidently appreciating the fact that none of the Seasideers were on-side. Hutchings, however, dashed for the ball and touched it down when it was close to the dead ball line. As Thornley had not even attempted to put his men on-side, it was palpable that a try was an unwarrantable decision. Thus the two points lost to Penarth by the goaling of the first try were more than compensated for by the three points now given. Gibbs now failed badly with his place-kick.

During the three minutes left for play Gloucester were pressed. No-side saw the game end as a draw, certainly a lucky result for Penarth, though Gloucester had not deserved a win by their carelessness in every portion of the second half.

RESULT :

Gloucester	2 tries (6 points)
Penarth	2 tries (6 points)

GLOUCESTER A v. BARNWOOD

EASY VICTORY FOR GLOUCESTER

At Kingsholm, before about 500 spectators. Neither team was at full strength, Whacker Smith, G. Hall, and J. Lewis being away from the home side; whilst J. Cox. B. Parham, T. Gurney, and W. Webb were unable to assist Barnwood.

The teams took the field at 2.45 as follows : –

GLOUCESTER A. – G. Romans, back; W. Dovey, F. C. Weaver, J. Cook, and W. Hayward, three-quarter backs; A. D. Lansley and W. Hayward, half-backs; W. Payne, B. Hough, A. White, H. Manley, F. Oswell, A. Mills, W. Hughes, and F. Hughes, forwards.

BARNWOOD. – F. Pugh, back; S. M. Reece (captain), L. F. Morgan, W. Donald, and A. Welsh, three-quarter backs; C. J. Garlick and A. Hall, half-backs; T. Lee, G. H. Bland, S. P. Bland, A. E. Greenhill, E. Clarke, T. Brown, T. Critchley, and A. Hawker, forwards.

Gloucester started against the sun, and almost immediately Barnwood were forced to defend. Weaver, receiving a pass from Goddard, made a good effort to cross in the corner, but he was held outside. The A., however, still continued to press, and White was credited with a try within four minutes of the kick-off. Roman's shot for goal went just outside the posts.

The drop-out was well returned, and after Dovey had only just failed to score on the left wing, Weaver, securing out of some loose play, notched try No. 2. The place-kick again failed.

Nettled by these early reverses Barnwood played up pluckily and twice in quick succession forced the home men to touch down. Ensuing play was of a tame description, the home men making numerous mistakes and losing several chances of scoring.

At length Lansley initiated a nice bout of passing, which let Weaver in. Goddard failed to convert.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 3 tries
Barnwood Nil

Barnwood re-started, but play was exceedingly dull and devoid of interest. Gloucester had rather the better of the exchanges, but the players were distinctly off colour, and mulled the ball repeatedly when in an attacking position. After about twenty minutes' play of a most desultory description Lansley broke through the opposition and scored near the posts.

On resuming Barnwood rushed down the field and got dangerously near the home goal-line. Romans tried to relieve by running out, but he was floored before going a dozen yards. Dovey immediately after got off with a nice run, but he was hauled down from behind in trying to cut past the full-back. Just before the finish White added another try after a smart bit of work from a line-out near the centre. Romans converted.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 2 goals, 3 tries (19 points)
Barnwood Nil