

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1920

## FOOTBALL

### GLOUCESTER'S USUAL FATE AT CARDIFF

#### CITY'S WEAKENED TEAM PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT

#### BEATEN BY THREE POINTS ONLY

With S. Smart, T. Voyce, and W. Dix with the English team in Dublin; A. Hudson, still unfit though much better; J. F. Lawson nursing his injured thigh; and Lionel Hamblin crying off on Friday night, Gloucester's ranks were again sadly disorganised for the return match with Cardiff at the Arms Park.

Fortunately, Fred Webb was able to resume his place at wing three-quarter, and his presence was certain to give more confidence to the young players forming his confreres in the line. A. Hall once more filled Hamblin's place at outside half, and the vacancy at forward was given to E. Richardson, of the A team.

Cardiff, too, were weakened owing to the International match with Ireland, three of their players (Dr. Wallace, C. Bryant, and Dr. Findlay) appearing for the Irishmen.

In the first match between the teams at Kingsholm Gloucester won by 10 points to 3, but despite the fact that the Welsh Metropolitans are not the powerful force they were in pre-war days, one did not fancy the City's chances, for the last victory at Cardiff dated as far back as April 2nd, 1898. Gloucester won on that occasion by 2 goal (1d) to 1 goal. George Clutterbuck was the hero of the match, as he was credited with both scores.

Teams : –

### GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Welshman.

THREE-QUARTERS : F. Webb, T. Millington, G. J. Brown, and S. Brown.

HALF-BACKS : J. Humphries and A. Hall.

FORWARDS : G. Holford, E. Richardson, F. Ayliffe, F. Ward, N. Hayes, C. Mumford, A. Comley, and J. H. Webb.

### CARDIFF

BACK : W. Affley.

THREE-QUARTERS : "Wick" Powell, R. A. Cornish, Gus Hayes, and T. Nicholas.

HALF-BACKS : S. Murphy and J. Coghlan.

FORWARDS : A. Dalrymple, W. Cornish, Dan Callan, Jack Prosser, Ll. Jenkins, Lieut. Hopkins, J. Kenefie, and Crad Rees.

### THE GAME

Delightful weather prevailed, and the attendance reached about 7,000. Gloucester having lost the toss, Holford kicked off against the sun, and the City forwards, following up smartly, prevented a return. A good kick by Jack Brown put Gloucester well down, but Cardiff, with a loose rush, broke away to the other end, where Welshman was at fault in fielding. The home team got very close, but the Gloucester forwards relieved, and later Millington changed the venue with a clever effort.

Opening out nicely, the Cardiff backs attacked, but Powell was stopped by Hayes, when looking dangerous. Play favoured the home team for a time and, Coghlan cleverly cross-kicking over the line, Webb only got the touch in the nick of time. Smart work by the two Browns brought Gloucester well beyond the centre, but a mistake was made in trying to pick up with the Cardiff full back beaten.

Working well together, Gloucester went strongly for the line, Humphries dribbling over but just losing the touch. The Gloucester forwards, with good play in the loose, held their own splendidly, but big kicking by Cardiff enabled the home team to reach the Gloucester half.

Subsequent play was rather scrappy, the Cardiff backs being often at fault. The referee penalised the City several times for no apparent infringement, and other decisions of the official were scarcely understandable. A bad miss by Jack Brown gave Cardiff a good opening, but fortunately the pass was forward with a certain try in view.

The Gloucester forwards were doing splendidly both in the tight and the loose, and Hall and Humphries did good work, but the desired opening could not be secured. The strong sun was a severe handicap to the Gloucester backs in fielding high kicks, but on the whole Welshman did well.

Following a loose rush by the Cardiff forwards, the home backs got the ball, and Cornish, doubling Jack Brown, sent out to Powell, who raced over in the corner. Cornish failed with the kick at goal.

Gloucester restarted with vigour, and early on Webb, snapping a Cardiff pass, ran clear, but was headed off on the quarter line. The City, however, kept up a sharp attack, and Humphries, opening out cleverly, Jack Brown cut straight up to Affley and, though partially tackled, passed to Sid Brown, who dashed over in good style. Welshman missed the goal points.

Ensuing play was fast and open, with little in it. Gloucester lost ground in attempting passing, and then Cornish, with a lovely run, went through the defence and scored behind the post. Hayes missed the goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
CARDIFF ..... 2 tries  
GLOUCESTER ..... 1 try

Cardiff were lucky in having the lead of three points at the interval, for Gloucester had had quite as much of the play as their opponents.

The second half opened sensationally, Cardiff scoring in less than a minute. Jack Brown was tackled in possession on the 25 line, and threw the ball into the hands of Coghlan, who ran over with an easy try. Again the easy place-kick failed.

Resuming, Humphries, who was playing a hard and clever game, beat Murphy at the scrum, and kicked down to Affley, who only got in a poor punt to touch. A penalty to Gloucester was finely taken by Welshman, who found touch well inside the Cardiff quarter.

From a line-out Millington took the ball beautifully, but was held by one arm and could not break away. From a kick out Webb did some pretty side-stepping and passed inside to Humphries, who forced a touchdown. From the drop-out Cardiff broke away on the right, but Cornish was ruled off-side, and play was ordered back to the centre.

Even play followed until good kicking gave Gloucester the advantage. The ball coming out to Millington, he should have passed to Webb, but instead kicked over the line. Sid Brown raced up, but a Cardiffian kicked dead. Gloucester confined play to the Cardiff half, and Welshman had hard lines in missing a dropped goal. Territorially Gloucester were having by far the best of matters, but scoring chances did not come.

Humphries failed with a drop at goal, the ball dropping only a foot short, and shortly afterwards, from a breakaway by Hall, S. Brown was only tackled just in time. Then Welshman missed a penalty goal by a couple of feet with a fine kick.

Gloucester were all over the Welshmen in the concluding minutes, and after repeated attacks the forwards went over the line in a body, and Ayliffe scored. No goal resulted.

Cardiff did better towards the end, but Gloucester came again, the forwards playing grandly in the loose.

#### RESULT :

CARDIFF ..... 3 tries (9 points)

GLOUCESTER ..... 2 tries (6 points)

#### REMARKS

In gaining the winning points to-day Cardiff were one of the luckiest sides imaginable. After that snap try at the start of the second half the Welshmen scarcely had a look-in, and they were well beaten.

Gloucester lost through lack of finishing powers. Nearly all the attacking movements went to the left wing, and here the two Browns, faced by Cornish and Powell, were ineffective. Forward, the City pack played grandly. Jack Webb was the finest forward on the field, but all did well, displaying fine form in the loose.

Humphries was a great success at half, and had his opponent well beaten. Hall showed up with strong bursts, and gave his threes plenty of work. Welshman completely outshone Affley at full back.

#### GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A

Gloucester A were at home on Saturday to Cardiff A, who earlier in the season inflicted defeat upon them at Cardiff by 15 points to 3. There was a fair attendance. The visitors came one man short, and Hayward, of St. Mark's, was included in the forward line.

Gloucester A : G. Smith; N. Daniell, H. Woodward, F. Bloxsome, and H. Ashmeade; F. Collins and T. Burns; A. Wright, S. Bayliss, J. Merrett, G. Turner, E. Curtis, G. Griffiths, F. Hodges, and W. Meadows.

Cardiff A : F. Preston; J. Mills, J. Bulleridge, T. McAuliffe, and W. Moore; D. Podd and T. Payne; D. Miller, B. Bassett, E. Greedy, T. Greedy, L. Lewis, H. Maplestone, R. Owen, and S. Hayward.

Referee : Mr. G. L. Jones.

Gloucester kicked off with the sun facing them and worked down to the visitors' 25, but the Welshmen cleared and kicked down the field. Smith fielded grandly, and sent them back with a fine punt to touch. The home team got the best of the initial scrums, but Collins was a bit wild. He soon remedied this, however, and put the threes in motion, but Bloxsome held on a little too long and a promising movement broke down.

The home pack were not allowed to have matters all their own way, however, and the Cardiff backs took part in a couple of useful bouts of passing, which only broke down through minor infringements.

In spite of splendid heeling by the Gloucester pack, of which Collins was not quick enough to take advantage, the visiting forwards worked down, and there were several moments of play dangerously near the home line. Gloucester worked out a little, but a long kick found Smith unable to get to the ball in time to clear, and he fell, the ball being picked up by Moore, who secured an easy try. Payne added the extra points.

Smith was carried off, but returned shortly afterwards. Cardiff were now attacking strongly, and it was as much as the home team could do to keep them out. Moore had a shot for a dropped goal, but failed. The Cardiff threes were getting the ball more often than their opponents, but their tactics were faulty. Daniell and Bloxsome by individual efforts enabled the home team to obtain an attacking position, but the Welshmen sent them back. Moore showed up well with a fine sprint and a kick, but Smith just beat him for possession and kicked dead.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Cardiff A .....	1 goal
Gloucester A .....	Nil

On the resumption after a burst by Cardiff the home team came away, and a scrum on the Cardiff line led to the visitors being penalised. Burns made a very poor effort and lost a fine chance of opening Gloucester's account. The City Reserves continued to press, and a fine run and punt by Smith put them into proximity to the visitors' line, but nothing resulted. Another try to drop a goal from a penalty just failed, but Gloucester by wild kicking and handling were losing their chances.

The Gloucester pack continued to do well, and Collins was doing much better, but the Welshmen were making good use of wheeling tactics. Dashing work in the loose again made Gloucester dangerous, and Burns executed a useful dribble, but Preston picked the ball up from his feet and put in a useful touch-finder.

A fine bout of passing, in which the whole of the Gloucester threes participated, looked likely to mature, but Ashmeade was sent into touch within inches of the line. Another fine chance was muddled by Burns, who failed to kick a goal from a fine position. Smith similarly failed a moment later, when Cardiff were penalised in a position almost as dangerous.

Gloucester continued to press fiercely, and besieged the Cardiff line so successfully that as the result of a cut inside by Ashmeade, Merrett took the ball and fell over with it, with a crowd of Welshmen on his heels. Smith added the necessary points.

#### RESULT :

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

#### COMMENTS

Gloucester's bad kicking lost them a sure victory, for three penalty goals might easily have been added to the score. Burns is usually pretty safe with the goal points, but he failed signally to-day, and Smith when facing the posts was little better.

The packs were fairly evenly matched, and both sides did very good work. The homesters were the better at heeling, but the Welshmen had a fair share of the returns. In the loose the Gloucester forwards played up well, but on both sides the threes lacked finish, and most of the passes went wide or else the movements broke down by faulty handling. Neither of the tries resulted from combined three-quarter play. Danielle and Ashmeade played well individually, and Bloxsome worked hard, but there was little combination.

For the visitors Moore showed rare pace, and used his head to advantage. After the early stages Collins improved, and he did his best to set the threes moving, but was hampered by the wheeling tactics of the pack. Smith again played a good game at back, kicking a good length and saving well. It was unfortunate that his heavy fall should have rendered him useless when Moore had the line at his mercy. Preston was safe, but did not kick so well as Smith.

JC