

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1908

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD

CITY FINISH THE SEASON IN GREAT STYLE

COUNTY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS DECISIVELY BEATEN

For the concluding match of the City's programme Cinderford provided the attraction, and one of the best gates of the season assembled at Kingsholm on Monday in anticipation of witnessing a keen game.

Gloucester were short of Gent and Welshman, whilst Cinderford lacked the services of M. Meek (centre) and R. Adams (forward).

In the two previous games Gloucester won and drew at Cinderford.

The teams were : –

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

Cinderford. – A. James, back; J. Wright, H. Smith, F. Trafford, and O. Homer, three-quarter backs; F. Niblett and A. Hall, half-backs; F. Teague, J. Hyndham, J. Watkins, A. Red..., G. Bowkett, F. Butt, G. L. Jones, and R. Dobbs, forwards.

Referee : Mr. H. G. Smith (Bristol).

## THE GAME

Vears kicked off amidst great excitement, and the City forwards following up Quixley gathered and passed, but the movement was checked on the visitors' 25. Cinderford rushed a few yards, but Cook sent them back with a nice kick to touch. Niblett, getting hold in some loose play, punted high to Butler, who marked cleverly, and Cook with a lovely punt found touch in the Foresters' quarter.

The Cinderford forwards heeling well, Hall broke through grandly and reached the centre before being forced to pass, the ball being knocked on by Hudson. Neat play from out of touch by Cinderford gained them ground, but Cook stopped them in smart style.

Centre play followed, and then Cinderford worked down with a dangerous dribble. Cook took a flying kick, and Wright coming up sent the ball to touch-in-goal. Following the drop-out Gloucester opened out, but Dix passed all along the ground. Fortunately Cook was in position, and with a clever left-foot kick sent beautifully to touch at the centre.

Exciting play saw Cinderford penalised, and the game was taken to the visitors' quarter. Butler, with another nice punt, maintained Gloucester's position, but Jones at length changed the venue. Butler, in running in to take the ball, missed it, and Homer dribbled on with a clear field. F. Smith, however, got back and tuned the ball to touch – a lucky escape for the City.

Cinderford, playing strongly, forced matters, and some smart passing looked promising. Trafford, however, failed to take a difficult transfer, and Hudson securing, the International punted out of danger. Immediately after, from a kick over the line by Niblett, Gloucester touched down.

Re-starting, operations were vigorously contested, Cinderford having the better of the exchanges. Johns eventually led the City out, but they were forced back with some determined forward work.

Hall and Niblett combined in an effective bit of play down touch, and the forwards joining in Gloucester were hard pressed. Cinderford were getting the ball in the scrum, but Hall and Niblett were not properly supported. One passing bout gave Wright a chance, but the latter was finely tackled by Hudson.

A desperate burst by the Cinderford front looked all over for a score, for Butler unaccountably missed near his line. The ball, however, bounced the wrong way for the visitors, and the City cleared luckily. Gloucester worked out to the centre, where there was a series of exchanges by the home backs. Hudson was the last to receive, and the International, after clearing Wright, cross-kicked. Smith came along and dribbled over the line and touched down, but he was off-side.

Play was exceptionally fast, and for a time Gloucester held the advantage. A good rush by the City forwards took them close, and Watkins was pulled down a few yards outside. The ball, however, got loose and Cinderford cleared to near mid-field. Weak play by Butler lost Gloucester a lot of ground, but it was partly recovered by the home forwards.

The Foresters, however, robbed them of the ball, and with some sharp exchanges reached the home quarters. Here Dix, getting possession from a scrum, started passing, but Stephens knocked on. After this Cinderford went strongly for the line, and only a forward transfer stopped a possible score.

Gloucester kicked out to James, who dropped for goal, only missing his object by a few feet. Hudson received the ball over the line and ran out and punted to the 25-flag. Niblett and Wright combined in a neat effort down touch, but the re-pass was knocked on.

Chiefly through Cook and Hudson, Gloucester gained relief, but H. Smith stopped a rush in fine style. Near the centre Hall and Niblett passed and re-passed prettily, but the final transfer was forward when there was every chance of a score.

Passing by Cinderford broke down, and Hudson coming through kicked to James. The International stumbled and fell when he looked like getting clear, and James picking up got in a wonderful clearance. The game continued to be fought out in the Cinderford half, and the visitors conceded a minor, from a kick over the line. The interval was soon afterwards reached.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... Nil  
Cinderford ..... Nil

Teague re-started, and after an exchange of kicks play was left just inside the home half. Cook gained some dozen yards for the City with a nice kick, and later the same player, from a free, found touch on the Cinderford 25. Gloucester heeled from the subsequent scrum, but Hudson failed to take Hall's pass, and nothing resulted.

Loose kicking enabled Cinderford to reach the centre, where in a scramble a visitor was laid out, but was able to resume. Immediately the Gloucester backs were set going, and Hudson, with half a chance, made a great dash for the corner. James, however, upset the International just outside, and though Hudson passed Gloucester could not get the ball over.

A scrum followed close to the Cinderford line, and Dix fed Hall, who ran across and transferred to Hudson. Stephens and Cook handled in turn, the latter yielding to F. Smith, the clever little wing raced over with a corner try amidst great cheering. Cook made a grand attempt to convert, the ball hitting one of the uprights.

Cook replied finely to the drop-out, and almost immediately Gloucester got on the attack. A. Hall (Gloucester) went very close and passed right on the line, but the ball was not taken. Cinderford eased the pressure slightly, but Gloucester returned with a splendid burst. The ball was taken to the line, where James fumbled, and Parham gathering crossed with a try. Cook failed at goal.

Cinderford re-started, and the game continued at a big pace. The Foresters, with one big forward rush, looked dangerous, but they over-ran the ball and Butler was able to save. In their own 25 Gloucester started a passing bout, and the ball came nicely across to Hudson, who went off at a big pace. James, however, waited for his man and effected a superb tackle amidst the cheers of the visiting supporters. Matters got very warm amongst the forwards in subsequent play, and the referee had to administer a caution.

From a punt by James, Stephens received and ran round finely, putting in a punt. F. Smith followed up, but knocked on trying to gather. Next the Gloucester backs handled, but Cook was upset by H. Smith and knocked out. The Gloucester centre had to receive the attention of the ambulance men, but after a couple of minutes or so he continued.

Cinderford played up with great determination on the re-start, and they confined operations to the home half for some time. The defence, however, was very good. The Gloucester forwards at length broke away with a grand burst, but they lost the ball on reaching James, and H. Smith securing he sent to touch. After this Hall (Gloucester) and Hudson combined in a clever bit of play, which nearly resulted in a score. Gloucester, who were doing much better, again passed neatly, but Cook finding he was cut off turned round and dropped a beautiful goal.

Re-starting, Gloucester took the game in hand, and the Foresters' defence was sorely tested. Stephens and Hudson just failed to pierce the defence in a clever movement. This was followed a little later by Dix breaking away from a scrum and sending Hall over in a good position, the try being converted by Cook.

On the re-start Cinderford gained a footing in the home half, but they were beaten off. Then from a loose kick F. Smith secured and ran and passed to Cook, who cross-kicked for Parham to notch the fourth try. Cook again goaled.

In the last few minutes Gloucester were all over their opponents, but the City failed to add to their score.

RESULT :

Gloucester .... 3 goals (1d), 2 tries (20 pts)  
Cinderford ..... Nil

REMARKS

It was a grand wind up to the season, and the City's pronounced victory over the County League champions greatly pleased the home supporters. It was a red-hot game throughout, and the excitement at times reached a very high pitch.

Cinderford certainly had the better of the play in the first half, but without Hall (half-back), who was suffering from slight concussion, they were overwhelmed in the second portion, and Gloucester fully deserved all their points.

It was a terrific struggle forward, but the City eight gained the upper hand in the later stages, both in the scrums and loose. The Gloucester backs did some fine work in the second half, and with a little more luck one or two more tries might have been added.

James played a fine game at full-back for the Foresters, and his great tackle of Hudson were among the features of a spirited contest. Butler, on the home side, was erratic and made several bad mistakes.

GLOUCESTER A v. CINDERFORD A

This return match at Cinderford on Monday morning aroused a good deal of interest, as the home team had a ground record to maintain.

Gloucester played up the slope in the first half. After fifteen minutes Bloxsome scored behind the posts after lovely passing, W. Hall converting. Cinderford attacked on the drop-out, and Beach failed at goal.

Soon afterwards Trafford scored behind the posts, but Beach failed at goal. At the interval Cinderford led by 6 points to 5.

In the second half Gloucester, with the slope in their favour, soon began to press. A City forward, standing off-side, took advantage of a knock-on by Trafford and crossed with a try, Hall again goaling. This was hard lines for Cinderford, as the scorer should have been penalised for being off-side.

Hall later dropped a lovely goal for the City Seconds. Cinderford tried hard to reduce the lead. Walkley dropped for goal near half-way, the ball striking the cross-bar and rebounding into play.

Trafford was later going through nicely, when he was tripped by Hawker and injured his leg – an action which greatly displeased the home spectators.

Gloucester were the better team, and deserved to win.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 3 goals (1d) (14 points)

Cinderford A .... 1 goal (p), 1 try (6 points)