

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1913

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. CARDIFF

ANOTHER WELSH DEFEAT

AN EXCITING FINISH

GLOUCESTER WIN WITH FOURTEEN MEN

HAMBLIN'S DAZZLING TRY

Though Cardiff are not the power in the football world they formerly were, the annual fixture with the Welsh Metropolitans at Kingsholm is always looked forward to with keen interest, for spectators can generally rely on a fast and open game. Beaten by Newport and Bristol, Cardiff have not shown their best form to-date, but the team were out for a special effort to account for Gloucester this afternoon.

In the last three matches on the City enclosure Gloucester have come out splendidly, winning in 1910-11 by 15 points to nil; the following season by 11 points to nil; and making a draw last March with a side that included more than half reserves owing to the County final being played at Carlisle.

Owing to an injured ankle, sustained in the Devon match, S. Smart was unable to take his place in the Gloucester team. A. Cook, injured at Clifton, was also out of the forwards. But the most serious loss was the absence of A. Hall at outside half-back.

To satisfactorily fill the vacancy was a difficult matter, and the position was not definitely decided on until just before the match.

Eventually it was decided to start with L. Hamblin at outside half, Sysum, of the Seconds, playing centre. Smart's place was filled by A. H. Williams, a newcomer to the Seconds, who formerly assisted Exeter.

Cardiff came short of Bobby Williams and Michael, but otherwise were at full strength.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER	POSITIONS	CARDIFF
C. Cook	Backs	F. Spencer
F. Webb	Three-Quarter	Tom Evans
A. Lewis	Backs	W. Spiller
S. Sysum	"	W. P. Nicholls
W. Washbourn	"	T. E. Maddocks
J. Baker	Half-Backs	W. Morrish
E. Hamblin	"	C. B. Davies
G. Halford (capt.)	Forwards	W. Jenkins
A. H. Williams	"	J. Birch
N. Hayes	"	M. Griffiths
J. F. Lawson	"	W. S. Goff
S. Millard	"	F. Gaccon
W. Parham	"	C. Palmer
A. Saunders	"	A. Crowley
J. Meadows	"	W. H. Thomas

Referee : Mr. J. H. Miles.

THE GAME.

The afternoon was again delightfully fine, and there was a splendid attendance when the teams took the field nearly a quarter of an hour late. Jenkins started for Cardiff against the sun with a big kick, and Halford knocking on in receiving a scrum followed inside the home 25.

The City forwards heeled, and Hamblin gained a few yards with a punt to touch, but immediately after Gloucester were penalised for not playing the ball. Spencer took the kick, but sent wide, and Lewis recovering dodged a couple of opponents and came through nicely, finishing up with a punt, which Spencer returned. There was a mistake by a home player in gathering, and Cardiff had a chance, but the City saved inside the quarter-line.

Penalties followed to either side, Cook, with a lovely touch-finder, sending play to mid-field. Some open play ensued, but was rather scrambling, mistakes being made on both sides. Cardiff heeling, Davies tried to recover a mistake, but failed, and Gloucester rushed away. A visitor picked up and punted, but the ball went straight up in the air, and Gloucester took advantage, but an infringement checked them.

In a previous melee Lawson was injured, and had to be carried off. Resuming a man short, Gloucester put up a warm attack. Baker cleverly deceived Morrish with a feint, and Hamblin, Sysum, Lewis and Webb handled in turn. The wing man cross-kicked, and the City forwards tried hard to gather, but Spiller secured and punted out to Cook, who took a drop for goal from a difficult angle, but failed in a good attempt.

On the drop out there was a mistake on the Gloucester left wing which allowed a Cardiff man to get away, but a good tackle saved the situation. The Gloucester forwards, working desperately, set up a sharp attack, but they were beaten off.

Baker distinguished himself with a smart effort which kept Gloucester in their opponents' half, but from a charged kick the ball bounced nicely for Nicholls, who had an opening on the wing. The

Cardiffian made off well, but hesitated on reaching Cook, and his pass inside to Michael[sic] was forward.

Gloucester cleared from this position through a lovely kick by Cook from a penalty, and play was contested in the Cardiff half. The rival teams both tried to make the game open, but there was some extraordinary play witnessed.

Inside the visitors' 25 Baker started a fine movement, and Sysum dashed through finely and secured a nice opening. His pass to Lewis was an awkward one, and though Lewis picked up and gave [to] Webb for the latter to score the referee's whistle had gone for a knock on.

Gloucester still attacked till the Cardiff forwards broke away with a loose rush, which the Gloucester backs feebly attempted to check. The result was that the Welshmen gained a footing in the home end before being pulled up. In some more loose play Davies gathered and ran across the ground and sent to Griffiths. The latter was hampered by a colleague, but he gained an opening, and with a long shot dropped a goal, giving four points to Cardiff.

Gloucester restated, and a good rush took the City to the Cardiff half, where Palmer was temporarily laid out, but was soon able to resume. Cook with some fine kicking enabled the home team to maintain their territorial advantage, but it was hard work for the forwards. Still they showed plenty of dash, and followed up keenly.

A pass from Baker to Hamblin on the short side of the scrum was not accepted, but Gloucester made headway a little later and Cardiff were forced to defend. In some loose play Hamblin picked up from the feet of the Cardiff men and brought off a dazzling run, the equal of which has seldom been seen on the ground. Skirting the immediate opposition Hamblin saw an opening in the defence, and went clean through. With fine pace he left the opposition, and beating Spencer with a beautiful swerve he went over the line and behind the posts amidst tremendous cheering. Cook took the easy place, but unaccountably missed and Gloucester were still a point in arrears.

Cardiff dropped out, Lewis receiving and running round, but Webb was tackled before he could do anything. Cardiff kicked down past the centre, where Baker broke away nicely and punted, but the ball rolled to touch before Webb and Lewis could get up. The game was very fast, and the Gloucester backs were again in evidence with pretty passing.

Baker was "all over" Morrish, and another smart move of his saw Lewis get away. Maddocks, however, intercepted the centre's transfer and raced down the field before he met his master in Cook. Gloucester did well to the interval, but the score was unaltered.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Cardiff 1 goal (d)
Gloucester 1 try

Gloucester, still short of Lawson (whose injury was the result of a kick on the jaw) resumed, and the game opened in the Cardiff half. The visitors played an extra man outside the scrum; but though their pack got the ball several times, very little was done owing to faulty handling. Then Gloucester heeled twice in quick succession, but the marking was too close to allow of the desired opening.

Cardiff at length shone in a brilliant bout, Maddocks, the last to receive, making a fine run. He swerved inside on coming to Cook and passed to Davies, but the latter was upset when looking dangerous. For picking the ball out of the scrum Cardiff were penalised, and Halford, following up the kick, caught the ball on the bounce and sent well inside the Cardiff half. Baker feeding the home backs, Webb made a gallant dash for the corner, but he was forced to touch.

Gloucester, however, were very close, and working hard, the City made desperate efforts to gain the lead. The defence, however, held out, and Davies cleared with a run and kick which took the ball to Cook. Gloucester cleared with a lucky flying kick, but Cardiff came back with a fine passing run. Evans cleared the opposition well, but his pass to Maddocks, with a certain try in view, was missed.

Gloucester were hard pressed for a few minutes, but useful kicking by Cook eased the situation. Fielding the ball in the open, Baker tricked an opponent cleverly, but he ran into the arms of another Cardiffian and was collared.

A visitor was warned by the referee for fouling Halford at the scrum – a rebuke which was justly deserved. Some fast work by both teams was heartily applauded, and Hamblin twice gained ground with clever kicks to touch.

Each side in turn gained the advantage, Spencer following up a kick and collaring Baker, giving Cardiff a good position. On the 25-line Hamblin failed to take a pass from Baker, and Cardiff nearly scored, only desperate tackling saving a try. Meadows with a smart bit of work from a line-out, brought the much-needed relief, and further advance was made through the agency of Lewis, Washbourne and Webb. Centre play now followed, but Hamblin held on too long once with his backs well placed.

A free to Gloucester was taken by Cook, but Spiller marked in the face of the Gloucester forwards. Lewis received the kick-out, and putting in a big punt followed up and put his men on-side.

The Gloucester forwards were well up and secured the ball, but they could not rush it over. From the ensuing scrum Cardiff were penalised, and Hamblin taking the kick landed a good goal, giving Gloucester a well-deserved lead.

Cardiff re-started, and subsequent play was very exciting. Good kicking by the visitors took them well down, and once the ball went over the line. Hamblin, instead of touching down, kicked out straight to Evans, who had scarcely anyone to beat. He, however, essayed a pass, and though the ball was handled by several men, glorious tackling kept the home lines intact.

After this Cardiff showed splendid form, and made several fine attacks. It seemed almost certain the home goal would fall, but the defence was immense. Then right in front of the posts Cardiff were awarded a free. The kick was taken in breathless excitement, and there was a loud shout when Nicholls sent wide of the posts.

The game now was terribly exciting, both teams working with great energy. Cardiff had the better of the exchanges, but the backs were faulty at the critical moment. Then Gloucester came again, Halford leading a fine rush which beat Spencer. A visitor, however, got back and saved.

The Gloucester seven, having gained a good position, pushed home their advantage. The City got very close, and some sharp exchanges between Baker, Hamblin and Webb saw the latter thrown to touch a yard outside. From the line-out a Gloucester forward secured, but he was held up. A scrum was ordered five yards outside, and this enabled Cardiff to clear. Gloucester fully maintained the upper hand to the close, but failed to add to their lead.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal (p), 1 try (6 points)

Cardiff 1 goal (d) (4 points)

REMARKS.

Well played, Fourteen ! If not a great display looked at from the point of view of the expert, there were sufficient exciting incidents crowded into to-day's game to make it memorable. The last ten minutes' play especially was very thrilling; for after Gloucester had obtained a well-deserved lead, one scarcely knew any moment but that it would be snatched from them again.

Cardiff certainly had the chances, and how the men failed to make a try or two at least was a mystery. True, the Gloucester tackling was great; but there were instances when the Welshmen had two or three men to one and yet could not cross the line.

I consider, however, that Cardiff would have been counted a fortunate side had they gained winning points. To lose a forward in the first five minutes was rough luck on the City. But how gallantly those seven worked! For three-parts of the play Gloucester were on top; they played the better football, and Hamblin's try put in the shade anything attempted on the part of a Cardiffian.

The Gloucester forwards can take pride of place in to-day's struggle. Halford and his gallant six never put in more effective work. The occasion demanded a great effort, and it was given ungrudgingly by every man in the pack. In the scrums the City had the best of it at times, and the ball came out with smartness and despatch.

But it was in the loose I liked the home forwards best. They were splendid with their feet, tackled like demons, and generally gave a display which must have pleased everyone. The captain gave his colleagues a good lead, and all did so well that I do not like to individualise. I should like to say, however, that Saunders sustained the form which he showed last season, and Williams struck one as being a very useful recruit.

Gloucester held a distinct advantage at scrum half this afternoon, and it is only due to Baker to say that his play to-day was good enough for anything. All through the Gloucester player had the measure of Morrish; he beat him frequently when with the ball, and there were many occasions when he spoiled the intentions of his opponent. Baker contributed one or two tricky runs, and displayed great improvement in getting the ball away.

Hamblin was not inclined to take the outside half position; but it was fortunate for Gloucester that he did so, for a young and inexperienced player might easily have let the side down there. Hamblin's kicking frequently came to the rescue of his side, but it was his dazzling run that proved the tit-bit of the match. I have never seen a better effort, and we have seen some glorious tries scored at Kingsholm.

When on the move Hamblin does not appear to be travelling at any great pace, but when he got his opening to-day he fairly left the opposition. Other players got across in the attempt to cut off the Gloucesterian, but the swerve beat them all, and Hamblin put the ball down behind the posts amidst a torrent of cheers. But what a groan when Cook missed the easy place! However, let that pass. Hamblin put things all right by kicking the penalty goal which gave Gloucester a well-deserved win.

I have praised Hamblin for his good work, and he deserves it. But I must say he made a serious error in kicking out late in the game instead of touching down. It was not a time to take the slightest risk, and I can only attribute the error of judgment to the excitement of the occasion. All the same, Cardiff were nearly presented with a try; it was more than a bit of luck that saved a score.

The Gloucester three-quarters got in some neat attacking movements in the first half, and again towards the finish Webb showed splendid dash in going for the corner. That he failed to get there was not due to any lack of resolution on his part. Sysum did his share of the tackling, and the few times he got the ball he knew what to do with it. Lewis, apart from one or two mistakes in handling, was always prominent, and keenly alive to an opening. Washbourn also kept his eyes open, and though the ball did not get across to him very often he found plenty to do.

Both full backs gave bright displays. Cook kicked a better length and with more judgment than for some weeks past, and he tackled well when called upon. Spencer made a capable substitute for Williams, and Cardiff lost little by the substitution of the custodians.

The Cardiff forwards were a fast lot, but not up to the Welshmen's standard as a heeling pack. In the loose the men performed well, Birch, Jenkins, and Goff being perhaps the most prominent. Morrish was not a big success at scrum half, and Davies did too much running across the field.

The third line did not possess the individual cleverness of the Cardiff three-quarters of old, and with a Gwyn Nicholls or a Gabe present I rather think the Welshmen would have scored more than once. Evans brought off one or two strong runs, and Nicholls and Maddocks were both speedy runners. Spiller was only a shadow of the brilliant tactician of a couple of seasons ago, and the old International, if he showed his ordinary form to-day, must be rapidly nearing the retirement stage.

Scorers for Gloucester : Hamblin try and penalty goal.

Next week : Stroud, away.

With reference to C. Mumford's suspension, referred to last week, the County Hon. Secretary informs me that the reason there was a difference in the punishment meted out to the Gloucester player and Smith (Northampton) was probably due to the fact that Mumford had previously been reported.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A

CITY SECONDS BEATEN AT CARDIFF

While the 'Cestrians first string were doing duty at Kingsholm against Cardiff the Seconds were being entertained on the Cardiff Arms Park by Cardiff Reserves. The attendance was excellent, and the weather delightful.

Play was very scrappy in the first moiety, Cardiff doing the greater part of the attack, but thanks to the fine defence of Hayward at full back and the combined play of the three-quarters they were enabled to avert a score, nothing being registered at the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	Nil
Cardiff Reserves	Nil

Cardiff had the best of matters throughout the second half, but the Gloucester defence was superb. Cardiff scored in the first minute of the restart through Scanlon, which was not converted.

Following a bout of passing, Burland scored, and later the same player from a forward rush again crossed the line, Lewis converting.

The Cardiff pack was easily best in the loose. Maclean completely outshone the 'Cestrian halves. The Gloucester wings were good, but Hayward was the shining light.

RESULT :

Cardiff A 1 goal 2 tries (11 points)

Gloucester A Nil

JC