

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1919

FOOTBALL

CARDIFF BEATEN AT KINGSHOLM

HOTLY AND WELL CONTESTED GAME

TWO FINE TRIES BY GLOUCESTER

Cardiff appeared at Kingsholm to-day with the unusual record, for them, of having suffered defeat three weeks in succession – to Bristol, Newport, and Swansea respectively. Both against Bristol and Newport the Welsh Metropolitans were decisively beaten on points, but there was a great improvement at Swansea, where Cardiff were unlucky in losing by a dropped goal to nil.

The team representing the famous Welsh Club at the City Headquarters to-day was to a large extent strange to a Gloucester crowd, this being particularly the case in the back division. Several of the players, however, have won reputations in Wales, and the side did so well at Swansea as to warrant the combination putting up a fine contest.

Owing to the defection during the week of W. and T. Stone – the centre, as is well known, signed on for the Hull N. C. Club, and was expected to make his debut against Wakefield this afternoon – Gloucester had to re-arrange the team again from the original selection.

Fred Hayward was tried at full back; L. Hamblin reverted to his old position at centre; and A. Hall again partnered Dix at half. Forward, J. F. Lawson came into the side. Cardiff were short of Allison, Coghlan and Birch, but Caswell, the clever inside half who was injured last week, found himself fit to turn out, and his presence was very welcome to the visitors.

The afternoon turned out gloriously fine, and a record crowd for the season lined the enclosure. The ground was in fine condition, and favoured a fast, open game.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK: F. W. Hayward.

THREE-QUARTERS: F. Webb, L. Hamblin, A. Hudson, and S. A. Brown.

HALF-BACKS: W. Dix and A. Hall.

FORWARDS: G. Holford (capt.), A. Ward, W. Davis, J. Harris, J. F. Lawson, F. W. Ayliffe, N. Hayes, and T. Voyce.

CARDIFF.

BACK: R. F. Williams.

THREE-QUARTERS: Dr. T. Wallace, A. Cornish, J. Affley, and C. Bryant.

HALF-BACKS: E. Caswell and W. Powell.

FORWARDS: F. Gaccon, W. Jenkins, A. Prosser, J. Brookman, C. Rees, W. Cornish, D. Callan, and A. Dalrymple.

Referee : Mr. Gil Evans.

THE GAME

The rival players fielded only four minutes late; and the Gloucester captain winning the toss, Gaccon started for the visitors with the sun in their faces. Holford replied finely to the centre, and from the first throw out Lawson secured, and with a sharp left foot punt sent to touch at the Cardiff quarter line. This advantage, however, was nullified almost immediately by Hayward, who failed to field a kick to Caswell, and after running back only got in a poor punt to touch. The Gloucester forwards got in a sharp rush, and Dix gathering started passing, but little ground resulted.

Cardiff kicked down, only to see the home backs come away with a pretty bout of passing, ending in Brown sending well to touch. The same player started another onward movement, and Voyce further improved with a sharp dash and transfer. Williams check this movement cleverly, but the City forwards got dangerous a moment later, and the Cardiff line was hotly assailed.

The visitors heeled in their own goal, and Cornish racing round punted well out, the ball going out of play mid-way between the quarter and half-way line. Gloucester made headway with a useful bit of combination, and Hayes further improved with a grand touch-finder. Gloucester got a penalty hereabouts, and later both teams came under the ban of the referee for scrum infringements. The resultant kicks did not gain much ground, and play settled in the Cardiff half.

Caswell, beating Dix in the scrum, broke away smartly, but was pulled down and his pass snapped up by Hall, who, however, sent forward to Lawson. Immediately after Caswell was penalised for palpable off-side play, but when Hamblin kicked the forwards were in front of the ball and a scrum followed at the spot where the infringement occurred.

A beautiful kick by Webb put Gloucester well down, and Harris with a clever dribble took Gloucester right to the line. A cross-kick, however, went to Cornish, who ran out and punted across. Hamblin gathered and took a left-foot drop for goal, which only just missed its mark. Williams fumbled in taking the ball over his goal-line, and Ward dropped on it, but was ruled off-side.

Subsequent play favoured Gloucester, but there were faults in handling when the ball came out to the backs. Persevering, however, Gloucester attacked strongly. Hall, fielding a kick-out by Williams, dashed down touch and passed, but the tackling was too keen. Cardiff relieved with a sharp dash, and a series of passes amongst the forwards carried play beyond mid-field.

Caswell opened out twice in quick succession, but the Welshmen were at fault behind, and no ground was made. Then from a punt by Hayward Caswell fumbled badly in trying to pick up, and allowed the Gloucester forwards to break away and send to touch well inside the Cardiff half. Here Lawson was laid out, and had to be assisted to the touch-line.

Resuming with seven forwards, Gloucester worked splendidly, the Welsh defence being severely tried. A big rush saw Harris pick up and burst for the line, but there was no one in attendance to pass to, and a splendid opportunity was lost.

Play continued in favour of the City, and from a long pass out by Hall the ball got out to Webb, who rounded Bryant and went behind the posts, but there was a call back for a knock-on by Hamblin. Lawson now came back, and immediately Dix was prominent with a tricky bit of work. He made a nice opening, but another try was thrown away through a knock-on. Ensuing play was very scrappy, and little combination was witnessed. Affley with a solo effort raised the siege for Cardiff, and for the first time the Welshmen were dangerous.

Caswell opening out from a scrum, the Cardiff backs handled smartly. Weak tackling – altogether too high on the part of the home players – allowed the visitors to get clear, and Wallace, shaking himself free from an opponent, scored the first try. Williams failed at goal. Thus Cardiff gained the lead, but on the play they had been hopelessly out of it. Still, they deserved every credit for snapping up their opportunity.

Resuming, Gloucester were not long ere they gained a footing in the Cardiff end, but there was an absence of cohesion in combined movements, and they could not get the desired opening. For an infringement Gloucester were penalised, and Cardiff had a drop for goal, but it was a poor effort and only a minor resulted.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

CARDIFF 1 try
GLOUCESTER Nil

Holford restarted, and opening play settled at midfield. A kick down was missed by Hayward, but he recovered and got in a useful return to Cornish. There was a further exchange ending in Wallace failing to take a lofty kick. The Gloucester forwards were on the ball in a moment. It was piloted safely past Williams and over the line, and Harris with a supreme effort dived for the ball, and scored amidst tremendous cheering, which was renewed when Hamblin added the extra points.

On the kick-off Cardiff by good kicking reached home territory, but Voyce and Dix with clever footwork again changed the venue. Gloucester now tried passing, but it was too mechanical, and nothing resulted. Davis was conspicuous with a fine dashing effort in the loose, following Cornish and forcing the Cardiffian to punt to touch. The visitors, however, carrying a scrum, got very close, and Caswell was nearly through. Passing back from a scrum by Caswell saw Affley collared and rushed along by Hudson, this bringing about the desired relief.

The contest waged fast and furious, but though there was some smart football shown, there were few combined movements of a spectacular character. A kicking duel between Hayward and Williams ended in Cardiff gaining a good slice of ground owing to a Gloucester forward getting off-side. From this point Cardiff set up a warm attack, Cornish making a fine zig-zag, but finally falling to a heavy tackle from behind, which winded him for a minute or two.

Continuing, Cardiff had the better of the exchanges, and there was another attempt to open out by Powell, but Wallace was beautifully tackled in time. Hudson was primarily responsible for a clearance for the City, getting in a short punt and following up, preventing a return.

The game fluctuated considerably, first one side then the other gaining the advantage. Cornish, who was playing a clever game, got away beautifully down the centre of the field and punted hard, Hayward failing to stop it going to touch twenty yards from the line.

An infringement, however, lost Cardiff their advantage, as with the kick Gloucester got well up the field. The City progressed further, and then Williams was tested with a high punt, but the Cardiffian successfully came through the ordeal. The Cardiff forwards heeling well, the backs showed up with a clever round of passing, but Gloucester checked. The visitors again got the ball out, but the passing broke down and Brown picking up dodged several opponents and gained a fine opening. Reaching Williams, the wing man served Ayliffe, who ploughed ahead, and at the right moment transferred inside to Hudson, who romped over behind the posts, the success being greeted with terrific cheering. Hamblin successfully goaled, and Gloucester led by 10 points to 3.

Immediately on the restart Hudson was off again with another fine effort. After making considerable ground he passed, but the ball came back to him again. His next transfer, however, was dropped, and a Cardiff man gathering raced clear of all opposition except Hayward. Webb, however, got back and effected a good tackle. Soon afterwards the end came.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 2 goals (10 points)
CARDIFF 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester's victory was well deserved, but the City had many anxious moments, especially in the second half, when Cardiff more than held their own. The City had their opportunities in the first half, but there was a failing when it came to scoring which was very disappointing.

It was a red hot game, fast to a degree, and waged with a keenness that could not be mistaken, but I cannot say the display from a spectators' point of view approached many of the struggles between the rivals in the past. Cardiff possess one or two players of real merit behind, but as a combination the side is a long way short of the players of old.

There were a few notable incidents in the game which excited the crowd, and perhaps the best movement of the day was when Gloucester scored their second try. Brown seized upon the opening with characteristic promptitude, and Ayliffe and Hudson completed the effort with a finish that was not often the case on the Gloucester side.

Forward, the two packs struggled gallantly for supremacy. The Welshmen held the advantage in the tight packs, and controlled the ball with more precision and effect than the City eight. In the loose and lines-out, however, the Gloucester men were seen to conspicuous advantage, and here Davis was easily picked out as the best forward on the field, closely followed by Voyce, Harris, and Ayliffe. Harris appeared to be always in the right place, and I have never seen him play better.

A weakness observable on the part of the home men at times was poor tackling. Time and again the men went too high, and opponents escaped from clutches with an ease that was anything but flattering to players appearing in first-class football. Forwards and backs were alike to blame in this respect to-day, but I trust we shall not witness such an exhibition again.

With the City forwards beaten for possession for the most part, Dix and Hall did not have a "joy day" behind the scrum. Coupled with this handicap was the fact that Caswell proved himself a very slippery customer, with the result that the Cardiff three-quarters had more chances than fell to the lot of the home quartette. Taken all round, neither side reached brilliance in attack except on rare occasions. In the second half Cardiff tried hard to make openings, but without much success.

Hudson and Hamblin kicked well in the centre, but until late in the game there was little straight running, and the ball was passed aimlessly from hand to hand. Brown did not get much chance to show his speed, and Webb's best efforts were in defence and clever kicking, for the simple reason the ball seldom got to him.

Cardiff were best served by Cornish and Wallace. The former showed real cleverness at times, and the doctor displayed a good deal of dash and resource.

Neither full-back touched form worthy the occasion. Williams has fallen off a good bit, and was at fault more than once in gathering the ball. Hayward was on the slow side, but he improved all round as the game progressed, and got in some good kicks in the latter part of the game.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A

Played at Cardiff. There were three changes in the City Seconds, G. Smith (Tredworth) playing full-back, and Hawker and A. Comely filling vacancies in the forwards.

Gloucester A. – G. Smith; N. Daniell, F. Bloxsome (captain), T. Millington, and H. Ashmead; J. Humphries and F. E. M. Clarke; A. Goodman, J. H. Webb, F. Mansell, W. Wright, A. Comely, A. Hawker, W. Nelmes, and A. Merrett.

There was a large crowd present. In the first half play did not reach a high standard, and the defence set up by both sides was far superior to their attacking capabilities. Eames (Cardiff) and Smith, the respective custodians, gave excellent exhibitions of accurate touch-finding, but balance of play was in Cardiff's favour. Millington failed with an attempt to place a goal from a mark early in the game.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Cardiff A	Nil
Gloucester A	Nil

RESULT :

Cardiff A ...	2 goals (1d), 2 tries (15 pts.)
Gloucester A	1 try (3 pts.)