

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1914

## FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. ABERTILLERY

### CITY'S POOR FORM

#### 'TILLERY UNLUCKY TO LOSE

From the side beaten so decisively by Headingley yesterday, Gloucester made several changes. Smart was still an absentee (being with the English team in Paris), and Cook and Hamblin also stood down to-day. The forwards were strengthened by the inclusion of Hayes, Millard, and Ayliffe.

At three-quarter Abertillery had the assistance of Eric Thomas, who appeared for Gloucester against Headingley, and Allen Lodge, the old city and county forward, also figured in the visitors' ranks. The weather was showery, and the attendance was moderate for a First team match.

Teams : –

Gloucester. – T. Miller; A. Lewis, R. A. Clarke, S. Sysum, and F. Bloxsome; J. Baker and A. Hall; G. Halford (capt.), J. F. Lawson, A. Saunders, J. Meadows, W. Parham, N. Hayes, S. Millard, and F. Ayliffe.

Abertillery. – T. Norris; E. Thomas, F. Giles, W. J. Powell, and L. Powell; S. Coleman and E. Marsh; Jack Webb, W. Powell, Reg Thomas, J. Jones, W. Jones, W. Morris, A. Lodge, and W. Hale.

Referee : Mr. J. H. Miles.

## THE GAME

From Halford's start a visitor marked, but the resultant kick only sent the ball to touch a few yards. After a little scrambling play the first scrum was formed at the centre, and 'Tillery heeling, Marsh received and cut through nicely, but his pass was forward. A kick down by the same player was well taken by Miller, who punted nicely to touch near the centre. Later the reserve custodian knocked on another kick down, and 'Tillery gained a footing in the home 25.

Hall was instrumental in changing the venue with a strong burst, but his pass out to the wing was forward, and play settled at mid-field. Gloucester lost ground through erratic play from a line-out, and then a clever passing move by the visiting backs saw L. Powell stopped in the nick of time.

Gloucester punted out to Norris, who made his mark, and forced a minor with a kick over the line. 'Tillery continued to have the better of the exchanges, but E. Thomas made an aimless punt over the line with only Miller to beat.

Gloucester could not get moving, and Miller being at fault, the visitors were very dangerous. Clarke relieved under great pressure, but Abertillery came back again with clever handling, E. Thomas failing to gather with a fine opening. Hayes brought much needed relief, and later the forwards rushed to the centre, where some keen tackling was witnessed.

The 'Tillery forwards were doing much the best in the scrum, and Marsh broke away several times, but the subsequent transfers were mulled. Gloucester at length got the ball out, and Hall fed Clarke, who dashed through, but passed into the hands of an opponent, who slipped away and secured a nice opening. With the defence clean beaten, however, the final pass was ruled forward – a lucky escape for Gloucester. 'Tillery pegged away, and the City had all their work cut out to keep their lines intact.

Eventually Sysum charged down Giles' kick, the ball rebounding to Norris, the full back. Sysum followed up and tackled his man, and the ball being got away, the home forwards, with Lawson and Halford leading, dribbled in dashing style. The home captain kept the ball out of touch neatly, and with a final drive sent the ball over the line for Sysum to dash up and score. The same player failed at goal.

Halford replied to the drop-out, but Gloucester were soon forced to their half, where the visitors handled prettily. Coleman, with a dash down the short side of the scrum, made a decent opening for L. Powell, but Lewis held his opponent and sent him to touch. With more back play the visitors gave trouble, but Hall intercepted and dashed down touch, finally yielding to Lewis, who just stepped over the mark.

From this point Gloucester made headway, and faulty play by the 'Tillery backs gave the City a clear opening. With an open line, however, Bloxsome could not keep his foothold and an easy chance of scoring was lost. Abertillery soon changed the venue, and they looked all over scorers, when Sysum cut across and legged E. Thomas a few yards from the line.

Gloucester were not doing any too well, and again the defence underwent severe pressure. Coleman and Marsh were very nippy at the scrum, and from a movement by the former E. Thomas received and with a determined dash crossed in the corner. The place kick failed, and the teams were on level terms.

On the resumption play was fairly even, but it lacked the class of football witnessed the previous day. The Gloucester backs were again poor, the combination especially being weak. By the aid of the forwards the City attacked, and with a long kick over the line the ball was sent dead.

#### HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester .....	1 try
Abertillery .....	1 try

Abertillery restarted, and the first item of interest was a combined rush by the City forwards. They lost the ball eventually, which was kicked across the field, where L. Powell gathered and punted to Lewis, who had his kick charged down. Baker, however, picked up and handed to Hall, who burst through, but being partly tackled passed forward.

Abertillery worked out of their quarter with a useful breakaway, and the backs handling the home defence was tested. Gloucester got out of a difficult situation luckily, and later gained a good slice of ground by the aid of a penalty well taken by Sysum. It was rarely the Gloucester backs handled with any degree of certainty, but one move promised well. Bloxsome, however, in trying to punt ahead, sent the ball to touch.

For a scrum infringement Abertillery were penalised, and Sysum had a shot at goal from a long distance, a fine effort just failing. On the drop-out Coleman beat Baker at the scrum, and dribbled away, but Miller managed to turn the ball to touch. Subsequent play was very scrambling amongst the forwards and of a very poor standard.

The monotony was relieved with a dashing burst by the City front, in the course of which Norris was beaten, but W. G. Powell managed to get back and effect a clearance. Then came a neat bout of passing by the Gloucester threes and a good run by Clarke, but nothing came of it. Following this Sysum twice held on and was collared, and this holding on was a distinct weakness on the part of several players.

Another good bit of work by Clarke gave Gloucester an advantage, and operations were contested in the visitors' 25. Gloucester opened out, but Bloxsome found E. Thomas too good for him, and he was thrown to touch. In a subsequent scramble Ayliffe was temporarily laid out, but soon resumed.

An attack initiated by Baker promised well with the ball coming along the three-quarter line, but Clarke's pass to Lewis was too difficult to accept. The game continued in the 'Tillery half, but it was poor football that was seen.

Sysum had a kick for goal from a mark outside the 25, but the ball fell short. A couple of visitors, however, fumbled on the line, and a scrum was ordered five yards out. Gloucester got the ball away, and Hall served a wide pass to Lewis, but the wing man could not take it. Gloucester continued the pressure on the right wing, and just before the finish Bloxsome was credited with a corner try. The place-kick failed.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 2 tries (6 points)  
Abertillery ..... 1 try (3 points)

#### REMARKS

Gloucester just scraped through to-day, but the winning try was anything [2, 3 words unreadable] one, and a better reflex of the game would have been a draw. At its best the football was of a moderate standard, Gloucester's back play especially being of the weakest character. The 'Tillery rear division were a much nippier set all round, and if they had made the best use of their chances in the first half they would have been several points up at the interval. The Gloucester forwards at times got in some telling rushes, but there was not the sustained dash and cohesion one associates with the pack, and it is evident that the majority of the players have had enough football.

At half-back, Baker was slow in delivering his passes, and Hall was so closely marked that it was only occasionally he was able to do much in the way of making openings. The three-quarters were poor in combined movements, and little in the way of skill and judgment were displayed. Lack of pace in the line, too, was again emphasised. Miller, for a first appearance at full-back, did not do badly, but his kicking with the left foot was rather weak.

Abertillery played a bustling game forward, and the backs handled smartly up to a point. Marsh, Giles, and E. Thomas were the pick.

Scorers for Gloucester : Sysum and Bloxsome one try each.

Easter Monday : Cinderford, at Kingsholm.

## GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD

The Gloucester team against Cinderford on Monday will be as follows : –

C. Cook; W. Washbourn, R. A. Clarke, L. Hamblin, and F. Webb;  
W. Dix and A. Hall; G. Halford (capt.), N. Hayes, S. Millard,  
J. F. Lawson, W. Parham, F. Ayliffe, J. H. Webb, and A. Saunders.

Baker is taking a rest, and Dix, the old City scrum worker, will make a re-appearance.

JC