

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1908

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CARDIFF

CITIZENS PUT UP A CAPITAL FIGHT

Gloucester paid their annual visit to Cardiff to-day with a full side, and the City had great hopes of giving the Welsh Metropolitans a close game.

In the first meeting between the teams at Kingsholm, Cardiff won by two points, securing 1 goal, 2 tries to 1 penalty goal, 2 tries.

The Welshmen have only lost to Swansea and Llanelly this season, and though short of R. A. Gibbs and J. L. Williams to-day, they had the assistance of Gwyn Nicholls, who had only once previously appeared for his old team.

Gloucester played exactly the same side that beat Newport last week[sic]. The G.W.R. excursion to Cardiff was fairly well patronised.

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; A. Hudson, J. Stephens, G. Cook, F. Smith, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, A. Hall, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), W. Johns, B. Parham, G. Griffiths, H. Quixley, D. Hollands, W. Berry, G. Holford, forwards.

Cardiff. – R. B. Winfield, back; Gwyn Nicholls, R. T. Gabe, R. C. Thomas, Idris Thomas, three-quarter backs; P. F. Bush, R. Davies, half-backs; –. Pike, W. Neill, J. Casey, F. Smith, G. Northmore, J. Pugsley, –. Power, –. George, forwards.

Referee : Mr. T. D. Schofield (Bridgend).

THE GAME

A stiff wind blew across the ground, and rain threatened when the teams took the field, Gwyn Nicholls meeting with a hearty reception. Pike, Powell, and George played vice Brown, Westacott, and Hewlett in the Cardiff forwards. Gloucester won the toss, and Cardiff started, Stephens only making a moderate reply.

The home backs early started passing, but Hudson intercepted and punted finely to Winfield. From a subsequent scrum Davies got possession and fed Bush, but the latter passed badly, and F. Smith dribbled through nicely. The Gloucester left-winger had a splendid opening but knocked on in trying to pick up.

Cardiff came away with a useful kick, and a forward fielding in the loose, Gloucester only just repelled a dangerous attack. A free to the City brought relief, and a clever dribble took play to the other end. Inside the Gloucester half Bush cut out a lovely opening, and R. Thomas was only pushed to touch in goal.

Resuming, there was some keen play at midfield. Gloucester twice heeled, and Hall found touch with a nice punt. The Cardiff backs retaliated with a hot attack, but the passing broke down, the marking of the visitors being very close. Bush, trying to break through, was smothered, and the ball going loose F. Smith cleverly beat R. Thomas but just stepped into touch.

Gloucester were holding their own well in some fast play, but the wind greatly assisted Cardiff. Hollands staved off a dangerous attack on the right wing, but immediately after Casey got away beautifully, only to be upset in front of the goal by Welshman. Loose play ensued, out of which Bush picked up and sent R. Thomas over in the corner. Bush failed at goal.

Resuming, Gloucester, aided by some fine kicking by Cook and Welshman, confined operations to midfield for a little time. A penalty to Cardiff enabled Winfield to find touch in the Gloucester 25. Here Cardiff put in some strong attacks, and Idris Thomas eventually crossed after a strong dash. The goal kick failed.

Cardiff continued to show brilliant form, and Nicholls further increased his side's score with a lovely dropped goal with the left foot.

Gloucester shone in some good forward work on the restart, but they were beaten back and, following nice passing, I. Thomas scored the third try for Cardiff. No goal resulted.

Subsequent play was all in favour of Cardiff, who were continually handling. A good kick by Gloucester brought welcome relief, but the Welshmen were soon on the attack again, and just before the interval Nicholls was only stopped in the nick of time.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Cardiff 1 goal (d), 3 tries
Gloucester Nil

Vears resumed, and early on Cardiff made headway as the result of some fumbling by the City backs. Off-side by Gent saw Winfield find touch close to the Gloucester line. The home forwards heeling, Bush fed Gabe, who with a characteristic burst went clean through and scored behind the posts. Bush missed the kick at goal.

Following the drop-out, F. Smith and Cook were prominent with good work, but the latter was floored from behind by R. Thomas. Mid-field play was witnessed for a short time, and then the Cardiff backs were set going by Bush. Nicholls gave a perfect pass to Gabe, but the Cardiff captain was beautifully tackled by Hollands.

Gloucester were repeatedly beaten for possession but at length the ball came back to Gent twice in quick succession. Once Hudson cut through finely, but he slipped when looking dangerous and came down. Nicholls responded with a great run for Cardiff, but was collared from behind.

Then Hudson, fielding a kick in his own 25, beat I. Thomas and punted. Racing on he again secured, and passed to Johns. There was a grand opening and Berry grounded under the posts, but the final transfer was ruled forward.

Encouraged by this Gloucester played up vigorously, and the Cardiff line was hotly assailed. After some hot work Stephens gathered and passed to Gent, who in turn fed Hudson. With a desperate effort the International went for the corner, and though tackled got the ball down over the line. Welshman failed at goal. Bush was hurt in tackling Hudson and had to retire, R. Thomas playing outside half.

Resuming Gloucester immediately had another fine opening through Holford, but a knock-on took place. The City continued to do capital work, and following clever play by Cook, F. Smith was nearly through. In the scramble Gabe was knocked out and left the field, Bush coming back.

Continuing, Cardiff showed up with a combined attack on the right, but Nicholls was held up outside. From a fruitless drop at goal Gloucester touched down. After the drop out the City were conspicuous for some dashing work. A mistake lost the visitors a grand chance, but a little later Gent, Stephens and Hudson combined in a pretty movement, which gave the latter another try. Welshman converted with a splendid kick.

Gloucester continued to go strongly on the resumption, and they came very near adding to their score, Cardiff kicking dead once with Hollands close up. In the last few minutes the City made great efforts to penetrate the defence, but they were not rewarded, and the end came with Cardiff winners by eight points.

RESULT :

Cardiff 1 goal (d), 4 tries (16 points)
Gloucester 1 goal 1 try (8 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester finished very strongly, and with a little more luck might have pulled the game round in their favour. The strong wind was an important factor, and Cardiff took every advantage of it in the first half.

The City forwards were well beaten for possession until the last twenty minutes, and their backs scarcely got a look in. Cardiff played a brilliant open game, and against a less sterling defence would have run up a big score. In the later stages Gloucester accomplished some fine work, and Hudson's two tries were well deserved.

All things considered, Gloucester put up a capital fight. Welshman kicked beautifully at times, and was slightly better than Winfield on the day. With limited opportunities the City three-quarters did well, Hudson being strong and dashing in attack, and the other players handling well.

Gent and Hall worked hard at half, and of the forwards, Hollands, Johns, Berry, and Vears were noticeable. Gabe played fine football for Cardiff [The remaining 2 to 3 lines unreadable].

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A

REVENGE AT KINGSHOLM

These teams met at Kingsholm on Saturday before a small crowd, in bright weather. The City Seconds turned out as advertised, and Cardiff came with the selected team. The visitors played three halves.

The teams were : –

Gloucester A. – R. J. Butler, back; J. M. Baldwin, C. Cook, W. Hall, and J. Beard, three-quarter backs; F. Arthur and W. Dix, half-backs; A. Hawker, F. Pegler, J. Wyburn, W. Blackford, H. Wixey, B. Hayward, J. Lane, and J. Hall, forwards.

Cardiff A. – B. Williams, back; W. A. Jones (captain), T. Flooks, T. Readon, and T. Spencer, three-quarter backs; C. Culverwell, F. Woods, and J. Thomas, half-backs; G. Hewlett, F. Stroud, F. Gaccon, D. Duncan, M. Griffiths, S. Sexty, and J. Ward, forwards.

Cardiff kicked off, but it was charged down, and from the first scrum Gloucester go away nicely and obtained a footing in the visitors' 25. A good open movement looked promising, but the final transfer to Arthur, who went over the line, was adjudged forward. Gloucester kept up a hot attack, but were beaten off. Butler marked, and from the kick the Gloucester forwards went over the line, but a five yards' scrum was ordered.

Cardiff worked out, but Gloucester again returned to the attack, and with a fine forward rush forced a minor. Cardiff then opened out the game, and W. A. Jones gained a nice slice of ground with a kick. Spencer was responsible for a good run, but he held on a bit too long. By the aid of these movements, however, Cardiff had obtained a footing in the home 25, but the Gloucester forwards rushed again and carried the game to neutral territory.

Cardiff were now getting the ball from the scrum and twice tried passing, but the home defence was too keen. Once again the Gloucester forwards put in a fine rush and carried the game into the Welshmen's 25. Williams was responsible for a fine save under difficulties, but Cardiff touched down again as the result of a kick over the line. Gloucester were quickly back on the attack again, and in a scramble from a scrum close up a try was given, but it was impossible to see, from the heap of players on the ball, who scored. No goal resulted.

Cardiff at once took the ball to the other end, and after a neat run Flocks kicked across, but Baldwin gathering ran round and punted out. Gloucester were hard pressed, however, and Beard had to race back and touch down. Cardiff maintained the pressure until a good kick by Cook centred play, and Gloucester again set up a hot attack, Hall and Beard only just missing the coveted mark. A moment later Cardiff were penalised for off-side, and Hayward landed a good goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester1 goal (p), 1 try
Cardiff Nil

The first item of interest in the second half was a grand burst away by Wixey, who went right through on his own, but he was beaten for speed in the race for the ball and only a minor resulted.

A strong rush by the Gloucester forwards was nullified by a good kick by Williams, which found touch at the Gloucester 25. Readon tried a drop for goal, but the ball went wide and from the drop-out Gloucester centred the game, where give-and-take play followed for some time.

Play fluctuated one way and the other, but neither side could get far from the centre. Several times the Gloucester forwards, who were superior in the loose rushes, gained ground, but Cardiff were quickly back again.

Eventually Cardiff worked up into the Gloucester 25, and the ball being kicked over the line, Flooks rushed up and, dropping on the ball, was credited with a try, to which the extra points were added.

Gloucester worked down on the re-start, and Williams muddling a kick, picked up and tried to run out, but when faced by Beard passed out, with the result that Baldwin snapped up the ball prettily and scored a capital try, which was not improved upon.

Gloucester returned to the attack again, and kept the game in the Cardiff 25 for some little time, but eventually the Welshmen worked out to neutral ground. The game was very hotly contested, and for some time the home men had the better of the exchanges. Butler, however, fumbled and let Cardiff up again, but the visitors' advantage was neutralised by a capital forward rush by the Gloucester front.

The game continued to be contested in a strenuous manner, the visitors trying very hard to equalise matters, but they were unable to do so, and the Seconds were left good winners by nine points to five.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 1 goal (p), 2 tries (9 points)
Cardiff A 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS

It was an interesting game to watch, and Gloucester are to be congratulated on a well-earned victory. There was no doubt about the home men's superiority in front, and in this connection first mention must be made of the brilliant display given by H. Wixey. He was here, there, and everywhere, and was certainly the best forward on the field.

The visitors were a little the faster behind, but this was counteracted by some exceptionally good defensive work on the homesters' part.

JC