

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1913

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. MOSELEY

CITY FORWARDS DISAPPOINTING

A SCRAMBLING GAME

TWO GLOUCESTER PLAYERS INJURED

Gloucester were at home again to-day, when they had Moseley for opponents. Back in the eighties the clubs were the keenest of rivals, but fixtures were dropped many years ago, Moseley's last appearance at Kingsholm being on November 21st, 1896. Gloucester won on that occasion by 1 goal 1 try (8 points) to nil, both tries being scored by A. Finch. The City team consisted of Hipwood; Percy Stout, Finch, Miller, and W. Bevan; Car Cummings and A. Stephens; C. Williams (captain), Wellings, A. H. Click, Hough, W. Spiers, A. Robbins, W. Martin, and Howarth. Bevan, Robbins, and Martin were Cinderford players recruited for the match owing to Gloucester being short of Walter Taylor, C. Hall, Frank Stout, G. Clutterbuck, and C. Rose.

On the Moseley side were the Brothers Frank and Fred Byrne, B. H. Cattell, B. J. Ebsworth, F. Cattell, C. O. Gray, and G. Birtles, all of whom were distinguished in Midland football at that time.

Gloucester were short of Halford (captain), and Saunders not tuning up J. Harris filled the vacancy forward.

An interesting fact was the appearance in the Moseley ranks of two ex-Gloucester players in Gordon Vears and W. J. Pearce.

The afternoon was beautifully fine, and the ground was in splendid condition for a fast game.

The teams were as follows : —

GLOUCESTER	POSITIONS	MOSELEY
C. Cook	Backs.	G. W. Stephens
F. Webb	Three-Quarter	C. G. Ray
A. Lewis	Backs	W. T. Latham
L. Hamblin	"	R. W. Jones
W. Washbourn	"	H. V. Davies
A. Hall	Half-Backs	G. Bowstead
J. Baker	"	O. Collins
N. Hayes	Forwards	F. H. Deakin (capt.)
S. Smart	"	W. J. Pearce
S. Millard	"	A. Woodward
A. Saunders	"	G. Vears
J. Meadows	"	J. Hubbard
W. Parham	"	S. G. Vaughton
C. Mumford	"	F. C. Morris
A. Cook	"	E. C. Hill

Referee : Mr. J. Southby (Bristol).

THE GAME

There was a fair attendance when Deakin started for Moseley, Gloucester facing the strong sun. Vears followed up and gathered from the short kick, but he was soon checked, and the first scrum followed in the home half. Moseley heeled, and the ball was sent along the third line to Latham, who was legged by Hamblin. Gloucester made headway, but the visiting forwards dribbled back, and Webb losing the ball a Moseley man picked up, only to be collared from behind.

Working strongly forward Moseley gave trouble, and from kicks over the line Gloucester had to concede a couple of minors.

The City gained no relief from the drop-out, and Moseley were soon attacking again. The visitors continually got possession in the scrum, and from one passing bout Jones had a good chance, but he was pulled down in time. Gloucester gained relief by the aid of a penalty, but good kicking by the Moseley backs took play back to the home 25.

The City forwards were packing badly in the scrums, and could not heel; as a result the backs could not get anything to do. At length Hall got the ball away, and Lewis, Hamblin, and Washbourn handled. The wing man dashed down touch, but could not beat Stephens. The ball rolled loose, and Hamblin tried to recover, but was upset and knocked out, having to be carried off the field.

Gloucester resumed with seven forwards, A. Cook being brought out to three-quarter, Washbourn playing centre. Subsequent play was very scrambling, Gloucester especially being all at sixes and sevens. A passing movement by Moseley broke down at Ray, and Lewis picking up he cleared in fine style to the centre. Gloucester improved from this point, but Webb missed a pass from Lewis when there was a likely opening. Hot forward work followed, Moseley playing a hard game.

The Gloucester front eventually got going in a dangerous rush, but something went wrong in front of the posts, and Moseley saved. A penalty enabled the Midlanders to clear their lines, but Gloucester returned with a nice effort, Cook making a capital attempt to clear the opposition on the left wing. Baker came in the picture with a nice bit of footwork, but Stephens gathered and got in a good reply to touch.

Gloucester tried to open out, but a visitor intercepted and ran down the field, reaching Cook before Lewis checked from behind. Gloucester rushed back, and there was a series of passes, ending in Washbourn punting to Stephens, who found touch with his return.

In some loose play Vears picked up and made a nice slice of ground before Washbourn brought him down. Subsequent play was still of a scrambling nature, and Gloucester certainly could not claim any advantage.

It was rarely the Gloucester backs got possession, and when they did a forward transfer or knock on would spoil the attempts at passing. Baker and Hall with dashing footwork took Gloucester close, where Hall failed to pick up with a possible opening. The City, however, persevered, and from passing by Baker and Hall, Washbourn slipped between the opposing centres, and though Stephens collared him, the Gloucesterian managed to plant the ball over the line for a try, Cook adding the goal points.

Moseley re-started, the ball going to Hayes, who being collared near touch passed inside. The ball was captured by a visitor, who punted high, but Cook made a good mark. For getting in front of the ball Gloucester were ordered to scrum back, and Moseley working desperately, got very dangerous.

For two or three minutes play hovered a few yards from the City goal posts, but the Midlanders could not get over. The Gloucester men broke away, but off-side was given against a couple of men, and Moseley had a free right in front of goal. Stephens had a shot at goal from the easy position, but sent wide to the delight of the home crowd. The interval was then called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 goal
Moseley Nil

Gloucester were still short of Hamblin when the game resumed. It was stated he was suffering from an injury to the ankle. A fine touch-finder by Cook put Gloucester well down, and the City went strongly for a score. Hall made a couple of bursts, but he was well tackled. Once, however, he managed to pass, only to see a breakdown in the subsequent transfers.

There were other mistakes in handling later, and the play all round was anything but interesting spectacularly. Gloucester gradually secured a good position, and Meadows taking the ball from a long line-out passed to a colleague with a clean opening, but the transfer was missed.

Then from good work by Baker and Hall, Lewis went clean through, only to be called back for a forward pass. It mattered little, however, for from the next scrum Baker got away again, and starting Hall, the latter fed Webb, for the wing man to dash over in the corner. Cook made a splendid attempt at goal.

Gloucester attacked again on the drop-out, but Hayes was given off-side, and Moseley gained relief. The City, however, worked back, and there was a capital bout of passing between the backs. Washbourn cut inside nicely but was collared and lost the ball. Hall, however, came up, and gathering on the ground nearly put Cook in. The same player had another dash a couple of minutes later, but was tackled just in time, the Moseley man being dazed in the contact.

On resuming, Hall missed a nice pass from Cook with his three-quarters well placed, and from this point Moseley made headway. In some scrambling play the visitors kicked past Cook, but Baker got back and cleared effectively. Gloucester were soon making tracks for the opposing goal, Millard being prominent.

Then came a pretty bit of combination between the Gloucester back division, in which the ball was handled in perfect style. Washbourn made the desired opening, and Lewis sending to Webb the latter crossed with a good try. Cook failed at goal.

Moseley re-started, but they were at once placed on the defensive, and from a perfect cross punt by Cook, who ran on and put his men on side, Hayes gathered and went over near the posts. Cook missed the easy place.

On the resumption Moseley, profiting by some erratic play by the home men, reached the City quarters, and Lewis was forced to kick dead.

Subsequent play was even, but a lovely kick by Cook, which found touch a dozen yards from the Moseley line, gave Gloucester an advantage. A sharp attack followed, but it was beaten off, and Moseley in turn assumed the aggressive, forcing a minor. The Midlands had the better of the exchanges after this, and only sterling defence kept the City lines intact.

In one desperate attack Hall injured his shoulder, but he continued on the field, changing places with Lewis. Moseley continued to hold the upper hand, Davies making a good run on the left wing, but being tackled he lost the ball.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal 3 tries (14 points)

Moseley Nil

REMARKS.

There was a big contrast between the game to-day and the match last week. The Gloucester forwards, without Halford, seemed lost, and as in the game with Bream the City pack were at times badly beaten. This was especially the case in the scrums, where the Moseley men continually gained possession. Had the Midlands' backs been as good in combination as they were individually, I am afraid Gloucester would have gone down. A 14 points' victory for the City certainly did not represent the run of the play.

Handicapped by the weakness in front the home backs were put off their game, and we saw few of those combined movements which so delighted the crowd last week. Baker was played on very closely by Bowstead, and though working hard the Gloucester scrum half was unable to shine so much as usual. It was the same with Hall, though the old Cinderford player contributed largely to the try-getting.

Hamblin's unfortunate mishap – he sustained a sprained ankle – was a serious loss to Gloucester, for it necessitated the withdrawal of Cook from the pack and a re-shuffling of positions behind. The forward certainly rendered a good account of himself on the wing. It was his brainy play that led up to two of the tries, and he himself had hard lines in not being among the scorers. Lewis and Washbourn did good service in the second half, and Webb played a finished game.

The Gloucester forwards packed badly, and there was an absence of that skill and resource in the open seen in past seasons.

Hayes, Meadows, and Smart were the more prominent, but the eight as a whole were very disappointing. There must be a strengthening of the ranks in view of the serious tests on hand, and it is to be hoped Halford and Saunders will be ready next week.

Moseley played a bustling game all through, and if there was not a great deal of cleverness displayed, dash and enthusiasm were there. Deakin made a good leader, and Vears and Pearce played with their accustomed determination. Bowstead and Collins were fair at half-back, but all the three-quarters were good individually. The men, however, could not pass on the run, and their effectiveness in attack was in consequence crippled. Stephens played a very good game at full-back, and Cook for Gloucester, too, was in capital form.

After the match I ascertained that A. Hall had chipped his collar bone – an accident that might easily keep him out of the field for a few weeks. With Hamblin crocked as well, the City had rather a bad day.

Scorers for Gloucester : Webb (2), Washbourn, and Hayes scored tries ; Cook converted one.

Next week : Northampton, away.