

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1913

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. 1ST. GLO'STER REGIMENT

ARMY CUP FINALISTS AT KINGSHOLM

THE SOLDIERS OUTCLASSED

FINE PLAY BY GLOUCESTER BACKS

HEAVY SCORING

The Army Rugby Cup finalists made a welcome appearance at Kingsholm to meet the premier City team.

The visitors (who came from Salisbury Plain) had numerous changes in the side which opposed Gloucester at Kingsholm last Christmas, when the soldiers were defeated by 5 tries (15 points) to a penalty goal (3 points), only one of the three-quarters remaining.

Gloucester turned out practically full strength, A. Hall and J. Baker (the county half-backs) taking their places in the team, whilst G. Halford, C. Cook, and Norman Hayes were also included.

The teams lined out as follows : —

GLOUCESTER	POSITIONS	GLO'STER REGT.
C. Cook	Backs	Lance Corpl. Ible
W. Washbourn	Three-Quarter	Lieut. Yalland
L. Hamblin	Backs	Private Sherwood
A. Lewis	"	Private Forbes
F. Webb	"	Corporal Organ
A. Hall	Half-Backs	Private Stephenson
J. Baker	"	Private Murray
G. Halford (capt.)	Forwards	Lieut. Duncan
S. Smart	"	Private Nash
N. Hayes	"	Private Nicholls
J. Meadows	"	Private Strong
J. Harris	"	Private Organ
C. Mumford	"	Lance-Sergt. Wilson
A. Cook	"	Private Atkinson
W. Parham	"	Private Giles

Referee : Mr. J. L. Davies (Lydney).

THE GAME

Halford started for Gloucester, and the return going to touch a line-out followed close to the centre line. From the first scrum the City heeled, but Baker's pass went astray, and Murray and a forward dribbled to Cook, where off-side stopped the soldiers. Gloucester had a free, but there was a good reply, and later Ible found touch well from a flying kick by Washbourn.

Gloucester gradually worked out, and Hall picking up in the loose made a great dash through, clearing the opposition in fine style. His pass was snapped up by an opponent, and a splendid opening was lost. Gloucester pressed severely, and twice in quick succession the home men were nearly over. At length the score was opened, a perfect round of passing, in which Hall, Baker, Hamblin, Lewis, and Webb took part, ending in the wing man dashing over in the corner. Cook's fine effort at goal failed.

The Regiment re-started, but Gloucester were in the ascendancy, Lewis putting his side down with a lovely kick. In some loose play Baker lifted the ball nicely across to the right wing, and Hamblin coming along, the centre gathered the ball on the bounce, and beating the opposition scored behind the posts. Cook missed the goal points, the kick being charged down.

The Regiment dropped out, Baker coming back with a run and pass which, however, failed through a forward pass. A missed transfer from Baker to Hall allowed Murray to dribble away, but Cook saved. Then came a bout of passing and a fine run by Webb down touch. The wing man reached Ible and then punted, but Lewis just missed gathering with a clear opening.

The soldiers, working hard, gained a position at midway, where play was somewhat scrambling. Harris was instrumental in taking Gloucester to the visitors' 25, but Stephenson, with a timely kick sent back to beyond the centre flag. Here the Regiment half-backs combined in a neat bit of combination which gave them an advantage. Subsequently Murray forced a minor with a kick over the line.

On the resumption the Gloucester forwards showed up with a dashing burst, in which all the opposition was cleared with the exception of Ible. The latter, however, effected a fine clearance, for which he was heartily cheered.

Inside the soldiers' half Halford initiated a round of passing, and Hamblin, clearing his opponent, fed Washbourn, who tried hard to score, but succumbed to a good tackle. Gloucester continued to hold the upper hand, but the Regiment played with great keenness and tackled well. Eventually from a scrum Baker and Hall got the ball out nicely and Lewis served Hamblin. The latter knocked the ball from one hand to the other for which he was pulled up, with a certain try for Washbourn in view. Gloucester, however, soon added to their score, for following some clever exchanges and a fine swerving run by Washbourn, the latter scored. Cook converted with a splendid kick.

The Regiment resumed with plenty of vigour, but the pace and cleverness of the home backs soon put them on the defensive. More passing saw Hamblin look all over a scorer, but he was collared a few yards outside. After the soldiers' lines had several narrow escapes in the corner, the ball was whipped out to the right wing, where Webb, finding his way cut off punted across. The ball was gathered by Lewis, who with a left foot kick dropped a smart goal.

Though 15 points in arrears the Regiment showed no signs of giving up, and for the next five minutes they had the better of the exchanges. The forwards played the loose game well, and with close rushing gave trouble at times. The City defence, however, was sound, and good kicking by Cook and Lewis brought play to more favourable quarters.

Hall, Lewis, Hamblin, and Washbourn combined in a nice passing run, which ended in the latter being tackled by Stephenson when looking dangerous. From this point Gloucester attacked strongly, and from a pass out from the scrum Webb scored easily wide out. Cook landed another fine goal. Soon afterwards the interval was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	3 goals (1d) 2 tries
Regiment	Nil

The Regiment restarted, and the first item of interest was a good opening by Hall, who threw to Lewis for the latter to send wide to Webb. The latter was making off with only Ible to beat when the whistle went for a forward transfer. A minute later Washbourn and Hamblin shone in a pretty bit of work, which resulted in Gloucester reaching their opponents' end, but Ible cleared nicely.

Centre play followed for a few minutes until the Gloucester halves opened out, and Lewis, Hamblin, and Washbourn handled well. The latter sprinted down touch, but fell a victim to Ible close in. A long line out by Baker saw Hayes take the ball and put it over the line without being touched. Cook added the goal points.

The game on being continued was even for a time, the Regiment forwards more than holding their own. Gloucester's efforts were concentrated on making the game open, but twice when Baker and Hall started the backs moving Hamblin was at fault. Then from a scrum near midfield Hall dashed away down touch, and giving to Webb at the right moment, the wing man had an easy run home for Cook to convert.

On the restart Webb was again in evidence by running across the field and starting a bout of passing. Several players joined in the movement, and after a series of perfect exchanges Washbourn added the seventh try. Cook this time failed at goal.

Gloucester had the game well in hand, but the soldiers kept pluckily to their task. A kick by Stephenson carried play inside the home half, where Hall distinguished himself with a magnificent burst clean up the field. Washbourn took the Forester's pass and yielded to Hamblin, who completely deceived Ible with a feint and raced over the line and behind the posts. The goal points were gathered by Cook, and the score board now read 38 – 0.

The Regiment re-started, but were soon on the defensive again, Hall being greatly in evidence with strong runs. From a position on the 25 line the ball was got away, and Halford sending to Hamblin the latter scored easily for Cook to kick a very fine goal.

With such a commanding lead Gloucester in subsequent play took all sorts of liberties, and passing bouts were started from all points of the field. From one of these Webb scored the tenth try, the place kick failing, whilst Lewis had hard lines in being tackled right on the line after a capital sprint.

The remaining minutes' play was all in Gloucester's favour, who again scored through Webb and Hamblin, Cook converting in each instance.

RESULT :

Gloucester ... 9 goals (1d) 4 tries (56 pts.)
Regiment Nil

REMARKS.

With their ranks strengthened in all departments, Gloucester gave a far different display to-day, and 56 points to nil tells its own tale as to how the play went.

The Regiment fought pluckily for three parts of the game, but in the last quarter the soldiers were fairly run off their feet, and the defence crumpled up badly. It was in the backs the Regiment were eclipsed, the pace and cleverness of the home men proving too much for them.

The introduction of Baker and Hall at half-back made a vast difference once they settled down. Early on there were occasions when the ball went astray, but the mistakes were recovered by Hall, who played dashing football all through. His tremendous bursts carried him past the immediate defence again and again, and he fed the three-quarters with splendid judgment. Baker was an able colleague at the scrum and should prove an admirable successor to Dix.

The City three-quarters accomplished much fine work, and the line as constituted this afternoon should develop into a particularly strong combination in attack. That there were faults at times in handling goes without saying, but it is early in the season yet, and improvement is bound to come.

If there was any doubt as to Alec Lewis's proper position I should think it was settled to-day. His play at centre was far in advance of anything he has done at outside half, and his presence in the line to my mind contributed considerably to the success achieved. Lewis displayed first-class form in all that he did, and the unselfish manner in which he looked after Webb was deserving of the highest praise. Webb made the best use of his chances, and the encouragement he received should do him a lot of good. The left wing pair – Hamblin and Washbourn – played beautifully together, and between them scored six tries – a useful afternoon's work.

Cook was quite his old self at full-back, and let me congratulate him on his fine goal-kicking. A record of eight goals from twelve tries is a splendid start and an average I hope he will maintain. By-the-bye, did Baker's placing have anything to do with Cook's success ?

The City forwards, except in the finer points of the game, could claim no advantage for a long time. In the scrums they were often beaten for possession, and the soldiers played with such dash in the open that Halford's brigade were fairly put to the test at times. In the second half, however, the Gloucester pack clearly obtained the upper hand, and the captain's leadership was very noticeable. Halford, Hayes, Smart, and Meadows were often conspicuous for capital work, and I liked the way Parham shaped.

The Regiment were well served by Ible at full-back despite the tall score put up against his side. The three-quarters were of no outstanding merit, but both Murray and Stephenson rendered good service at half. The forwards were the best part of the team, and they lasted jolly well considering the running about they were called upon to do.

Scorers for Gloucester : Webb 5 tries, Washbourn and Hamblin 3 each, Hayes 1; Cook converted eight and Lewis dropped a goal.

Next week : Moseley, at Kingsholm.