

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1919

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER'S DRAW AT CARDIFF

The experimental Gloucester team that visited Cardiff on Saturday accomplished a splendid performance in effecting a draw (a try each) with the Welshmen, who were in good training, having previously played together in eight matches.

With the exception that Lieut. Voyce took the place of Cadet Reeves at half-back, the City fifteen was as selected, and Cardiff had a strong side out, for though R. Lloyd, the ex-Pontypool and Northern Union half-back had to stand down owing to the recent ruling of the Welsh Rugby Union, his old clubmate Stacey assisted, and Clem Lewis, Birch, Gaccon, and other well-known players were included.

The weather was unfavourable and the ground very heavy, but a ding-dong game resulted.

The first quarter was very even, but subsequently Cardiff held a distinct advantage. Lewis made a splendid opening for Butteridge to score, and later Sergt.-Major Pugh saved another try by touching down in the nick of time. Gloucester had one or two good bursts, and once Sergt. Lee and Halford broke away finely, but the effort broke down at the critical moment.

The City opened the second half in splendid style, and for the first twenty minutes there was only one side in it. Hudson, Voyce, and Hall distinguished themselves, and the visitors experienced hard lines in not scoring. Eventually from a movement in the loose Weaver and Redding got to the line and the latter scored, but Stone failed with the kick at goal from a favourable position. Nothing further was scored.

In some remarks on the game "A.B.," a well-known local enthusiast, writes :

Considering the state of the ground it was a very fast game, and played in a real sporting spirit. The Cardiff spectators showed their appreciation of any smart bits of play that were done by the visitors. The Gloucester forwards, ably led by Halford, played well. Ward, Redding, Weaver, and Robbins were great in the scrum, while Halford, Sergt. Lee, and Webb in the line-outs and loose were top-hole. Taylor, too, played a real good game, and after a few lessons with such a pack should make a splendid forward.

A. Hall, at half, had the measure of his opponent, and was as happy as a sand-boy. At the finish he was hardly recognisable, being covered in mud. Voyce improved on his previous display, and tackled finely. The threes played well, with Hudson and Pugh the pick, but both Ashmeade and Stone did some really good things, and gave nothing away. The full back (Marmont) was a trifle slow, but stopped some ugly rushes on one or two occasions, and considering the state of the ball kicked a good length. With a bit more practice kicking with both feet he should develop into a real good custodian.

Of the Cardiff side Clem Lewis was, perhaps, the outstanding figure, but the three-quarter line showed a rare turn of speed, and ought to develop into a very useful line. The forwards, ably led by Gaccon and Birch, played well, but there is room for improvement. The full-back was very sound, but his kicking lacked length.

With the "boys" coming back one by one the outlook is very rosy for the Gloucester Club, and if I am any judge, by next Christmas we shall field a real good side, capable of holding our own with any club fifteen in the country.

Hughes, son of the old Gloucester and county player, I hear, is playing a great game at full-back. When I last saw him, before joining up, he was quite a lad; now he is a fine, hefty fellow. There are a host of other youngsters expected home who have been playing good Army football, and only want a little polishing off.

Gloucester Rugby enthusiasts are promised good sport shortly, as the Royal Naval Depot (Devonport) team, which proved such a popular side on the occasion of previous visits to Kingsholm, is booked for February 15, and the return game with Cardiff on March 8th. In all probability fixtures will also be made with the famous New Zealanders, the Canadians, and the Maoris.

JC