

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1914

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD

CITY'S LAST HOME MATCH

GLOUCESTER WIN A HARD GAME

Gloucester concluded their home programme for the season with the annual Easter Monday fixture with Cinderford. The Foresters had done well in the two previous engagements with the City, drawing at Kingsholm last September and recently gaining a narrow victory at Cinderford by 7 points to 6. The City were stronger on paper than for weeks past, Webb and Washbourn re-appearing at three-quarter, whilst W. Dix, the old scrum half, played his first match with the premier team this season. Cinderford had Redding away, but otherwise were at full strength. There was a splendid attendance when the teams took the field, there being a large company of Cinderford supporters present.

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

Cinderford. – J. Hall; G. Bevan, J. Powell, F. Niblett, and F. Beard; M. Meek and L. Woolford; J. Watkins, G. Leighton, W. Robbins, A. Hewlett, G. Bowkett, O. Colwell, G. Lodge, and S. Simmonds.

Referee : Mr. J. Southby (Bristol).

THE GAME

Gloucester kicked off against the strong sun, and Bevan failing to gather, Lawson dashed up and kicked to touch well inside the Foresters' half. Several short lines-out followed, with no advantage to either side, but Meek eventually gained ground for the visitors with a useful punt to touch. Gloucester got in a good rush, with Halford and Hayes to the fore, but J. Hall saved in daring fashion, and a forward picking up punted clear.

The Foresters, with a smart move by Woolford, worked to the home 25, where there was some close and exciting play. Gradually Gloucester got out of danger, Webb, Hall, and Washbourn rendering useful service. Off-side by the Gloucester forwards lost a good slice of ground, and the game was hotly contested in the home 25. Here Dix opened out cleverly, and Hall, Clarke, Hamblin, and Washbourne handled in perfect style. The wing man tried hard to beat J. Hall, but the little custodian made no mistake, and brought his man down.

A mistake by Hall was subsequently recovered by Hamblin, who, with a lovely kick, found touch at the Cinderford 25 flag. From the line out Halford secured, and attempted to break away, but he was pounced upon and upset. A smart bit of work between Dix, Hall, and Webb saw the latter go close before being smothered by three opponents. Gloucester, however, had secured a good attacking position, and a Cinderford man punting across the field, Washbourn had a good chance had he taken the ball, but it bounced out of his arms.

Cinderford were hard pressed for a couple of minutes, but clever work by Woolford, Meek, and Bevan resulted in the visitors' clearing to beyond half-way.

Play was keen forward, and there was little to choose between the rival packs. Gloucester, however, were getting the ball better just now, and Hall, beautifully served by Dix, brought off two strong runs, but his passes were ill-judged.

Then from some loose play Clarke fielded and started a passing bout, Hamblin bringing off a dashing run. But the opposition proved too keen, and he was well tackled. Gloucester attacked from a line out, where a visiting forward threw back wildly. Hall, however, dashed in and saved, though his forwards got off side subsequently and gave away a penalty. There was a shot for goal from the place, but a poor attempt went very wide.

Gloucester were playing a strong game, but though the City worked hard they could not get the desired opening. One big burst by the City forwards looked promising for a try, but there was an infringement and Cinderford got a penalty.

Big kicks by the visitors, aided by some fumbling, resulted in the home end being visited, and Cook had to concede a minor from a punt over the line.

From the drop-out there was a spell of loose play at mid-field, from which Hayes gathered and secured a glorious opening with Halford on his left. Hayes, however, passed too soon, and the ball hit Halford on the shoulder and glanced off. Gloucester, however, put in a dashing rush, and Ayliffe picking up forced himself over the line and scored an apparently fair try, but only a minor was given.

After this Cinderford had a good share of the play, but they were greatly helped by the strong breeze. Ayliffe and Hayes contributed in changing the venue, and Gloucester had a spell of attacking, but they found the defence too keen.

Gloucester were awarded a couple of penalties for infringements by Woolford, and from the second Hamblin just missed landing a goal. The interval was then called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	Nil
Cinderford	Nil

Watkins re-started for Cinderford, Cooke's reply going to touch 20 yards inside the visitors' half. The Gloucester forwards early got on the move with a spirited rush, and the Cinderford line was in danger. A kick across by Dix went close to the line, and Clarke upsetting Bevan Gloucester had a chance, but the home men could not gather.

From the subsequent scrum the ball came back to Hamblin, who dropped for goal, but had his kick charged down, and the City lost their position. Midfield play followed, but there was not much in it, the marking being so close that neither team could gain an opening. Off-side by Cinderford cost their side penalties in quick succession, and Hamblin taking a drop for goal nearly succeeded in covering the cross-bar.

Following the drop out Gloucester had nearly all the play, but luck was not in for the City. Good work by Clarke put Hamblin in possession, and the centre racing hard beat the opposition, but had the misfortune to lose the ball when within sight of the line. This was very hard luck, for the effort deserved reward.

Gloucester, however, kept up the attack, and a visitor mis-kicking there was a fumble close in, and Hamblin dashing up scored, though he was laid out in making his effort. He, however, came round, and was able to resume. Cook took the place for goal, but the ball hit the cross-bar.

Cinderford dropped out, but taking full advantage of the wind used the touch line with effect. Play was mostly in the Foresters' half, but the visitors defended with grim determination, no quarter being given. For palpable off-side by Woolford Gloucester were awarded another free, but Hamblin's drop for goal was unsuccessful.

Taking advantage of some slackness by home players on the drop-out, Cinderford visited the City end for the first time in the half. They did not stay long, however, [2, 3 words unreadable] Dix fed Hall on the short side of the scrum and the outside half came away strongly and passed to Hamblin, who, however, was soon tackled. The game was very fast, but chiefly confined to the forwards.

At length the Gloucester backs opened out, and there was a splendid round of passing, ending in Washbourn being hurled to touch a couple of yards from the mark.

From the line out Gloucester secured, and Mumford, Ayliffe, and Millard, with two or three Cinderfordians were over the line in a bunch. After the players had sorted themselves out Mumford was found underneath with the ball, and he was awarded a try. Hamblin missed the goal points.

Gloucester were on the attack again immediately after the drop out, Cinderford narrowly escaping another try against them. Cinderford gained temporary relief, but Gloucester were soon on the attack again, Webb being held up after making a good effort to beat the defence. The Foresters, playing with splendid dash, eased the pressure, but Hall and Webb returned with a clever bit of work, the wing man just failing to clear his opponents. Soon after the end came.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 tries (6 points)
Cinderford Nil

REMARKS

It was a hard, grim fight, and though Gloucester deserved their win there was not a great deal in it. The forwards on both sides played with great keenness, and the tackling was very deadly.

In the second half the game was rarely out of the Cinderford half, but the Foresters exhibited a sturdy defence and never once slackened their efforts.

Dix showed little sign of having been out of the game all the season, and his play was characteristic of the old time cleverness, especially in getting the ball away.

Hall brought off some good bursts, but did not always pass with the best judgment, or one or two opening might have accrued. The three-quarters were a distinct improvement on recent displays, the return of Webb and Washbourn making a big difference.

Cinderford did not employ their backs in attack, but all the men tackled and kicked well. Cook and J. Hall were both excellent at full-back.

GLOUCESTER A v. CINDERFORD A

Gloucester A on Monday morning proved too strong for the locals, and although the latter struggled gamely, and at times showed pretty football, the superiority of the Citizens prevailed, and tries were scored by Bloxsome (2) and Staunton, Burns converting one.

In the second half the home team scored with pretty footwork through Coombes, Phelps converting.

Gloucester replied with three tries, Burns and Harris (2) being responsible, Burns converting two.

RESULT :

Gloucester A	3 goals 3 tries (24 points)
Cinderford A	1 goal (5 points)