

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1925

FOOTBALL

CARDIFF HELD AT KINGSHOLM

STRENUOUS GAME ENDS IN A DRAW

EIGHT POINTS EACH

For their important match with Cardiff at Kingsholm, Gloucester were in a difficulty in fixing up the three-quarter line owing to the disablement of four players, viz., Loveridge (broken collar-bone), Crowther (splintered rib), Saxby (damaged shoulder), and Thomas (septic leg). Experiments had to be made to meet the situation, and the Selectors' choice fell on R. A. Riley, who figured at centre with Hughes, and A. E. Hopcroft for the wing position. Riley was making his debut for the senior City team, but Hopcroft had made an occasional appearance at centre.

Combination at three-quarter has not been a distinguishing feature of the play of the Gloucester team this season, and with two new and inexperienced men in the line some anxiety was felt as to how they would shape against so strong [a] side as Cardiff.

The Welsh Metropolitans, whose last win at Kingsholm was as far back as October 1910, came with an unbeaten record, but they, too, had to play three reserve three-quarters in Howe, Corsi, and Harding. Howe and Corsi were in the victorious Cardiff Fifteen which defeated Newport a few weeks ago, and Harding is a former Newport player who has been assisting the Reserves.

The afternoon was fine and the attendance, some 5,000, including 600 Cardiff supporters, was easily the biggest of the season.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : T. Millington.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. A. Brown, R. A. Riley, E. H. Hughes, and A. E. Hopcroft.

HALF-BACKS : Dr. Taylor and R. Milliner.

FORWARDS : A. T. Voyce (capt.), F. W. Ayliffe, J. Read, S. Duberley, W. B. Scott, M. Short, E. Triggs-Herbert, and J. Hemmings.

CARDIFF

BACK : B. O. Male.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. A. Cornish, H. Corsi, A. V. Harding, and H. Howe.

HALF-BACKS : D. E. Davies and W. J. Delahay.

FORWARDS : Idris Richards, Cliff Williams, S. Hinam, T. Lewis, J. Brown, J. Burns, E. Spillane, and W. Ould.

Referee : Mr. A. J. Lock (Somerset)

THE GAME

The teams lined out five minutes late, and both met with a hearty reception from the crowd. Voyce kicked off for Gloucester, the ball going to Harding, who was only partly tackled and struggled away to gain a few yards. Play opened at the centre until the Cardiff forwards broke away, and later Delahay started passing. The ball went along the line to Howe, who was pushed to touch in time.

Taylor gained relief with a useful effort, but Cardiff opened out again, a bad pass to Harding going astray. Play was very fast, with both sides showing good form. A penalty to Gloucester gained some twenty yards, and further headway was made with a useful rush.

Cardiff were closely pressed, and there was some erratic passing which enabled Gloucester to take advantage. Close tackling robbed Cardiff of possession, and with a dashing burst the City forwards went right to the line. There was a scramble, ending in the ball being rushed over and VOYCE credited with a try after about eight minutes' play. Millington landed a neat goal, and Gloucester were five points up.

Cardiff resumed, and the Welshmen showed up strongly with clever handling. Cornish punted high, and Millington failed to gather, but recovered and got in a short kick to touch. The Gloucester forwards were twice prominent with strong rushes, but Cardiff worked back, and the City were hard pressed. From a line-out a visitor, unmarked, had a fine opening, but lost the ball, and though a colleague tried to gather he knocked on. This was a lucky escape for the City. In ensuing play Gloucester brought relief with a good dribble, but Burns made a clever mark under pressure. He took a shot for goal, but missed, and Millington kicked out finely to touch.

Cardiff tried hard to break away in subsequent play but the defence was good. There was some rough work hereabouts in a maul, and a Cardiff forward was warned by the referee.

Gloucester were holding their own well, though Cardiff always looked the more dangerous side in the open. Hopcroft, with a good touch-kick, gave Gloucester a good slice of ground, and later Millington earned applause for getting the better in an exchange of kicks. At the scrum Delahay was too quick for Milliner, and twice robbed the City scrum half after Gloucester had heeled.

Just now there was bad handling on both sides, the tension being very great. An attack on the Cardiff left failed, but the Welshmen were giving the ball plenty of air, though the aggressive movements lacked the old-time finish. A big loose rush by the City, headed by Voyce, took Gloucester well down, but later they were robbed of the ball and Cardiff broke away. Millington, however, stopped his man and forced him to throw forward.

Milliner was twice conspicuous for sound work, but Cardiff gained an advantage and but for blundering, should have scored. A well-judged kick by Male put Cardiff on the attack, and from a line-out HINAM secured and, beating the defence, scored in a good position. Male failed at goal, and Gloucester still had a two points' lead.

Gloucester resumed, and centre play followed. The City maintained their position with good kicking, and the forwards made one determined burst which looked dangerous. Harding, however, stepped in and gathering the ball cleared effectively.

A neat bit of work by Riley kept Gloucester at mid-field and then VOYCE came into the picture with a great effort. Beating the Cardiff outsides with neat footwork, the International followed up and gathered the ball on the run. He only had Male to beat and with a strong hand-off the City captain cleared his opponent and raced hard, scoring a magnificent try amidst tremendous cheering. Millington failed at goal.

This further success gave the City renewed confidence, and for the next few minutes Cardiff had a very hot time. The City rushed their opponents off their feet in the loose, and the Cardiff line had a narrow escape. A break through by Taylor secured a lovely opening but the next pass was captured by an opponent, and a good opening was lost. Gloucester held the upper hand till the interval, Taylor distinguishing himself with some fine kicks.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal, 1 try

CARDIFF 1 try

In the last ten minutes before half-time Gloucester had been going great guns, and during this period Cardiff were outplayed. It was stirring football, and Voyce's try sent the crowd in ecstasies. Cardiff restarted the game, and in attempting to charge the return Brown fell awkwardly and injured himself, necessitating his leaving the field. Resuming, the Gloucester forwards broke away finely from a line-out, but over-ran the ball and Davies saved.

In some loose play Cornish got in a lucky punt, and Voyce, who ran back and gathered, was pulled down at once. Kicking by Gloucester did not gain any ground, as the ball in each case went straight to Male, who fielded accurately and sent to touch.

Useful forward rushes made headway for Gloucester, but the position was lost through failure to gather. A visitor picked up and raced clear with Howe in attendance. There was a series of inter-passes, but the situation was saved at the critical moment.

From a kick over the line Hopcroft conceded a minor. From the drop-out Male ran up and passed to Harding, but the latter could only kick straight to touch. A big punt by Taylor put Gloucester on the 25 line, but faulty play lost the position and Cardiff set up a strong attack. Brown had now returned and with the teams level the contest waged strong and determined.

Cardiff had another good opening, but it was frittered away. Then a huge kick by Millington sent to the Cardiff end, where Cornish was forced to kick to touch. Gloucester put forth great efforts to increase their lead, and Hughes found touch within a yard of the line. From the throw-out Gloucester handled, but just as it looked as if Hughes was going through he was tackled and the ball went astray.

Gloucester continued to play with great vigour, and there was a sharp attack on the left, but Brown could not get through. From inside their own 25 Cardiff resorted to passing, but with Howell well away he was finely brought down by Hughes. From this point Cardiff made progress, and Delahay, with a brilliant run, made a fine opening for DAVIES, who ran over behind the posts. Ould added the goal points, and the sides were on level terms.

Voyce resumed, and early on Gloucester were awarded a penalty. The City captain punted high for his forwards to get under, but a Cardiffian secured and sent to touch. Play hovered just inside the home half, when Delahay again set his backs on the move. There was some clever passing between Corsi and Howe, but touch was given.

The Welshmen redoubled their efforts to gain the ascendancy, and the struggle forward was fast and furious. Voyce kicked out well from a line out but Male safely fielded and sent to touch close in. A fruitless drop at goal by Cornish, however, gave Gloucester relief and with the drop out the ball bounced to touch well over the half-way line.

From a scrum Gloucester heeled, and Milliner fed Taylor, but Riley, the next to receive ran into a couple of opponents and was upset. Cardiff secured and burst away, but Taylor tackled his man beautifully.

The doctor next came into prominence with a lovely punt to touch, ten yards from the goal line. Here was a chance for Gloucester, and Hemmings dribbled well but Male cleared nicely under pressure.

Just before the end Cardiff made a meritorious effort to win the game, but following some clever passing Voyce got back and effected a timely tackle.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal, 1 try (8 pts.)

CARDIFF 1 goal, 1 try (8 pts.)

REMARKS

Another red-hot game, in which, as last week, Gloucester were saved by the magnificent play of the forwards. Outside the scrum Cardiff were far ahead of the city as an attacking force, yet their combination and handling, brilliant as it was up to a point, broke down badly at times.

It was remarkable that Gloucester, as the play went, were able to take and hold the lead for such a long period. But it would have been hard luck on Cardiff to have lost their record, and it was fitting that the brilliant movement initiated by Delahay was crowned with success and led to the Welshmen equalising the points.

Gloucester did far better than expected, and to share the honours of the game reflected the greatest credit on the team, disorganised as it was at three-quarter. There were a few individual efforts this afternoon on the part of the Gloucester backs which stood out prominently, but as a combined unit they ill-compared with their Welsh opponents.

Milliner did wonders in defence, but he was no match for Delahay in the matter of initiating attacks or clean and accurate service. Delahay was as sharp as a needle, and more than once got possession and opened out after the ball had been heeled by the Gloucester forwards. On this form to-day, Wales will need the Cardiffian again this season.

Davies worked in perfect harmony with his partner, and it was not his fault that the numerous movements he initiated failed to yield scoring points. Taylor was too closely watched to do much in the way of attack, but he kicked splendidly in the second half and aided the forwards appreciably.

The Cardiff three-quarters were fast and nippy, and their failure to thrust home the many chances of scoring they had must be put down to over-anxiousness. Cornish and Corsi were clever in the centre, and Harding and Howe on the wings showed plenty of dash and determination. The backing up also was excellent, and it was rarely a man was not up to take a repass.

The Welshmen, perhaps, missed the experience of Johnson and Powell, the two Internationals, but the reserves are players of real ability, and Gloucester could do with one or two of the same merit.

As previously remarked the Gloucester backs did practically nothing in the way of combined movements, but individually Hughes got through a lot of good work, and Riley by no means shaped badly. Brown and Hopcroft, on the wings, suffered through want of real chances in attack.

Forward, Gloucester put up their best display of the season, and their work in the loose gave the Cardiffians many anxious moments. There were occasions when the rival packs were inclined to lose their heads, and the referee had to administer a caution. But Mr. Locke kept a firm hold of the game, and prevented anything serious happening.

Voyce had fine support from the whole of his colleagues, and the international himself did great things, apart from the two tries he scored. His second effort was a thriller, and the spectators simply rose in appreciation when, after handing off Male, he raced round behind the posts.

Read put in a tremendous amount of hard work, and in the loose dribbles Hemmings and Ayliffe were very distinguished. But all did well, except in one particular, and that was the tackling was far too high at times.

The Cardiff pack were a powerful and efficient combination, both in the scrums and outside, where skill and judgment were displayed in handling. The Welshmen were always dangerous in the open, and they frequently started passing movements in their own 25.

Cardiff have got the right idea, and they are a side that will take a lot of beating. Male and Millington both played up to reputation, and gave well-nigh perfect exhibitions.

Next week : Gloucestershire v. Devon, at Exeter; Gloucester v. Llanelly, at Llanelly; Gloucester A v. Whitecroft, at Kingsholm.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A

CITY SECONDS BEATEN BEHIND THE SCRUM

WILLIAMS' KICKING A FEATURE

In spite of the cold wind, a fair crowd welcomed Gloucester A to the Cardiff Arms Park, where they opposed the unbeaten record of the Cardiff Reserves. With a stiff breeze behind them Cardiff set up a strong attack, which was sustained for ten minutes, when Miles burst over with a try which was not converted.

Almost immediately on the resumption Cardiff were awarded a penalty, and from long range Palmer landed a magnificent goal.

By a series of sharp, short rushes Gloucester gained the advantage, but when Shaw, securing in a line-out, opened a good passing movement, Ridler failed to gather properly and lost a great scoring chance. However, Gloucester's persistence was rewarded two minutes later, when the referee gave them a free kick, from which Williams landed a good penalty goal.

Cardiff next opened their best movement to-date, and Brown was going well for the line when he was unfairly impeded and a penalty try was awarded to Cardiff. Brown took the kick but failed to convert.

The Gloucester backs made the mistake of kicking too much, for with the wind dead against them they made little headway. The forwards, however, were good in the loose and got down again, when Gloucester were awarded another penalty, and Williams again converted.

From a forward rush several Cardiff men forced their way over the line and North touched down, but Palmer failed to add the extra points.

Half-time :

Cardiff A 1 goal (p) 3 tries

Gloucester A 2 goals (p)

On the restart the Gloucester men quickly got down the field, being assisted by a mis-kick on the part of the Cardiff custodian. In spite of stern defence the Cardiff line ultimately surrendered when Franklin, securing from a line-out, dashed over, for Williams to convert.

The Gloucester forwards were for a time almost irresistible; Franklin, Smart and Shaw being very prominent. However, the Cardiff defence prevailed against all the attacks, and subsequently the tide was turned. In a forward movement Lee rushed over the Gloucester line to score a try, but the kick failed.

Right on time E. P. Jones picked up in the loose, and dashing away on the left gave to Brown, who eluded Williams and scored in a favourable position for Palmer to add the extra points.

Result :

Cardiff A	2 goals (1p), 4 tries (20 pts.)
Gloucester A	3 goals (2p) (11 pts.)

COMMENTS

The Gloucester forwards were as good as Cardiff's, but the backs made too much use of kicking instead of combination. Williams was easily their best man, his kicking being a feature of the game.