

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1914

## FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. LLANHILLETH

EASY WIN FOR THE CITY TEAM

The City Club having a vacant date, a guarantee match was arranged with Llanhilleth, a Monmouthshire club of second-rate importance. Gloucester played reserves for Smart, Washbourn, Hayes, and Lawson.

Gloucester. – C. Cook; F. Webb, A. Lewis, S. Sysum, and L. Hamblin; J. Baker and A. Hall; G. Halford, W. Dovey, A. Saunders, A. Cook, W. Parham, F. Ayliffe, S. Millard, and C. Mumford.

Llanhilleth. – F. Adams; J. Scott (capt.), T. Thayers, T. Rees, and D. Harris; F. Attwell and E. Roberts; E. Knight, A. Harvey, W. Harvey, G. Dare, J. Hayes, G. Durwin, H. Edwards, and W. Gordon.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis.

## THE GAME

There was only a moderate gate when Llanhilleth started, and the ball not travelling the requisite ten yards, a scrum was ordered at the centre. Nothing was done from this, but from the succeeding one Baker started his backs going, but Sysum tried to cut through when there was only the back to beat instead of giving to Hamblin, who was in attendance.

The visitors cleared to the centre, but here Hamblin received and cut straight through. He was, however, surrounded, and had to acknowledge the superiority of numbers.

Gloucester continued to attack, the threes indulging in some nice passing movements. From one of these Hamblin was apparently over in the corner, but a scrum was ordered and Llanhilleth worked out of the danger zone. They eventually reached the centre, but here A. Cook picked up in a scramble and enabled Gloucester to reach the visitors' 25. Llanhilleth obtained relief by the aid of a penalty, C. Cook failing to gather.

From a scrum near the centre Baker got the ball away nicely and a score appeared certain, but Webb failed to gather the ball on the bounce. The home pack worked right down to the visitors line, but Roberts changed the venue with a nice punt to touch. Llanhilleth for the first time then reached the Gloucester 25, but they were penalised and lost the advantage. Hall picked up from a bad pass, and bursting through gave to Baker, who in turn handed to Lewis. The latter punted over Adams' head, but the ball bounced awkwardly for Webb, and Lewis following up behind dribbled over the line, falling on the ball with a try almost simultaneously with Halford. Sysum failed with the kick.

On the restart, Lewis, Sysum, and Hamblin were prominent with a neat bit of passing, [2, 3 words unreadable] the reverse pass the ball was intercepted. Hamblin failed to kick a penalty goal, and Atwell with a tricky run through gained a good slice of ground for the visitors.

Hall and Baker combined in a passing movement, but the big half-back was collared and threw forward. From a big kick by Llanhilleth, C. Cook found touch at the centre in lovely style. From a mark the visitors cross-kicked, and the home men fumbling Harris made a bold bid for the line. He was, however, overhauled and brought down by Hall. A series of scrums then took place on the Gloucester line, which resulted in W. Harvey scrambling over with a try for the visitors. The kick failed.

Immediately upon the drop-out the homesters got down to the visiting line, but although Lewis and Sysum got in clever runs they were collared before they could do anything material.

The visitors then by good work gained a footing in the home territory, but strive as they would they could not manage to score. It was a near thing on many occasions, but the defence held out. Then from a kick Halford picked up and handed to Sysum. The latter ran strongly, and after beating two or three men gave to Webb, who raced clear away from the opposition and scored a brilliant try under the posts. Sysum kicked a goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester ..... 1 goal, 1 try

Llanhilleth ..... 1 try

On the resumption play for the first few minutes was contested at the centre; but from here Halford broke away, and summarily handing off a would-be tackler passed to Dovey, who gave to Sysum. The latter immediately spotted a likely opening, and cutting through crossed with a very neat try. The same player failed with the kick.

Gloucester attacked strongly, and A. Cook took the ball over the line, but was called back for an infringement. From the scrum Llanhilleth gained ground, but from the succeeding one Hall burst through nicely, but he held on too long, and his transfer, when it was given, went unaccepted. At this point a visitor was injured and had to leave the field. The home pack worked to the Llanhilleth 25, and subsequently from a line-out the ball was passed sharply to Hamblin who, being unmarked, had no difficulty in grounding the leather near the posts. The same player placed a goal.

On the restart Llanhilleth made headway and gained a footing in home territory. They, however, did not maintain their advantage for long, Sysum gaining possession and cutting through nicely with Lewis and Webb in attendance. He, however, held on much too long, and when a score should have been achieved without difficulty allowed himself to be tackled in possession. A minute later the Gloucester backs again got in motion, but although Webb made a splendid attempt to get clear he was pulled down.

By the aid of a mark Llanhilleth made headway, but they could not maintain their attacking position, being clearly outclassed by the superior play of the Gloucester men. A. Lewis and Webb were set going from near the half-way line, and the former, running with rare vim, feinted to pass to Webb and, cutting across, went over on his own. The kick failed.

Another try was forthcoming a minute later, this time from a long pass by Ayliffe, which was snapped up by Lewis, who promptly handed to Webb for the latter to "walk over" under the posts. Lewis was the means of giving Webb his next try. He sent him a nicely-judged pass, which the right winger accepted and, getting on the move, showed a clean pair of heels to the opposition.

Gloucester continued to literally bombard the visitors' line, and A. Lewis, with a big dash, knocked the corner flag over. From a penalty near the line Cook made a good attempt to land a goal. At this point Hamblin had to leave the field with an injured foot.

The visitors made one or two incursions into the Gloucester half, but for the most part they were penned in their own territory. Even the home forwards took a turn at three-quarter work, and Halford once or twice looked a likely scorer. At last the forwards did get something material to their credit, Halford gathering and passing to Ayliffe. The latter handed off nicely and scored. Sysum failed with the kick.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 3 goals, 5 tries (30 points)  
Llanhilleth ..... 1 try (3 points)

#### REMARKS

As was anticipated, Gloucester proved easily successful, and it is a question if they had played all out and the weather had been better how many points they could have obtained. Llanhilleth, it is true, in the first half kept the scoring down to within very reasonable limits, but this was due more to the faults of the home men and the wretched climatic conditions prevailing than from any really good play on their part.

Gloucester, in fact, before the interval should have held a lead of more than twice as many points than they actually did if one or two men in the rear division had let the ball go, instead of trying to do too much on their own. The Welshmen profited by these mistakes, with the result that they were able to cross the home line.

With the rain ceasing in the second stage, the home men quickly found their form, with the result that they played "ducks and drakes" with the defence, and ran up a respectable total. Some splendid combined and individual efforts were witnessed, Lewis and Webb playing to each other in fine style. The forwards were much too good for the Monmouthshire men, and Baker had no difficulty in getting the ball away practically every time. With Hall also in good form, the spectators were treated in the concluding portion of the match to a capital exhibition of the passing game.

C. Cook was not quite up to his usual standard at back. His kicking was somewhat faulty, and he did not find touch with that length and precision which is usually his great feature. Hamblin, who played on the wing, did not have a lot to do, Sysum generally preferring to try and get through on his own. That he was successful with his swerving runs there is no denying, but it might be policy at times to give his wing man a few more opportunities.

Lewis and Webb were frequently in evidence, both being responsible for beautiful efforts. Baker and Hall played their usual clever game at half, while of the forwards Halford, Millard, Ayliffe, and A. Cook were most in evidence.

Scorers : Webb (3), Lewis (2), Hamblin, Sysum, and Ayliffe. Sysum kicked two goals and Hamblin one.