

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1914

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. LEICESTER

MIDLANDERS' WEAK TEAM

A DISAPPOINTING GAME

GLOUCESTER WIN BY A TRY

The unfortunate clashing of the International trial with this important club fixture at Kingsholm robbed Leicester of the services of a third of their regular team, Ward, Taylor, Wood, H. Lawrie, Hopkins, and Allen, all being engaged at Twickenham. Gloucester had Smart away playing in the same fixture, and Alec Lewis and Meadows were also absent from the City team.

The sides were as follow : —

Gloucester. — C. Cook; F. Webb, S. Sysum, L. Hamblin, and W. Washbourn; A. Hall and J. Baker; G. Halford, N. Hayes, A. Saunders, S. Millard, J. F. Lawson, W. Dovey, A. Cook, and W. Parham.

Leicester. — F. Mellor; W. Ward, W. Dalby, J. W. Bream, and J. Wilkinson; J. R. Watson and N. W. Fisher; T. B. Hogarth, F. Taylor, G. Wilson, A. Redding, R. Jackett, J. Twigg, L. S. Burton, and W. Hall.

Referee : Mr. A. E. Freethy (Welsh Union).

## THE GAME

A. Redding (Cinderford) and R. Jackett (Cornwall) found places in the Leicester forwards, the inclusion of these two players minimising to some extent the absence of the men at Twickenham. There was a fair attendance when Leicester started the game, and there being no return the ball was rushed to touch just inside the Gloucester half. Leicester were penalised at the first scrum, and C. Cook made a nice slice of ground with the resultant kick.

From some subsequent loose play the Gloucester forwards opened out, but the passing went astray, and nothing resulted.

Ward, on Leicester's left wing, was prominent with a useful bit of footwork down touch, but Cook checked with a clever pick up. Then Leicester were awarded a free for an infringement by Gloucester, Bream making a good shot for goal from half-way. The ball fell short, and being gathered by Hamblin, the latter punted to touch on the 25 line.

Gloucester worked out and Sysum came to the fore with a dash through, but his pass went wide of Webb. Play settled in the Midlanders' half, where Hayes started a fine movement from a line out, but Halford passed wildly and spoilt it.

The Gloucester forwards were heeling none too cleanly, but Baker got the ball away smartly to Hall, who fed Hamblin. The latter re-passed to Hall instead of sending to Washbourn, and the half-back dodged Mellor and crossed the line, but was called back for a forward transfer. Gloucester confined operations to their opponents' half, where Hall had a drop for goal, but failed to raise the ball sufficiently, and only a minor resulted.

Mistakes in handling lost Gloucester ground, but it was soon recovered, Hayes again being conspicuous for some splendid work in the line out. Receiving from Baker from a scrum, Hall punted high, but Mellor fielded grandly, and racing round gained touch with a splendid kick.

Baker was instrumental in putting Gloucester down with a good bit of footwork, but his final kick was too hard, and Mellor had plenty of time to get in his return. Leicester twice made headway from out-of-touch play, but off-side by their forwards brought play back to midfield.

Scrambling forward play ensued until Baker got the ball well away, but Hamblin punted across to the other wing, touch being found. A strong burst by Hall looked promising, but the Forester was tackled in time, and his transfer spoiled. From a penalty Cook found touch well inside the Leicester 25, and later Bream was penalised for tripping Sysum. The shot at goal, however, fell short.

From the drop-out Leicester were again penalised for fouling, but Gloucester gained nothing by the kick. Soon after there was a pretty bit of work by the home backs. Hamblin cut through smartly and served Washbourn, who made a splendid effort to cross in the corner, only being tackled on the line. From the ensuing scrum Gloucester lost their position, Baker lobbing a pass which Hall could make nothing of.

Leicester further improved and centre play followed. Baker and Hall with nice combination on the short side of the scrum gave Webb a chance, but with the wing man well away he was whistled back for a forward pass. Washbourn next cut through from a transfer by Hall, but after going well for twenty yards he was brought down.

So far play had been decidedly scrappy, for the Gloucester backs could not settle down, and Leicester seemed afraid to trust to their rear division. From a poor kick by Bream, Washbourn fielded and passed inside to Hamblin, but the centre could not hold the ball and Leicester easily saved. Keen tackling by the visitors stopped a likely attack, and Leicester, with good forward work got out of danger.

Near the centre Baker opened out, and the ball was handled smartly by the Gloucester backs. Washbourn sprinted hard but found the defence too good, and though he managed to pass the transfer was knocked on.

After this Baker was nearly through on his own, but success came a minute later, for after Baker, Hall, Sysum, and Webb had handled, the latter raced over with a good try, which Hamblin failed to convert. Leicester dropped out but almost immediately the interval was sounded.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester ..... Nil  
Leicester ..... Nil

Halford resumed for Gloucester, Bream replying to touch a yard from the centre mark. From the first scrum Leicester got the ball, and the first attempt at passing resulted in Dalby punting to touch in the home half. Give and take play ensued, ending in Hamblin, with a flying kick, sending into the open. The Gloucester centre followed up and took the ball past Mellor and there was a clear field. Washbourn, however, stumbled in trying to pick up, and a golden opportunity of scoring was lost.

Leicester cleared from a dangerous position, and the City being at fault twice in quick succession, the visitors gained a footing in the home half. Here Baker set his backs in motion, but the passing broke down at Hamblin, and Dalby gathering he had a dash for the line, only to fall a victim to C. Cook. The Midlanders tried hard to gain the equalising try, but a wild pass was snapped up by Sysum, who broke away and punted hard. Mellor, however, fielded cleverly and got in a kick [to] touch – a very nice save.

Subsequent play was very tame, and penalty kicks followed to either side for various infringements. Leicester continued to confine their attentions forward, and by keeping the ball close had a fair share of the play. For off-side Gloucester were penalised, and Bream had a kick for goal from some distance out, but the attempt failed.

Good work by Baker, which was well carried on by the forwards, took the ball right down to Mellor, who was upset and lost the ball, but another Leicester man got back and saved. Leicester worked back with good kicking, but from a mark by Webb, Cook found touch in the Midlanders' 25 with a lovely punt.

Weak play by the City allowed Leicester to clear again, and then came a bit of passing and a dash by Webb. The latter tried hard to beat the defence, but Wilkinson executed a fine tackle at the right moment. The Leicester halves getting the ball out, Bream punted judiciously, and play was removed to the Gloucester half. The form, however, continued to be very moderate, and little of interest occurred.

An attack initiated by Baker went well for a time, but Webb's re-pass was spoiled and nothing resulted. Leicester, taking advantage of loose play by the home backs, broke away through Dalby, but the latter was upset from behind by Washbourn when looking dangerous.

Leicester had the better of subsequent exchanges until Sysum, receiving a pass, put in a short punt over Bream's head, and again secured with only Mellor to beat. The Leicester custodian, however, waited for his man and brought off a glorious tackle. Leicester worked out with kicking but Baker, with a clever run, got back. There were one or two exchanges, ending in Lawson scoring near the posts, but the enthusiasm was short-lived, for the referee ruled for a forward pass. Play was fairly even to the end.

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 1 try (3 points)  
Leicester ..... Nil

Gloucester managed to "muddle through" to-day, but it was as much as they deserved. The game as a whole was a keen disappointment, there being few movements that approached anything that could be termed first-class. Leicester relied mainly on their forwards, and though the pack did little in the way of heeling, the men worked with resolution and tackled with extreme deadliness.

The Gloucester side could not seem to settle down to their proper style, the backs especially being off colour. The ground certainly was treacherous on top after the rapid thaw, but this handicap did not account for all the fumbling and lack of judgment displayed.

Of the backs, Baker and Cook alone played up to their reputation. The former lobbed a few passes in the first half, but taken all through he was the most serviceable man behind. The combination at times was extremely weak, and with the Leicester men playing very closely on their opponents it was no difficult matter to break up attacks.

Forward, Hayes was a leading light on the home side, with Halford, A. Cook, and Lawson useful at times. For Leicester, Jackett was conspicuous for some good work in the lines-out, and Burton, Twigg, and Redding shone in the loose. The visiting backs made few attempts to open out, but the tackling was sound and the kicking excellent.

In Mellor, an old Schoolboy International, Leicester had a most capable substitute for Bream, who moved up to centre for this match. Considering the scratch lot doing duty, the Midlanders accomplished a good performance in running Gloucester to three points, but it must be said the City were much below par.

Scorer for Gloucester : Webb.

Next Week : Abertillery, away.

#### GLOUCESTER A v. SOUTH END

#### CITY SECONDS' EASY VICTORY

This match was played on the Lannet, the Seconds being weakly represented. The game was of a very scrambling nature, being chiefly confined to the forwards, very few open passing movements being seen.

The visiting pack were superior in every department and immediately after the start assumed control of the game. They frequently pushed the South End eight off their feet, while in the loose they showed plenty of vim and dash. The first try was credited to Ayliffe two minutes after the start, it being secured after a good rush and follow-up.

Mumford added a try from similar work a few minutes later, and this was followed by Powell and Bloxsome crossing in succession. Burns goaled the last-named's try. Before the interval Cooper opened South End's account after a scramble, Brookes replying with a nice try, which Burns goaled.

On the restart Powell was quickly prominent with a lovely cut through, which secured him a try under the posts. The kick, however, failed.

The City continued to have most of the game, Mumford and Wootton adding further unconverted tries. Towards the end South End played better, R. Brown crossing.

For the Seconds Ayliffe played a splendid game, while Smith and Mumford also did well.

RESULT :

Gloucester A .....	2 goals 6 tries (28 points)
South End .....	2 tries (6 points)