

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1908

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD

FIGHT FOR LEAGUE POINTS

NARROW WIN FOR THE CITIZENS

For the first time these old and keen rivals met at Cinderford in the County League competition, and the match naturally aroused the greatest interest in the Forest. Only a fortnight ago the teams engaged at Kingsholm in a friendly, when, after a severe contest, honours were easy with three points each, though on the play Gloucester were somewhat lucky to escape with a draw.

At home Cinderford are always an exceptionally hard side to beat, and the City have more than once had to acknowledge defeat. Last season Gloucester drew on the Forest enclosure, but won both games at Kingsholm.

Neale and Elliott were still on the injured list, and Gloucester played the same fifteen as opposed Swansea, Berry again appearing at three-quarter. There was one change in the home team, Powell giving place to Bradley at three-quarter. The afternoon turned out beautifully fine, but the attendance was hardly up to expectations.

The teams lined out shortly after 4 o'clock as follows : —

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

Cinderford. – G. Bowkett, back; G. Homer, W. Rhodes, M. Meek, L. Bradley, three-quarter backs; A. Hall, F. Niblett, half-backs; A. Teague, J. Hyndman (capt.), A. Redding, J. Watkins, R. Adams, J. Wright, G. L. Jones, J. Bowyer, forwards.

Referee : G. Thomas (Bristol).

THE GAME

Gloucester won the toss, and Hudson decided to play up the slope. Hyndman kicked off, and owing to a misunderstanding between Hudson and Holland the ball was allowed to roll to touch at the Gloucester 25. Cinderford heeled from the first scrum, but off-side gave Gloucester a penalty. Bowkett fumbled. Welshman kicked, and this gave Gloucester a position at the centre.

Cinderford soon changed the venue with smart work, and exciting play followed in the City quarters. Niblett tried to break through, but was collared. The ball, however, got loose, and a home forward dribbled to Welshman, who saved nicely. Gloucester heeling Gent passed to Stephens, who with a clever kick gained touch at the centre. Cinderford came away with a dashing burst, which took a lot of stopping, but it was effectually dealt with in time. The Foresters still kept up the pressure, but Gloucester cleared with a useful kick.

Johns received from a line-out and broke away grandly. He ran up to Bowkett when he passed to Holford, who scored near the posts. Welshman kicked, but the ball struck the upright.

Following the drop-out Cinderford worked to the centre, where Hudson stopped them with a clever kick to Bowkett. The latter knocked on badly, and he was at once tackled by Johns, but the referee ordered a penalty. This gave Cinderford a good slice of ground. Niblett and Hall tried hard to break away, but were checked by Welshman. Gent gathering in the loose, sent out a wide pass to Berry, who broke away with a strong run and passed to F. Smith, who crossed easily. Welshman failed at goal, though the attempt was a grand one.

Some good play ensued from the re-start at mid-field. Gloucester were caught napping by Jones, who, kicking, made a strong burst before being upset by Hudson. The effort led to Cinderford gaining a good position at the Gloucester end. From a subsequent scrum the home forwards heeled, and following clever passing by the backs Homer crossed with a fine try. The place-kick failed.

This score encouraged the Foresters, who played up desperately. Gloucester, however, were doing equally well, and the game continued to be hotly contested. Gent with a big effort put Gloucester up, but they were soon sent back. A brilliant cut through by Bradley, who stopped the City backs, looked all over for another score for Cinderford, but Rhodes missed his pass.

In the next few minutes Gent, Stephens, Hall, and Berry took part in a series of exchanges, which left F. Smith with a certain try, but the whistle went for a forward transfer. Hall (Cinderford), with a strong run, put his side on the attack, and the home team were very dangerous. W. Hall brought slight relief, but Cinderford were soon at it again, Niblett and Hall only being stopped in the nick of time. Cinderford made great efforts to cross, but were unsuccessful, and Welshman eventually brought welcome relief with a kick to touch.

Gloucester, by a good effort, reached the centre, and Gent further improved the position with a couple of good kicks. When the interval arrived play was in the Cinderford half.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 2 tries
Cinderford 1 try

Vears restarted and the opening exchanges were fought out at the centre. Gloucester heeled out and Stephens punted down, Jones running the ball to touch. Stephens again opened out, but a sharp pass to Hudson was missed, and Cinderford cleared well.

The Foresters played up strongly, a forward rush giving trouble. The City worked out, and then came a clever bit of work by Stephens. Fielding in the loose the Gloucester half-back ran across and passed to Berry, who transferred to Smith. The latter raced away finely, and beating Bowkett finished up a grand run by scoring. Welshman again failed.

Cinderford dropped out, and by hard forward play reached the Gloucester end. Here Hall had a shot for goal from a mark but failed, a minor only resulting. After Gloucester had warded off an attack the City replied with a brilliant round of passing, but Hudson was checked by Bowkett.

Ensuing play was of a furious character, and there was some desperate tackling on both sides. Gloucester gradually assumed the upper hand, but one or two smart bits of play by Gent and Stephens were not taken advantage of.

A loose rush headed by Johns looked promising for Gloucester, but Niblett saved in daring fashion. Wild passing by Gloucester lost a lot of ground, and the home backs kicking through, Welshman had to kick dead to save.

On the restart Hudson intercepting had a grand opening but hesitated in front of Bowkett and passed forward to Hall, a certain try being thrown away. After this Frank Smith made another fine run, but just failed to get through.

Subsequent play was contested in the Cinderford half but was very scrambling, the players appearing to suffer as a result of their great exertions.

The combined efforts by Cinderford were succeeded by a strong burst by Hall, who nearly got over. The Foresters heeling, the ball got out quickly to Niblett who dropped a clever goal with his left foot.

With only two points separating the teams the fight waged more furiously than ever.

Just before time a long kick down by Cinderford took them right to the Gloucester line. There was an anxious time for the City, but the visitors relieved and the end came.

RESULT :

Gloucester 3 tries (9 points)
Cinderford 1 goal (d), 1 try (7 points)

REMARKS

A desperate struggle, and right to the finish the issue was in doubt. Gloucester just about deserved their victory, but there was very little in it. It was a grim contest forward in which both sets did splendidly.

At half-back, there was some fine work by the respective players. Gent had a powerful rival in Hall, whose strong bursts gave Gloucester many anxious moments.

Stephens and Niblett both did excellently at outside half, and did all in their power to make openings for those behind.

Gloucester held an advantage in the three-quarter line, and Frank Smith proved his worth. His second try was a real beauty.

Welshman at full-back was better than Bowkett on the day's play.

GLOUCESTER A v. CINDERFORD A

SECONDS' GOOD WIN

At Kingsholm, before a small attendance. Both teams were well represented, and being old and keen rivals a good game was anticipated.

The teams were : –

Gloucester A. – F. Perry; J. M. Baldwin, C. Lister, A. Hamblin, and A. Pegler; H. Smith and W. Dix; A. Hawker (capt.), F. Pegler, S. Hayward, H. Bird, J. Lane, W. Blackford, C. Westbury, and E. Yates.

Cinderford [A]. – H. Hyett; L. Thomas, S. Young, G. Cooper, and G. Walkley; F. Trafford (captain) and I. Woolford; G. Leighton, F. Butt, J. Cook, A. Bevan, R. Dobbs, H. Hall, G. Worsfold, and O. Colwell.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis (Stroud).

Early on Dix opened out the game, and some pretty exchanges left Lister in possession, but he elected to try to cut through and deprived his wing man of a good chance. An exchange of kicks following a free to Cinderford left the game at the centre, but from here Gloucester worked up to the visitors' 25 line. Trafford, however, sent the game again into neutral territory.

Gloucester rushed up again, and Baldwin tried to get clear, but he was tackled by about half a dozen, and the game was centred again. A free to Cinderford gained them very little ground. Baldwin fielded an opponent's kick when going well, but he was bored to touch.

Hawker gained a nice slice of ground with good touch work, and Gloucester pressed. Trafford, however, kicked out, and Perry mulling Cinderford had a good opening. Hamblin, however, ran across and saved cleverly.

Cinderford, however, quickly got back again, and were in a favourable position for attack, but Woodford clung to the ball too long. Cinderford were awarded a free, but the ball went wide.

From the succeeding scrum Bird passed out to Baldwin, who relieved with a touch-finder. Hawker claimed a mark on the Cinderford 25 line, but Hayward's kick was charged down.

Gloucester, however, returned to the attack, and the ball coming out to Baldwin the latter just managed to ground it in the corner, though tackled almost simultaneously. The Cinderford men appeared to doubt the point, but the touch judge, to whom the referee appealed, declared for the try, which was not converted.

Hayward had another free charged down, but Gloucester kept up the pressure. Cinderford relieved with a free, and up and down play followed. After a spell of attack by Cinderford, in which they had two ineffectual shots for goal from penalties, Lister broke away and kicked over Hyett's head. The latter failed to get back, and Bird racing up dribbled over, and was credited with a good try, which Hayward majorised.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 goal, 1 try
Cinderford Nil

The second half opened in uninteresting style, consisting of a series of scrambles. Gloucester had one glorious chance, but with three men practically unmarked they mulled it. Some consolation was quickly forthcoming in the shape of a good penalty goal kicked by Hayward.

Cinderford attacked hotly after this, but the Gloucester forwards rushed well and cleared out of danger. Another combined rush by the City front rank gained further ground, but the centre was the venue for a long time. Perry, who had been playing poorly throughout, was collared in possession, and gave Cinderford a footing on the Gloucester 25, but the Seconds worked out again.

Cinderford had a spell of attacking, but their efforts lacked cohesion, and several good chances went a-begging. Gloucester cleared and a round of passing looked promising, but the final transfer went astray.

Gloucester then attacked hotly, and after two or three attempts the ball at last came out right and Hamblin scrambled over under the posts. Hayward converted.

Hawker and Hubert Smith broke away prettily and ran the whole length of the field, Hawker going behind the posts. The referee, however, ruled the last pass forward, and fetched him back.

An abortive attempt to drop a goal lost the Gloucester three-quarters a good chance. After a brief break away Gloucester forced a minor, and a few seconds later Baldwin was nearly over. A free-kick fell to Gloucester, and Hayward landed a capital goal. The game to the end favoured Gloucester, but there was no more scoring.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 4 goals (2p) 1 try (19 pts)
Cinderford A Nil

REMARKS

That the Seconds deserved their win there can be no shadow of doubt, but the visitors must be given credit for sticking to the game, although beaten, with great tenacity, and only their sterling defensive qualities prevented a larger score. There was no particular individual brilliance on the home side to call attention to, but Perry was decidedly "off."

JC