

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1921

## FOOTBALL

CARDIFF FOLLOW SWANSEA AND NEWPORT

GLOUCESTER STILL INVINCIBLE AT HOME

SOME CLEVER TRIES AT KINGSHOLM

Though Cardiff are not the great combination as in the regime of Gwyn Nicholls, Gabe, Winfield, J. L. Williams, Percy Bush, and other well-known players of pre-war days, the team has accomplished some good performances this season, including a draw with Newport, and victories over Blackheath and the United Services away from home.

Gloucester, too, had not forgotten it was at Cardiff the City received their first check this season, for after seven successive wins the team visited Cardiff Arms Park and suffered defeat by 1 goal (d) 2 tries to nil.

Gloucester had great hopes of avenging this reverse at Kingsholm this afternoon, despite the fact that both Dix and Voyce were away. Both were at Twickenham for the England-Ireland match. Last evening Dix received a telegram to the following effect : "You are required to be at Twickenham to-morrow in order to play if necessary, which is very likely."

Later it was elicited from Tom Voyce over the telephone that Lieut. Kershaw was suffering from a cold, and had not turned up to the training at Queen's Club that afternoon. This decided Dix to make the journey to London this morning, and it was hoped by his numerous admirers that he would have the honour of taking part in his first International match.

The vacancy at scrum half was filled by W. Collins, of the A team – a big test for the Second teamer, for a good deal depended on his ability to open the game.

On the suggestion of the County Selection Committee, Gloucester included Lieut. Bloxam, the Stroud and Army three-quarter, in their ranks, but the young officer missed his train at Paddington, and could not get to Gloucester in time for the match. Norman Daniell took his place.

The weather conditions were favourable for a fast, open game, and there was a large crowd of spectators, though not approaching the attendance at the Newport match.

The following were the teams : –

#### GLOUCESTER

BACK : C. Cook.

THREE-QUARTERS : N. Daniell, T. Millington, Stanley Cook, and F. Webb (capt.).

HALF-BACKS : W. Collins and A. Robbins.

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe, G. Holford, S. Smart, A. Hall, J. Harris, J. F. Lawson, W. F. Warde, and J. H. Webb.

#### CARDIFF

BACK : J. Sullivan.

THREE-QUARTERS : T. Johnson, Dr. Wallace, A. Payne, and J. Dangerfield.

HALF-BACKS : T. C. Dean and Clem Lewis.

FORWARDS : W. Cornish, Idris Richards, D. Marsden Jones, Crad Rees, D. Llewellyn, J. Grant, J. Prosser, and J. Kenefic.

Referee : Mr. F. W. Nicholls (Leicester).

## THE GAME

The players took the field punctually to time, and Cornish started the game from the Dean's Walk goal. The ball went to Harris, who failed to field, but took a flying kick, a visitor receiving and punting straight to touch. The Gloucester forwards early got in a fine rush from a line-out, but Payne gathered and punted out of play. From a scrum Dean beat Collins and broke away, but his pass was intercepted by Hall, who gave a sharp pass to Millington. The latter ran to Sullivan and then yielded to Daniell, who raced over the Cardiff line with a fine try three minutes from the start. Robbins placed a good goal, at which the cheering was loud and prolonged.

This was an encouraging start, and the crowd were on good terms with themselves. Cardiff restarted, and play settled in the home half. The Welsh forwards got in a good rush, but Hall checked nicely, and then a fine punt to touch by C. Cook sent the game to the centre. Some close play ensued until Collins fed Robbins, who gained a good slice of ground with a well-judged kick.

Then the Gloucester forwards shone in a loose rush, Lawson, Harris and Warde being to the fore. The ball was kicked past Sullivan, and eventually was taken over the line, where Daniell touched down; but the whistle went for a previous infringement. Johnson was injured in this movement and had to retire to the touch-line, Kenefic coming out to centre three-quarter.

On resuming, Collins served Robbins nicely, and Millington receiving, the centre cut through and passed out wide to F. Webb. The captain took the pass all right and dashed over the line amidst cheers, but the referee ruled the transfer had been forward – hard lines for Gloucester.

Johnson now returned, and almost immediately Collins, Millington and Daniell combined in a movement which ended in the latter making a sharp dash for the line, but he was pushed into touch.

A clever dribble by the Cardiff forwards took the Welshmen well beyond the centre flag, but Hall, and later Robbins, changed the venue. Then Harris broke away with a beautiful solo dribble, which was not stopped until the Cardiff half was visited. A penalty to Cardiff gained the visitors ground, and a big rush further improved matters. Cook checked effectively, but the ball got loose, and Payne picking up dropped for goal, which only just missed.

Play was fast and interesting in the Gloucester half, until Harris cleverly snapped up the ball and raced ahead. He gave a nice transfer to J. Webb, who kicked ahead, but the ball rolled to touch. Inside the visitors' half Dean got away prettily from a scrum and passed to Lewis, but F. Webb effected a low tackle, and the Cardiff captain threw the ball to touch. For this infringement a penalty was awarded Gloucester, but it was too far out for Robbins to place a goal.

Ensuing play was keen and well contested. The Cardiff forwards were fast and controlled the ball well, but Gloucester were equally prominent and showed up with some fine work. Robbins, with a smart effort, broke clear and punted across to F. Webb, but the captain could not do anything. A penalty to Cardiff was splendidly returned by Lawson, who found touch with a fine left-foot kick. Lewis, however, replied, and centre play followed.

A long punt by Sullivan was fumbled by Robbins, and Lawson, who recovered, was pounced upon and injured in the tackle. He was only off for a couple of minutes, however, and the game was renewed with increased vigour. Harris was again prominent with a lovely dribble and tackle of Sullivan, but Cardiff rushed back, and Lewis forced a minor with a fruitless drop at goal.

Play on the drop-out was confined to the Gloucester end, but the marking and tackling were too close to allow of much open work. The City touched down again from a drop at goal from a penalty, and from the restart Lewis found touch close to the Gloucester line with a beautiful kick.

Stanley Cook stopped a promising movement by the visitors, subsequently picking up and sending to touch. Here the City front rank were prominent with a splendid loose dribble which Cardiff had some difficulty in checking. Gloucester went still further ahead, but Dean, eluding Collins, passed to Lewis, who got in another fine kick, but failed to find the touch-line. Daniell gathered and punted back, and mid-field play ensued.

The forwards just now were bearing the brunt of the work, and there were few concerted movements. In the midst of some loose handling Robbins gathered and cut out a fine opening. He reached the full back and passed to Holford, but the forward was not fast enough to complete the distance and was brought down. Following some exchange kicking, Wallace fielded and, racing round, started passing, but Johnson failed to hold.

In checking a Cardiff rush Collins injured his wrist and had to retire. From the next scrum Hall got the ball away to Robbins, who punted down the field, and Sullivan was collared in possession. Later Robbins forced a minor with a kick over the line.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal  
CARDIFF ..... Nil

The first half had been stubbornly contested, but after the first ten minutes, during which Gloucester might easily have been three tries up, Cardiff had had slightly the better of the exchanges, though only once were they really dangerous. Collins was playing a hard game at the scrum, but lacked the initiative of Dix, and Dean up to this point had been a bit too clever for him. The Second Teamer was able to resume his place in the team on the resumption, play opening at the centre.

From a long throw-out the ball went to C. Cook, who found touch at the 25-line. Gloucester were here awarded a penalty, but the exchange kicking left honours easy. A smart break-away by Dean gave Cardiff a possible opening, but Payne missed his pass badly and nothing resulted.

Useful kicking by Robbins gave Gloucester an advantage; and then the forwards, with Lawson in the van, rushed away. Cardiff tried in vain to check the movement, and the City went very close. A visitor eventually picked up, but his kick went towards his own goal, and F. Webb, dashing up, secured possession and went over the line in great style. From the touch-line Robbins made a great effort to kick a goal.

Cardiff restarted, and Holford getting a kick charged down the visitors looked dangerous, but a long kick sent the ball over the line and C. Cook touched down. Daniell shone a little later with a good kick and follow-up, Sullivan being tackled in possession. Gloucester played up vigorously, and after another splendid forward burst Webb just failed to notch another corner try. Cardiff were sorely pressed for a time, and only a forward transfer stopped Daniell from scoring.

Cardiff worked out of danger with big kicking. Near the centre they tried to open out, but Fred Webb intercepted grandly and raced clean away. He side-stepped Sullivan cleverly and was making for the line, but being pressed he yielded the ball to Lawson. The latter sent on to Harris, who was well up, and a grand effort ended in the latter scoring a try. Robbins missed the goal points.

A lead of 11 points was splendid for Gloucester, and it was well deserved. Cardiff, however, played up strongly on the restart, and Lewis, receiving a pass from Dean, ran through finely and scored. Sullivan failed at goal. This try was the result of a smart individual effort, and was warmly cheered by the crowd.

Cardiff held their own on the resumption, but Gloucester at length got the ball out through Collins. Robbins punted ahead, but the ball was over-run, and Dangerfield picking up ran back and kicked over the line. There was a race for possession, ending in a Gloucester man winning the touch. Cardiff had the better of play after this, and the game was confined to the home quarters for several minutes. Once a visitor was nearly through, being only pulled down a yard or so from the line.

The play later went towards the left, where Payne punted for the corner, but the ball bounced to touch. A terrific burst by the City front brought Gloucester out of danger, and a kick by Webb to Sullivan saw the latter collared beyond the half-way line. Cardiff heeled several times, but the passing was faulty, and no ground was gained.

Still, Dean persevered. The centres, however, were again at fault, and Millington, picking up, broke away, and on reaching the full back handed to Holford, who ran over behind the posts for Robbins to add the goal points. Sixteen points to 3 was the tally, and the City had made the game safe.

Cardiff, however, were not done with, for on the restart they attacked resolutely, and following some pretty work Wallace was given possession, and with a nice run scored in a good position. Johnson kicked the goal.

In the final minutes Cardiff further reduced the lead, one of the prettiest combined movements of the match, in which Payne and Johnson interpassed very cleverly, ending in the latter scoring wide out. With the place kick failing the whistle sounded the end.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ..... 2 goals, 2 tries (16 pts.)  
CARDIFF ..... 1 goal, 2 tries (11 pts.)

REMARKS

Gloucester 10 points, Swansea nil; Gloucester 12 points, Newport 9; Gloucester 16 points, Cardiff 11. That is the record of the City at home against the premier Welsh clubs this season – an achievement no other English Rugby combination can boast, and one which reflects the greatest possible credit on the Gloucester team. Cardiff came with a full side to-day, very keen and hopeful of capturing the home ground record; but they were disappointed. Victory undoubtedly went to the better team on the day's play, but a period of slackness on the part of Gloucester in the concluding stages allowed the Welshmen to get much closer in points than their form warranted.

Dealing with the play as a whole, it was not so bright and open as many previous contests between the rivals at Kingsholm. For this the fighting for the "loose head" was greatly attributable. I think we should have witnessed a far more interesting game had the referee put his foot down early on and stopped this practice. The final quarter provided the best football seen during the afternoon, and the last four tries – two each side – were very clever efforts.

The Gloucester forwards gave another fine display to-day, but the Cardiff pack were very little inferior. Both sets were fast, clever and dashing, and the footwork was an especial feature. Harris, Lawson, Warde and Holford were very distinguished for the City, but the other four worked energetically and well, and gave every possible assistance in all phases of play. For Cardiff, Cornish, Prosser, Marsden, Jones and Kenefic were the most prominent.

Behind, it is no disparagement to Collins to say that the City missed Dix. The Second Teamer experienced a rough time, being twice injured; but he was game enough, and was particularly useful in stopping rushes. He, however, lacked the inspiration and brain work of Dix, and his service of passes was not of the standard calculated to be effective. His fault in this respect affected Robbins; but despite this handicap the latter accomplished a lot of fine work, and he was little removed from being the best player outside the scrum on either side. His timely touch-kicking was of immense service to the forwards, and he gave the visitors no end of trouble at times with his sharp dashes, and for [3 or 4 words unreadable] Robbins can cover the ground.

On the whole the Gloucester threes did not do a great deal of pressing, and most of the work was individual in character. Millington was more noticeable than Stanley Cook, for the reason that the ball went more his way. The latter, however, displayed resource when tested, and was every helpful in defence. On the respective wings Fred Webb showed rare dash when he scored, and he experienced hard lines in missing another after a similar effort.

His best movement, however, was the one which led to Harris scoring, the captain showing opportunism, fine judgment, and cleverness. Daniell was up against a good man in Johnson, but he held his own fairly well.

Cardiff were well served at scrum half by Dean, and with the opportunities he provided the backs ought to have done better. But it was not until late in the game that the Welshmen showed anything approaching the form of Cardiff of old. The last try, however, made amends for several bad failures.

Clem Lewis was seen at his best with his kicking, though he slipped the home defence neatly when he scored. The centres were faulty in handling, but the fast Gloucester forwards did not give them much rope. Of the two Wallace was the pick, and Johnson was the stronger all round of the two wing men.

Sullivan, the seventeen-year-old Cardiff custodian, gave a splendid display on the whole, kicking a good length.

Cook, too, was in capital form, and gave nothing away. He faced the Cardiff forwards with resolution, and effectively checked one or two dangerous rushes, whilst his fielding from high punts was safe.

Next week : Guy's Hospital, away; Gloucester Boys v. Bristol Boys (County Schools' Cup Final), and Gloucester A v. South End, at Kingsholm.

## GLOUCESTER A'S FIRST DEFEAT

### CARDIFF A SCORE FREELY IN SECOND HALF

Played at Cardiff. Gloucester had much the worst of play in the first half, and had the Cardiff backs been capable of ordinarily accurate passing their line might have been crossed at least twice. Washbourne, Burns, and Ashmead did fine defensive work for Gloucester.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester ..... Nil  
Cardiff ..... Nil

Gloucester were kept continuously on the defensive in the second half. Trevor Nicholas scored a good try for Cardiff, and Downey dropped a goal. Cardiff did not relax their efforts, and Ackerman, one of the forwards, scored two tries in quick succession, one being converted by Hayes.

RESULT :

Cardiff A .... 2 goals (1d) 2 tries (15 pts.)  
Gloucester A ..... Nil

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