

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1908

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD

A DESPERATE STRUGGLE

DRAW OF THREE POINTS EACH

The extra match arranged between these clubs last year proved such a financial success that the fixture was renewed, though the date was changed from Mop Monday to Fair Day.

The weather was dull and close, and the attendance did not come up to expectations, though there was a goodly contingent of Foresters present.

Gloucester were short of Gent, H. Smith, Neale, Elliott, and Vears, whilst Cinderford played the same fifteen as defeated Lydney.

The teams lined out as follows a quarter of an hour late :

Gloucester. – F. Welshman; F. Smith, J. Stephens, W. Hall, and A. Hudson (capt.); W. Dix and A. Hall; W. Johns, B. Parham, D. Hollands, D. Wyburn, H. Berry, G. Holford, G. Griffiths, and R. Craddock.

Cinderford. – Bowkett; O. Homer, W. Rhodes, M. Meek, and L. Powell; F. Niblett and A. Hall; J. Hyndman (capt.), A. Teague, J. Wright, R. Adams, A. Redding, G. L. Jones, J. Watkins, and J. Bowyer.

Referee : Mr. G. Thomas (Bristol).

## THE GAME

Johns kicked off, and there being no response the City at once got into their opponents' half. Cinderford dribbled away from a scrum, but Stephens robbed them cleverly and took the ball to Bowkett, who was immediately collared. For picking out of the scrum Hall (Cinderford) was penalised, and Welshman, with a lovely kick, landed a goal within three minutes of the start.

Welshman only got in a poor return to the re-start. Cinderford got well inside the home 25. Here the City were penalised for an infringement, but Hall failed with his shot at goal. Stephens received and ran and punted to near midfield. A wild pass back by Dix was missed by the Gloucester men, and Rhodes dribbled to Welshman, who partially checked him. A score looked imminent, but the ball, fortunately for Gloucester, rolled to touch.

The Gloucester forwards, wheeling a scrum, came away nicely, and Hudson joining in he kicked down the field. Bowkett was beaten, but Dix, in trying to pick up spoiled a fine opening. Clever play by Hudson, who with a short punt and follow up only just failed to gather again, put the City very close, and the Cinderford defence was severely taxed. For an infringement Cinderford were again penalised, but this time Welshman's kick went wide, and the Foresters punted out.

The visiting half-backs worked out cleverly, but another splendid effort by Hudson gave Gloucester an advantage, and play was desperately fought out in the Cinderford half. Good kicking by Gloucester found touch a few yards off their opponents' lines, where some strenuous work was witnessed.

Gloucester heeling, A. Hall fed Hudson, who passed wide. W. Hall and F. Smith had the line at their mercy, but the latter missed his transfer – a lucky escape for Cinderford. The Foresters cleared slightly, but Welshman marked and punted high. Holford took the ball grandly in mid-air and threw out wide to Hudson. The latter cross-kicked, but F. Smith could not get up, and Powell sent to touch.

Neat combination by Dix and the Brothers Hall and Johns gave Cinderford trouble, but the tackling was deadly. In the next minute A. Hall getting the ball from Dix, sent a sharp transfer to Hudson, who broke through grandly, but in trying to beat Bowkett he was bundled over from behind. The ball getting loose the Cinderford forwards dribbled right away, and were not stopped until they had travelled half the length of the field.

Gloucester changed the venue but the ground was lost immediately. A. Hall got in a mis-kick, which went straight to Hudson. The latter was collared by Homer directly he received the ball, and Stephens failing to gather Meek dribbled nicely to the line, where A. Hall received and punted to touch.

Cinderford now set up a hot attack on the Gloucester line, but the City tackled desperately and eased the situation, though for a time the pressure was very severe. Meek and Homer in turn went very close, both diving for the mark, but they were held up.

W. Hall was principally instrumental in relieving the pressure, and for the next five minutes play waged furiously between the forwards at the centre. Niblett, with a well-judged kick, put Cinderford on the attack again, but they were beaten back. Parham led a beautiful dribble to Bowkett, who was tackled, but a visitor got hold of the ball and punted well to touch.

Holford broke away nicely from a throw-out and passed to John, but the latter was not allowed to travel far. The ball eventually came across to the right, where Homer beat Hudson for possession, and sent to touch inside the Gloucester 25. Here Holford was temporarily laid out, but was able to resume. Cinderford had the better of the exchanges on the game being continued, and from a pass by Hall, Niblett only just failed to cross. He lost the ball, and Welshman picking up he kicked for touch.

The Foresters kept up the pressure till the interval, but failed to penetrate the defence.

#### HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester ..... 1 goal (p)  
Cinderford ..... Nil

Hyndman restarted, Gloucester being short of Holford. From the first line-out a visitor secured and made off with a strong run, finally punting to Welshman, who marked cleverly. He, however, failed to find touch with his kick, and Bowkett returned with interest. Brilliant work in the line-out by the Foresters took them well down, where Gloucester saved by some grand tackling. Holford now returned, and play continued in the home half.

Hall and Niblett, with pretty play, tested the defence, but the latter passed straight into the hands of Johns, who got in a nice kick to touch. From this point Gloucester made further headway, and then a pass out to Hudson saw the City captain race away. Being closely pressed, Hudson punted high, and tried hard to get up, but he and Bowkett came together, and the ball rolled to touch-in-goal.

Fast and exciting play followed on the drop out, the ball travelling up and down the field at a great rate. Hollands was prominent with some good work for Gloucester, following up a kick and preventing a return. Then from a line-out Bowyer broke away and Cinderford had a splendid opening, but it was missed. With a big rush the Forest scrummagers went pell-mell down to Welshman, who, however, stopped them in daring fashion.

Cinderford were going very hot now, and the forwards heeling, Hall and Niblett made great efforts to break through. The City defenders, however, held out boldly.

Still the Foresters kept pegging away, and at length their efforts were rewarded. Hall got the ball away to Niblett, who kicked across to the left wing. The ball bounced nicely for Homer, who fielded grandly, and though caught by the leg was able to get the ball down for a try, amidst the enthusiastic plaudits of the Cinderford supporters. Bowkett missed the goal, and the teams were placed level.

On the drop-out Cinderford returned to the attack, and a lovely effort by Niblett only just failed in another try. Cinderford were now having all the game and the City line was hotly besieged. Dix brought temporary relief, but clever back play by Cinderford gave the ball to Homer, who was beautifully collared by Hudson when looking dangerous.

Gloucester worked out a few yards, but Hall (Cinderford) returned with a strong burst, shaking off one or two opponents, and only being pulled down a yard or two outside. This was a lucky escape for Gloucester, who shortly after had to concede a minor.

Following the drop-out, Gloucester got to more favourable quarters. F. Smith, fielding a kick by Rhodes, got well away. Being partly tackled by Powell, he passed inside to Stephens, who had a fine opening, but the centre missed the ball. This was the last chance of a score, and soon afterwards the end came.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 1 goal (p) (3 points)  
Cinderford ..... 1 try (3 points)

#### REMARKS

In a desperate struggle, Cinderford certainly had the better of the exchanges, and the City were lucky in escaping with a draw.

In the first half Gloucester quite held their own, but after the change of ends the Foresters were clearly on top, and only a superb defence kept them from scoring on two or three occasions. The lighter Gloucester pack could not hold out against the visiting scrummagers, and though playing manfully in the loose they were beaten for possession.

At half-back, Hall and Niblett played splendidly together for Cinderford, the former proving very difficult to hold. Albert Hall and Dix by no means did badly for the home side.

There was little combined work witnessed, and individually Hudson and Homer were the pick of the respective three-quarters. Bowkett and Welshman both did well at full-back.

JC