

THE CITIZEN

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1907

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD

COUNTY CUP HOLDERS AT KINGSHOLM

VICTORY FOR THE CITY

The Gloucester third line was re-arranged, Hall and C. Smith playing centre, and H. Smith and Hudson on the wings.

Burgham started for Cinderford, Stephens replying to touch inside the home half. From the line-out the ball got loose, and Harrington failing to field, C. Smith dribbled through nicely. The ball cannoned against Meek and rebounded to the feet of the Gloucester forwards, who rushed away in dashing style. A forward fielded and passed to Hall, who handed to a confrere, but the ball went to touch. The Gloucester men carried the ensuing scrum, and went over the line, but the ball went dead.

On the drop-out E. Hall was prominent with a good kick, and Gloucester pressed, forcing another minor. Following the re-start Rhodes punted neatly to mid-field, but Hudson marked cleverly. Watkins was pounced upon directly he received the ball, and a passing bout by the home backs looked promising. E. Hall dribbled finely to the Cinderford 25, where some hot play was witnessed.

Cinderford gradually worked out of danger, but Wood stopped a dangerous rush in grand style. A clever dribble by E. Hall gave Gloucester an advantage, but they were checked at the quarter line. The Gloucester forwards were heeling from the scrum nicely, but the tackling was deadly. Next Cinderford indulged in some exchanges, but Rhodes was finely tackled by Hudson.

The game was exceptionally fast, the ball travelling up and down the field at a big rate. Wood was twice called upon to check the Cinderford forwards, which he did effectively. Once, however, the City custodian missed, only to see Hudson get back and save. Splendid forward work by the home pack changed the venue, but Stephens missing a pass from Wilson, Cinderford dribbled down to Wood, who saved in daring fashion.

The game was now in the Gloucester 25. Cinderford heeling, the visitors started passing. Niblett whipped out a wide transfer to W. Smith, who took the ball beautifully, but was well tackled by Hudson. The ball, however, getting loose, Rhodes kicked down to near the line, where E. Hall and Wood saved between them. Eventually Wood kicked out to Meek, who took a drop for goal, a minor resulting.

Burgham replied to the drop-out, and later the same player brought off a strong run from a line-out. He was successfully tackled, and Gloucester saved a dangerous situation. The game continued to be desperately fought out, Cinderford having the better of the exchanges. The visiting forwards came away with a strong burst, which Hudson and Wood checked. Cinderford, however, kept up the pressure, Niblett being seen to advantage. Gloucester cleared slightly, but Cowmeadow fielding a kick by E. Hall, punted over H. Smith's head in return, and only just missed recovering with the line at his mercy.

Cinderford were now in an attacking position, and the ball coming out from the scrum A. Hall picked up and passed to Niblett. The latter ran a few yards and then yielded to Burgham, who dropped over the line amidst loud cheering from the visitors' supporters. Meek kicked a fine goal.

Gloucester re-started, and the City at once got to their opponents' end. A bad pass, however, lost a good chance. Then from a kick over the line Burgham conceded a minor. C. Smith replied to the drop-out, and then Wood twice recovered mistakes in fielding in marvellous style. Cinderford were twice penalised for off-side, and Wood once took a shot for goal, but missed.

Meek ran out and punted to Hudson, who returned with interest, and the game was contested in the Foresters' 25. Here the visitors wheeled without the ball, and Wilson started a movement which took the ball right to the line. Meek fumbled, but recovered and saved in the nick of time.

Cinderford were now hard pressed, and Niblett punting high from over his own goal-line there was a scramble for possession. The ball eventually got loose, and Cinderford dribbled to more favourable quarters. Wilson was heavily tackled in checking a rush, and later Hudson was slightly crooked in stopping a combined burst by the visitors.

Subsequently Gloucester took the game in hand, and but for a lucky flying kick by Harrington the City would have had a good chance of scoring. Play continued full of excitement to the interval, but there was no more scoring.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Cinderford	1 goal
Gloucester	Nil

Vears re-started, the ball rolling to touch in the Cinderford half. From the succeeding throw-out the Gloucester forwards received, and brushing aside the opposition, Hollands picked up and, jumping Meek, scored far out amidst the cheers of the home crowd. Wood landed a fine goal, which placed the teams level.

Cinderford resumed, Vears sending to touch with a poor kick. Taking advantage of a bad pass to Niblett, Johns came through and dribbled to the Cinderford half. A neat effort by E. Hall gave Hudson possession, but the International was pulled to touch by W. Smith.

Johns was prominent with another good burst, but passed forward. Wilson next tried hard to work round on the left wing, but he was held up, and the Cinderford forwards dribbled out to the centre.

Wood twice stopped the visitors in clever style, and then for palpable off-side play by the Cinderford forwards Gloucester got a couple of free kicks. From one of these Wood took a shot for goal, but failed to land the points. Soon after the drop-out Cinderford rushed down in a body, but they were checked. Then a mistake in handling allowed Harrington to dribble through to Wood. The latter was surrounded, but he shook himself free in extraordinary fashion, though he was laid out in the melee.

Gloucester worked to mid-field, where "Whacker" Smith secured and ran down in splendid style, but his pass to his brother went to touch. The City forwards were playing a great game now, and heeling the ball came out to the third line. E. Hall was the last to receive, but being hemmed in he took a drop for goal and covered the cross-bar amidst tremendous enthusiasm.

Cinderford re-started, and the game was fought out with great vigour. Gloucester were doing splendidly in all departments, and Hudson, receiving a pass from the scrum, brought off a magnificent run. He looked all over a scorer, but he was partly checked by Meek, and this allowed Cowmeadow and another to pounce on him from behind on the verge of the line. It was a glorious effort, and certainly deserved a better fate.

Taking advantage of a slight lapse on the part of the home men, Cinderford obtained an opening, and had Cowmeadow taken a pass he might have gone home. Ensuing play showed no slackening on the part of either team, and the game continued in grim earnest.

Operations were confined to the Gloucester half for a few minutes, where Cinderford made strenuous efforts to draw level. The City, however, were equal to the calls made upon them, Wood especially shining. A clever movement by Niblett sent the ball to Wood, who was beaten by the bounce of the ball, which was taken to touch by Wilson a few yards from the line. This was an anxious time for the City, but the forwards made the desire clearance.

Immediately after Wilson snapped up an opponent's pass and ran to Meek, when he handed to C. Smith. The latter, however, was collared from behind. The effort led to Gloucester reaching more favourable quarters, and the City had the better of subsequent play.

Cinderford made great efforts in the last five minutes, and Harrington nearly repeated Hall's performance with a drop at goal. Just before the end Gloucester got away, and were in their opponents' 25 when time was called.

RESULT :

Gloucester	2 goals (1 d) (9 points)
Cinderford	1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS

It was a tremendous game, and fought out at a terrific pace. Gloucester just about deserved the winning points, but there was not a great deal in it.

Compared with Saturday, the City team played a vastly superior game, and the whole fifteen rose to the occasion in fine style. The forwards took their gruelling splendidly; they were quite the equal of their opponents in the tight, tackled well, and did grand work in the loose. Cinderford proved themselves a very hot pack – fast in the open and always on the ball.

The re-arranged Gloucester backs showed a decided improvement, and worked well together. Wood, at full-back, played a champion game, and on the other side Meek, too, performed creditably.