

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1913

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. HARLEQUINS

CITY'S BIG TEST AT TWICKENHAM

GLORIOUS VICTORY FOR THE CITIZENS

What was regarded as the most important fixture on the Gloucester card was set down for decision to-day, when the City team visited the headquarters of the Rugby Union at Twickenham for the first time to play the Harlequins. No club team in the United Kingdom has attained more prominence of late years than A. D. Stoop's famous combination, and there is no question the open style of play exploited by the Harlequins has contributed greatly to the revival of the Rugby game in London and district.

There were many in the provinces who were inclined at one time to regard the Metropolitans as an over-rated side, but this opinion has had to be altered after seeing the team perform.

At Kingsholm we had abundant evidence of the strength of the Harlequins and the brilliance of their tactics, and no game impressed spectators more than the display witnessed last March. Gloucester, it will be remembered, shared honours in that memorable contest, the score being 8 points each. Hudson and Hamblin scored the tries for Gloucester, and A. D. Stoop and A. H. Hudson for the Harlequins.

Could the City equal that achievement this afternoon? Form certainly did not encourage Gloucester's supporters to look for such a happy result, but there was a quiet confidence amongst the players that the team would do much better than some anticipated; at least there was no fear of a rout such as that experienced by Bedford.

From the Harlequins side that put on the 51 points to 3 against the East Midlanders last week, four changes were made. Tripp displaced Berney at full-back, and three new forwards were introduced. A. D. Stoop was still unable to take his place at outside half, and another notable absentee from the combination which appeared at Gloucester was R. W. Poulton, who is now engaged in business in the North and plays for Liverpool. Another International in Frank Stoop, however, took the place of the Old Oxonian, so the Harlequins' third line still included three players who have several times represented England.

Gloucester were able to command the services of their best available fifteen, but six of the team did not play against the Harlequins at Kingsholm, the changes being Webb, A. Hall, Baker, Lawson, Meadows, and Parham for Hudson, Wilkes, Dix, Johns, Dovey, and Vears respectively. The G.W.R. ran a cheap excursion to London in connection with the match, and this was fairly well patronised. The Gloucester players, accompanied by several members of the Committee made the journey by ordinary train at 9.40 a.m.

GLOUCESTER	POSITIONS	HARLEQUINS
C. Cook	Backs.	D. O. H. Tripp
F. Webb	Three-Quarter	* F. M. Stoop
A. Lewis	Backs	G. F. Elmslie
L. Hamblin	"	* J. G. G. Birkett
W. Washbourn	"	* D. Lambert
J. Baker	Half-Backs	* H. J. H. Sibree
A. Hall	"	N. B. Hudson
G. Halford (capt.)	Forwards	K. M. Carnduff
S. Smart	"	J. G. Bussell
N. Hayes	"	R. O. C. Ward
J. F. Lawson	"	A. C. Carter
S. Millard	"	H. E. Ward
W. Parham	"	Æ. F. Q. Perkins
A. Cook	"	D. F. Sanders
J. Meadows	"	H. S. Ellis

* Internationals

Referee : Dr. L. C. Burrell.

THE GAME

There were two late changes in the Harlequins team, K. M. Carnduff and A. C. Carter taking the places of Roberts and Kehrmann forward. The weather turned out beautifully fine, but the 4,000 spectators present appeared lost in the huge stands and enclosure. The City team met with a very hearty reception on entering the field.

Losing the toss Halford kicked off under ideal conditions. Early on Gloucester were penalised, but Cook got in a lovely return to touch, and the game settled in the home half. There was an attempt to open out by Sibree, but it broke down and the City forwards had a chance of dribbling away, but lost the ball.

Loose kicking by the Harlequins caused Gloucester to defend, but the visiting backs came away with a neat passing bout, Washbourn being thrown to touch by Stoop.

The Harlequins worked back, but Hall effected a fine tackle on Elmslie. Then the home team forced a minor. Following the drop-out the Harlequins had the better of the exchanges, Stoop making a good effort. Gloucester heeling, Baker fed Hall, who sent to Hamblin. The latter punted high, enabling Webb to follow up and prevent a return, the same effort carrying the game to the centre.

Gloucester were playing strongly, and some clever combination behind had the 'Quins beaten. Webb punted, but his kick was charged down. Hamblin, however, recovered, and got in a fine kick to the line. The Gloucester forwards dashed up in a body, and there was the appearance of a try, but only a minor was given. This was hard lines for the City, for it was a grand effort and deserved reward.

Gloucester continued their fine work on resumption, the forwards kicking well, and Baker being much smarter at the scrum. A forward transfer spoiled one pretty movement, and then Gloucester were penalised for legs up in the scrum. Lambert's kick, however, fell short.

Exciting play followed, Gloucester holding their own splendidly. Hamblin and Millard shone in individual work, but Stoop, as the result of a clever run, and Lambert, with a big kick, took play to the Gloucester end. The City forwards came away with a brilliant burst, and later Washbourn effected a good tackle of Stoop.

The game so far had not produced anything brilliant by the Harlequins, due to Gloucester's close marking and sound tackling. Gloucester twice spoiled promising movements by getting off-side, and then C. Cook fumbling gave the Harlequins a big slice of ground. This, however, was quickly recovered, and the game continued to be desperately contested.

Once Birkett, fielding from a kick, attempted a big dash through, but he was smothered, and had his jersey torn from him. In subsequent play Gloucester heeled frequently, but the passing was faulty, and the desired opening did not come. Then the Harlequins took up the running, and only superb tackling kept them out. Just before the interval Lambert just missed kicking a penalty goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester Nil
Harlequins Nil

The Harlequins restarted, and at the outset Stoop, who was playing centre, started a passing bout which took the home team very close. Hamblin cleared from a dangerous position, and then Baker opening out Hall fed Lewis. Cutting away at a fine pace the centre got through splendidly, but with a grand opening Hamblin missed the transfer.

A penalty against the City lost them their position, and centre play followed. Hall saved nicely from a forward rush by the Harlequins, but later he missed fielding when well under way. Subsequent play was rather scrambling, the Harlequins being put completely off their game. Baker, Hall, and Lewis combined in a promising movement, which ended inside the Harlequins' half. Then came a lovely bit of combined play by the Gloucester backs, Lewis shining, but something went wrong at the critical moment.

From a long line-out Hall secured and, passing to Hamblin, the latter dropped a lovely goal, which was generously applauded. The Harlequins went off with a rare burst on the restart, but they were checked in time. Hall, from a pass by Baker, relieved with a strong run, and Hamblin and Lewis, with splendid kicks, put the City well down.

Rain was now falling, which made the ball greasy and mistakes in handling were frequent. The Gloucester forwards were maintaining their good form, and in all respect were better than their opponents. Occasionally the 'Quins got the ball back, but Birkett and his colleagues were never allowed to get into their stride. Birkett tried hard, but he was a marked man and could never gain an opening.

Dashing footwork by the Gloucester forwards and clever touch finding by the backs gave the visitors an advantage of territory, and the City pressed home their attacks. Webb followed up a high punt to the line, and Sibree fumbling Gloucester apparently scored, but only a touchdown was given. Gloucester, however, were not to be denied for, following a clever passing movement, Hamblin doubled inside and, feinting to pass to Washbourn, he then cut back, and from a difficult angle dropped his second goal – a very fine effort.

With an eight points' lead Gloucester resumed in dashing style, but heavy rain spoiled the game. Loose footwork by the 'Quins caused Gloucester anxiety, and the situation was only saved right on the line. The City were pressed for a few minutes but they cleared with a good rush, Halford leading. Tripp was beaten, and there was a grand opening, but Lawson held on instead of passing, a certain try being lost. The Harlequins were outplayed just now, Gloucester playing superbly. Twice in quick succession the home team narrowly saved from really fine efforts. The Harlequins eased the pressure, and midfield play followed, but Gloucester well held their own to the end, and won a glorious victory.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 goals (d) (8 points)
Harlequins Nil

REMARKS

'Twas a famous victory. Gloucester made history to-day by their fine triumph, and the London critics admitted the best team won. Once again Gloucester have risen to the occasion. Their form this afternoon was worthy [of] the best days of the club, and the whole team can share equally in the victory recorded. The Gloucester forwards easily put up their best game of the season. They had the 'Quins beaten everywhere. How well the men had learned their lesson !

Halford was a good leader. The whole pack worked like giants. What tackling they did, and their loose rushes were admirable. Baker was in much better form to-day, and Hall did heroic things in defence. At three-quarter, Lewis and Hamblin were the shining lights, and the latter's two dropped goals were clever shots. Cook was good at full-back. The Harlequins as a whole were disappointing, but they met a side who were out for a big occasion.

GLOUCESTER A v. LYDNEY ST. MARY'S

ANOTHER WIN FOR THE SECONDS

These two teams met at Kingsholm on Saturday in stormy weather. The Gloucester ranks included Arthur Hudson, who turned out in place of Wager, who has injured his knee. There was not a big crowd present when the teams lined out as follows : –

Gloucester A. – F. W. Hayward; T. Powell, S. Sysum, A. Hudson, and F. Bloxsome; W. Wilkes and T. Burns; E. Osborne, L. Smith, A. Russell, A. Comley, Ford, Cromwell, J. H. Webb, and Lane.

Lydney St. Mary's. – Harrison; T. Beard, J. Beard, F. Harris, and Hughes; J. Miles and T. Biddle; W. Biddle, Darters, Liddington, Fletcher, Dowdeswell, Ellaway, Saunders, and Bayliss.

The opening stages of the first half were very uninteresting, neither side making much headway. The Seconds had more of the game than their opponents. After quarter of an hour's play the Gloucester forwards secured the ball, and after a good rush Webb was credited with a try near the corner. Hayward failed with the goal kick. Lydney tried hard for an equaliser, and although they encountered a strong defence, Miles eventually got over. The kick only just failed.

Ensuing play until the interval was of a scrambling nature, with Gloucester doing the larger share of the attacking.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 1 try
Lydney St. Mary's 1 try

In the second half Bloxsome was early prominent with a fine burst down the line, but he was held up just outside. The Seconds after this pressed continually for some time, but they could not effect the desired score. Time after time a try seemed imminent, but just at the critical moment something would happen to stop the movement. At last, however, their efforts were rewarded. The forwards obtained the ball near the half-way line, and bursting through in dashing style they carried the game right to the line where Powell racing up dropped on the leather with a nice try. Hayward missed the ball altogether when taking the kick for goal.

On the resumption Lydney indulged in a forward rush, but Hudson getting back secured the ball, and racing round transferred to Powell. The latter, however, missed the pass, and a possible chance of gaining a good slice of ground was lost. The visitors continued to attack strongly, but they could not penetrate the defence. Hudson effected a fine tackle when things looked dangerous, and then the Seconds' forwards, taking the game in hand, rushed to their opponents' 25, where Harrison effected a plucky save by falling on the ball. The end soon afterwards came.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 2 tries (6 points)
Lydney St. Mary's 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

The game throughout was rather of a scrambling nature, being chiefly confined to the forwards. The opposing backs were fairly well matched, although Lydney were much smarter in heeling; but this was counteracted by the fact that the Seconds were faster and more dashing in the open.

Both their tries were the result of really good work on the part of the forwards, whose following up was quite a feature of the game. The handling of the backs, when they did indulge in a passing bout, was faulty, but the extremely greasy state of the ground and ball was probably accountable for this.

Hudson, who cannot seem to keep away from the game, played in good form and was always to the fore; while the rest of the line at times also showed their ability. Burns, who operated the scrum, was in a rather difficult position, as his forwards rarely got the ball back neatly, and therefore it was impossible for him to feed his back division adequately. There is no doubt that he is seen to much better advantage when occupying the outside half position.

Of the forwards, J. H. Webb, of the Old Boys, who was given a trial, played a really good, hard, and dashing game, and he was well supported by Russell and Smith. Hayward was as usual safe at back, while his touch finding was excellent.