

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1919

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CARDIFF

GOOD WIN FOR THE WELSHMEN

Always a popular attraction at Kingsholm, the visit of the Cardiff team for the return match drew a large crowd to the City Club's enclosure this afternoon. The visiting side included several youngsters, but Gaccon, Birch, and Scanlon, old players, figures in the forward ranks. Gloucester made one change, Wilkes dropping out. The ground was in capital condition despite the recent heavy rains.

Teams : –

Gloucester. – L. Mormant; C. F. Webb, W. Prosser, L. Hamblin, and Sergt.-Major Pugh; R. C. Cook and Lieut. T. Voyce; G. Halford, A. Hall, A. Redding, L. Robbins, J. Reynolds, W. F. Ward, W. Davies, and Sergt. J. Lee.

Cardiff. – Cpl. Eames; Smith, McAuliffe, A. Williams, W. Powell; Coghlan, and Coleman; F. Gaccon, Capt. J. Birch, Hamens, Scanlon, Tatchell, Oram, Reece, and Dalrymple.

Referee : Mr. Demery (London).

Gloucester started, and as the result of an interchange of kicks play settled in the Cardiff half. A good punt to touch changed the venue to the centre, where play hovered for a few minutes without any incident occurring.

From some loose play the ball was kicked past Hamblin, who sent towards his own goal in trying to pick up. Mormant was immediately collared, and losing the ball the home line was in danger. The attack was warded off, but Cardiff maintained the pressure, good touch-finding aiding the visitors. From a scrum on the 25 the ball came out to Coghlan, who, taking steady aim, dropped a lovely goal.

On the restart the Gloucester forwards showed up with a fine burst, but it failed to materialise. Cardiff worked out to the centre, where Voyce handed out to Prosser. The latter yielded to Hamblin, who cut inside beautifully, but was legged from behind when looking dangerous. A free to Cardiff staved off a sharp attack, and later Coghlan brought much needed relief.

Webb, with a smart effort on the right, cross-kicked nicely to a bunch of Gloucester men, but the ball was not gathered, and a Cardiffian punted well out to touch. Ensuing play was contested in the home quarters until a fine kick by Webb brought relief. Eames, however, marked and sent back with a nice effort.

The Gloucester forwards were doing none too well in the scrums, and the little heeling that was seen was done by the Welshmen. Cardiff continued to have the better of exchanges but lost two good chances by wild passing. The Gloucester forwards were prominent with a sharp loose rush, which took them to midfield, but their play as a whole lacked cohesion. Useful kicks gave Gloucester an advantage, and the City forwards, with a combined burst, swept all opposition aside, and Robbins scored in a good position. Hamblin kicked a neat goal, and Gloucester led by a point.

Resuming, Cardiff at once got on the attack, and the home line narrowly escaped. The game was principally confined to the forwards, and the footwork on both sides was very effective. Webb, from a pass by Prosser, distinguished himself with a pretty dodging run, but his transfer was knocked on and nothing resulted.

Cardiff were well inside the Gloucester half, when Hall broke away in fine style from a line-out. But Voyce was laid low directly he received the ball, and the effort finished at mid-field. Cardiff had another spell of attacking later, but the defence prevailed. Gloucester did some good work subsequently, but no more scoring was effected up to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester ..... 1 goal  
Cardiff ..... 1 goal (d)

On the resumption Cardiff at once forced their way into Gloucester territory, where attempts were made to open out the game, but without success. Still Gloucester were kept on the defensive until a forward, gathering in a line-out punted clear.

Cardiff generally were sharper on the ball, and with more understanding behind, they might easily have scored. By dint of forward work the City reached the centre, where Evans[*sic*] twice scored in splendid style. Gloucester, however, playing well together, rushed a scrum in determined style, and kicked over the line, but Eames managed to touch down.

The kick-out brought little relief to Cardiff, for the home team got on the attack immediately. Halford, getting the ball in the open, dashed away, and passed, but Eames effected a grand tackle. By passing and kicking Cardiff got out of danger, and eventually gained a footing in their opponents' end. Carrying a scrum, the visitors rushed to the line, and Oram scored, being slightly hurt in doing so. Gaccon landed a fine goal, and Cardiff regained the lead.

Gloucester, on the re-start, played up strenuously forward, and caused the Cardiff defenders some anxiety. But there was no finish to the attacks and nothing resulted. Cardiff by lucky kicking worked to beyond the centre, but their stay was brief. The City forwards broke away with a loose dribble and kicked past Eames and over the line. The Cardiffian, however, got there first and saved.

Gloucester continued to attack hotly, and came near scoring two or three times. Webb once did cross the line, but was called back. Gloucester tried their utmost to effect a crossing, but luck was against them, and Cardiff eventually gained more favourable quarters.

Even play ensued for a time, until, aided by some good punts, Gloucester gained a territorial advantage. The City backs were given possession from a throw-out but though Webb made a capital effort to break through, he was hemmed in and pushed to touch. Cardiff in turn took the game in hand, and got dangerously close to the Gloucester line. The ball getting loose, Tatchell picked up and scored under the posts, for Gaccon to add the goal points.

The remainder of the play was in favour of the Welshmen, who added another try before the end. The place kick failed.

#### RESULT :

Cardiff ..... 3 goals (1d) 1 try (17 points)

Gloucester ..... 1 goal (5 points)

#### REMARKS

Cardiff won on their merits. With so many newcomers in their ranks the Welshmen did not show up behind as in the old days, but that they have some promising youngsters admits of no question.

The forwards were a keen lot, fast in the loose and hard workers in the scrums. Coghlan made a clever outside half; and the Cardiff pair, on the whole, held a distinct advantage over the Gloucester couple, who lacked understanding.

Williams and Powell were nippy at times on the left wing, and the whole line displayed fine kicking powers. Eames was splendid at full back, and saved his side repeatedly.

For Gloucester, Mormant kicked a good length, but he is somewhat on the slow side, and was consequently harassed a good deal by the fast following up of the Cardiff forwards.

The City forwards were not together, and were beaten for possession in the scrums. In the loose, however, the pack did splendidly, Halford, Reynolds, Robbins, and Hall doing fine work.

The three-quarters did not get many chances in attack, and few combined efforts were seen. Webb shaped well, and Hamblin was prominent occasionally.

JC