

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1907

TO-DAY'S MATCHES

GLOUCESTER v. CARDIFF

CITY'S LAST HOME MATCH

WELSHMEN WIN COMFORTABLY

For their concluding home match Gloucester had Cardiff for opponents, and the annual visit of the Welsh metropolitans, though coming so late in the season, proved a big attraction at Kingsholm. Unfortunately the weather took an unfavourable turn, and badly as rain is wanted in the country generally, it came at rather an inopportune time for the Gloucester club. Still, despite the rain there was a capital attendance. In the Gloucester team Pegler stood down for Hollands in the forwards, but this was the only change, Frank Smith's shoulder being so much better that he decided to turn out. Cardiff were short of Gabe and Williams, but the former's place was taken by Gwyn Nicholls, so that the visitors did not suffer by the change. The teams lined out at 3.35 as follows : —

GLOUCESTER	Positions	CARDIFF
A. Wood	Backs.	* H. B. Winfield
F. Smith	Three-Quarter	G. McCraith
A. Hudson	Backs.	Cecil Biggs
T. West	"	* E. G. Nicholls
H. Smith	"	* R. A. Gibbs
D. R. Gent (capt.)	Half-Backs.	* P. F. Bush (capt.)
J. Stephens	"	* R. David
B. Parham	"	F. Stroud
W. Johns	Forwards.	* J. Brown
A. Hawker	"	* J. Powell
H. Collins	"	F. Smith
G. Vears	"	J. Casey
W. Holder	"	E. Harding
A. Purton	"	J. Pugsley
D. Hollands	"	L. George

* Internationals

Referee : Mr. J. Milburn (Bristol).

THE GAME

Gloucester were successful with the toss, and Cardiff kicked off from the Worcester-street goal. Gent replied, and then from the return a knock-on occurred. A scrum followed at the centre, and Cardiff heeling David passed to Bush. The visiting captain drew the defence and handed to Gibbs, who sent on to Nicholls for the latter to run over behind the posts in the first minute – a sensational start. Winfield landed a goal.

After a false re-start, Gloucester kicked off again, Winfield sending to touch inside his own half. From the subsequent scrum Gent got possession, and handing to Stephens, the latter punted to Winfield, who kicked almost straight to touch.

Ensuing play was contested in the Cardiff half, attempts by both teams to open out being frustrated. Then West, from a punt over the line, forced a minor. Gent marked from the drop-out, and Wood gained a dozen yards or so with the kick. Gloucester secured from the throw-out, and Hawker, getting into the open, essayed a drop at goal, but the ball went under the posts.

Centre play followed the drop-out, but things generally were very quiet. Hubert Smith made a few yards, and the City forwards further improved matters. Cardiff, however, got the ball away from a scrum, and West missing Bush, the visiting captain started his backs in motion. Nicholls, Gibbs, and McCraith handled in turn, and the latter, with a fine sprint from half-way, got the ball over the line in the corner. Winfield's shot for goal went wide.

Gloucester resumed, but Bush was soon busy again. A wide pass out to the wing, however, went astray, and Gloucester saved. Intercepting by the Gloucester backs saw West kick down, and the ball being missed Hudson came along and picked up. Feinting to pass he cleared Biggs, and there was a fine opening, but West, who had come outside, failed to take the transfer. Wood, with a beautiful touch-finder, put Gloucester in a good position near the Cardiff line.

The City forwards heeling, the home backs handled nicely, but Frank Smith was smothered by Nicholls before he could get a fair start. Gloucester tried to press home another attack, following a mistake by Winfield, but only a minor resulted.

Wood replied well to the drop-out, and but for a grand clearance by Nicholls, Cardiff's position would have been a serious one.

Then a serious mishap befell Gloucester, Hawker injuring his shoulder and having to retire. A forward short, the Gloucester pack went into the contest with renewed vigour, and Johns led a fine dribble to the Cardiff line.

The visitors got out by the aid of useful kicks, but a penalty against David enabled Wood to send play back. A faulty pass from Bush to Nicholls gave West a possible chance, but the ball turned away from him, luckily for Cardiff.

The Welshmen, with a passing movement, made considerable headway, and McCraith punted down, only to see Hollands get back, field the ball, and return. A kick across by a visitor was taken by H. Smith (who was playing on the wing), but the Gloucesterian was well tackled by Biggs.

Another penalty was given against David, and Wood, with a lovely kick, found touch in the Cardiff end. Here the visitors heeled, and the backs combining in some beautiful passing, McCraith outdistanced the home players and scored another corner try. The place-kick failed.

Gloucester resumed, and mid-field play followed. Gent intercepted cleverly from David to Bush on the blind side of the scrum, and the City captain ran and punted, but Winfield marked. The kick found touch at the centre, and from here the Cardiff outsides ran and passed in irresistible style. Gibbs, however, knocked on in taking Nicholls' pass, and was called back.

Nicholls showed up in subsequent play with a couple of fine runs, but Hudson and another brought him down in time. An attack by Cardiff on the right wing was well stopped by H. Smith, and next Hudson, intercepting, kicked well to the Cardiff half. Wood later made a fine attempt to drop a goal, but the ball went just outside the post. After this Cardiff had the better of the game, and only a forward transfer stopped a certain try by Biggs.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Cardiff 1 goal, 2 tries
Gloucester Nil

Parham re-started, Winfield getting in a good reply to touch. Gloucester heeled from the first scrum, but Stephens, on receiving from Gent, kicked down, and McCraith fielding he turned to touch. The City again got the ball out, but could do nothing, and Cardiff dribbled away. Fine passing by the Welshmen and a clever kick by Gibbs took play right under the Gloucester posts and over the line, but Holder got up and kicked dead, lifting the ball into Worcester-street. Hollands splendidly followed up the drop-out, and robbed an opponent, but slipped to the ground as he was clearing.

Cardiff, with the strong wind behind them, made full use of it, Winfield especially getting in some grand kicks. From a line-out Pugsley got clear, but a pass to David was not taken. Then the Cardiff forwards brought off a splendid rush, Hubert Smith just saving in time. Gloucester got out of a dangerous position cleverly, but they were stopped at the centre. Combination between David and Bush gave the latter a nice opening, but the latter would not face Wood, and threw the ball away.

Soon afterwards the Cardiff captain brought off a fine dodgy run, but he was well tackled by Wood. Bush, however, managed to pass, and the visiting right wing was nearly through. Mistakes by the visitors enabled Gloucester to clear, and Hudson charging down a kick ran on and fielded. Reaching Winfield he passed to F. Smith, who re-passed, but Hudson was not fast enough to clear the opposition. Cardiff gradually changed the venue, and Nicholls, with a beautiful run, was only stopped in the nick of time.

Hudson brought relief to the home side with a good kick, and the City team, with a grand effort, nearly effected a score. Forwards and backs took part in the movement, but Collins was finally thrown to touch by Biggs a few yards from the line. Both players were injured, Biggs having his thumb knocked out. Collins soon resumed, and Winfield warded off a threatened attack with a fine kick to Wood. The latter responded, but McCraith sent to touch.

The Cardiff forwards came away with a strong burst to beyond the centre, where a couple of Gloucester players were temporarily laid out. Biggs was still absent from the field, George being brought out to three-quarter. Gloucester twice heeled in quick succession, but little advantage accrued, whilst Cardiff, though making a lot of ground, were prevented from gaining an opening.

Wheeling a scrum the Gloucester forwards got away with a good dribble, Hollands eventually kicking to touch in the Cardiff 25. From this point Brown broke away from a line-out, and the ball coming out to McCraith the latter ran and punted over the line. Gibbs raced up, but Hudson was there first and kicked dead. Cardiff attacked strongly on the drop-out, and the City were hard pressed. A few yards from the line Stephens dropped a pass from Gent, and David gathering he scored a soft try. Winfield converted with a grand kick.

Cardiff had the better of subsequent exchanges, but fine tackling prevented a score. Cardiff were getting a good deal of the ball, but there were a number of mistakes. Bush at length came across to the left wing and passed to McCraith, who was tackled. Losing the ball F. Smith kicked down, and racing up fielded again. He cleverly beat Winfield, and had a clear run in, but he hesitated and slipped. Fortunately Hudson had followed up, and taking a pass scored near the posts. Wood converted amidst cheers. On the resumption Hudson showed up with a capital effort, but the movement was stopped at mid-field. Play to the end was fairly even, but there was no more scoring.

RESULT :

Cardiff 2 goals, 2 tries (16 points)
Gloucester 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS

Cardiff proved immeasurably the superior team both in pace and tactics, and they were worth more than 16 points on the day's play.

The game on the whole was rather tame, and the excitement attending previous contests between the clubs was entirely absent.

Gloucester fought pluckily, and occasionally obtained a good position, but the men behind were not clever enough to force home the attacks to a successful issue.

Gloucester experienced hard luck in losing Hawker so early in the game, but Biggs was off for twenty minutes in the second half.

The Cardiff forwards were smart in the scrums, and clever in the open, and generally had the pull of the home pack, of whom Holder, Collins, Hollands, and Johns were the pick.

At half, David and Bush worked in perfect harmony, and the Cardiff captain worried the defence a good deal.

Gent and Stephens were not afforded many opportunities on the home side.

At three-quarter, Gwyn Nicholls showed all his old dash, and the veteran International has a lot of football left in him yet. Gibbs, Biggs, and McCraith combined with Nicholls in some lovely passing movements and it was remarkable that Gloucester kept the scoring down as low as they did.

Hudson and Frank Smith were the more prominent of the City third line, West's defence being rather shaky at times.

At full-back, Wood and Winfield gave almost perfect displays, the kicking of either player being very fine.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A

CITY SECONDS WELL BEATEN

Played at Cardiff, in showers of hail. Gloucester had to defend during most of the first half, and two unconverted tries were scored against them. Neagle registered the first score after breaking through the defence with a pretty run. The other point was obtained by Daley.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Cardiff A	2 tries
Gloucester A	Nil

For some time in the second half the visitors had the better of the game, but their movements lacked finish, and no score resulted.

Two more tries were scored for Cardiff by Neagle, who got over from pretty passing movements. Lewis converted each try.

Two remarkable runs by Flocks (Cardiff) were finely stopped by the visiting full-back.

Cardiff's actual superiority hardly justifies the big score.

RESULT :

Cardiff A	2 goals, 2 tries (16 points)
Gloucester A	Nil