

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1909

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. CARDIFF

WELSH CHAMPIONS AT KINGSHOLM

CITY'S SECOND HOME DEFEAT

The visit of the famous Welsh Metropolitans to Kingsholm was a popular attraction, and with the weather favourable there was a large attendance of spectators.

Gloucester generally put up a big fight against the premier Welsh teams at home, but the City are not so strong this season, especially at three-quarter, and with Cardiff's powerful back division little hope was entertained of a victory for the Kingsholmers.

Elliott's injury against Bristol kept him out of the field, and H. Barnes, from the Seconds, made his first appearance for the seniors at centre three-quarter, Hubert Smith going on the wing. Otherwise Gloucester played full strength.

There were several changes in the Cardiff ranks. Winfield, Dyke, and Westacott stood down for various reasons, and were replaced by F. Wood, R. T. Gabe, and J. Daley. Gwyn Nicholls was expected to turn out, but though present at the match he retired in favour of Gabe, who had only played in a few games since he was injured against Gloucester at Cardiff early in the season.

The ground was in grand condition, and the attendance was easily the best of the season for a club match.

The teams lined out at 3.45 as follow : –

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

Cardiff. – F. Wood, back; J. L. Williams,* W. Spiller, R. T. Gabe,* R. A. Gibbs,* three-quarter backs; P. F. Bush (capt.),* W. Morgan, half-backs; J. Brown,* J. Powell,* F. Smith, G. Yewlett, J. Daley, F. Gaccon, J. Pugsley, J. Casey, forwards.

* Internationals

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

THE GAME

Cardiff won the toss, and Vears kicked off for Gloucester, the return going to touch a few yards inside the visitors' half. Cardiff tried to open out from the line-out, but the passing broke down. Williams, however, saved and punted down the field, Vears receiving and kicking almost straight to touch.

Gloucester made headway from the throw-out, a kick being charged down and the ball going to Gabe, who punted out of play. Wood was knocked out just before, but was soon able to resume. Gabe marked from a punt by Stephens, and later, from a penalty, Bush found touch well inside the Gloucester 25 with a lovely kick. The City came away smartly from a dangerous position, but they were checked at the centre by Brown.

From a scrum Bush received from Morgan, and with a delightful dodgy run beat the Gloucester men cheaply. Cook was cleared amongst others, but the Cardiff captain being pressed he passed, but the ball went astray. A minute later Bush was prominent with another clever effort, which took the game to the Gloucester end. Here the visitors broke up a scrum, and the ball being taken over the line Brown rushed up and scored a somewhat simple try. Bush failed at goal.

Gloucester resumed, and a neat kick by Gent, from a pass by Parham, found touch in the Cardiff half. The same player further improved his side's position, and Gloucester got down to the 25 line. For an infringement Cardiff were penalised, and Cook took a shot for goal, but a good attempt failed. Bush received the ball on the line, but ran out and punted to touch smartly. Cook and Bush later had an exchange of kicks, ending favourably to the Cardiff captain.

Still, Gloucester had a territorial advantage, and Johns, with a superb breakaway, tested the Cardiff defence. Wood pluckily checked, but the City forwards returned to the attack in fine style. Gloucester now got the ball out, but the passing only went straight across the ground, F. Smith being tackled. Immediately after Gent, beating Morgan, dribbled down, only just failing to gather at the critical moment. Pressing strongly, Gloucester got over in the far corner, amidst excitement, but a previous infringement had occurred.

Smart work by Stephens got the ball out to the City three-quarters, but Hall, in trying to cut through, was collared and lost the ball. The City forwards with a splendid dash played up desperately, and Bush only kicked dead just in time. Gloucester tried their utmost to gain the equalising try, and a possible chance came mainly owing to Johns. The International got away finely and passed to Holford, who judged a nice pass, but it was knocked on.

Gloucester next from passing made headway, but F. Smith could not clear the opposition. The City were having all the game and forced a minor, but a couple of minutes later Gabe ran beautifully, beating several men, but his pass to Gibbs was intercepted.

From this point Cardiff went very close, and the City line narrowly escaped. Gent brought timely relief, and Holford gained further ground, but was pulled up for an infringement. Beautiful kicking by Bush gave Cardiff an advantage, but Cook put Gloucester well up with a nice touch-finder.

From the ensuing line-out the Cardiff forwards opened out, but Gabe passed forward to Williams when there was a good opening. Bush next essayed a drop at goal, but failed, and Cook kicked out in capital style. Cardiff, however, kept on the attack and a splendid bit of passing between Bush, Gabe, and Williams saw the Cardiff left wing sprint over the line with a fine try. Bush failed with the place kick.

Soon after the drop-out Gibbs, gathering from a scrum, raced away, and there was a series of exchanges, which seemed bound to end in a score, but the final transfer went astray. Cardiff were now attacking in real earnest, and Morgan, sneaking away from a scrum, was nearly through on his own. Near the line, however, he attempted to pass, but Williams failed to gather.

Play was wholly confined to the Gloucester 25, and the City defence had many anxious moments. Only a minor, however, accrued. After a couple of fruitless drop-outs Bush put Cardiff on the attack again with a beautifully judged punt to touch. Gloucester cleared effectively, and at half-time play was being contested at the centre.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Cardiff 2 tries
Gloucester Nil

Cardiff resumed, and from the return Williams found touch near the Gloucester 25. The City cleared through the agency of Gent, who was fouled by Morgan, and Cardiff were penalised. At the centre Cardiff opened out, but the tackling was sound. The ball getting loose Barnes secured and threw out a long pass, but it went to touch. Cardiff heeling, Morgan set Bush going, but the latter was well marked and failed to gain an opening.

A kick being charged down, Griffiths got back and saved, but he was hit over and knocked out. He was able to continue after a couple of minutes play being at mid-field. Wheeling a scrum, Brown came away and kicked to Cook, who picked up grandly, but went into the arms of an opponent.

The Gloucester forwards were getting possession smartly, but the three-quarters did not gain much ground. A smart bit of play by Stephens promised well, but some illegality occurred, and the City were checked by the referee. Brown again led the Cardiff forwards in a sharp burst, but Parham saved in daring fashion, and Gloucester warded off the threatened danger.

Then followed some scrambling play, in which both teams made mistakes. Profiting by faults on the Cardiff side, Hollands picked up and passed nicely to Hall, who cleared Bush down the touch-line but was bowled over by Williams.

Kicking by Bush took Cardiff to the home end, but the City quickly relieved. Then a mistake in passing back by a home player allowed Cardiff to dribble clear. Morgan fielded and a score appeared certain, but the half-back threw forward. A scrum ensued almost under the Gloucester posts, but the City forwards wheeled and gained splendid relief. Cardiff worked back with a passing bout, but Williams kicking over the line Hollands conceded a minor.

Soon after the drop-out Cardiff were penalised for palpable off-side play, and Cook with a kick gained some 30 yards. A long punt by Hall found touch a dozen yards from the Cardiff line, where several scrums were fought out.

Desultory play followed in the Cardiff half, the attempts on the part of both teams to open out being attended with little success. A Cardiffian in trying to break through was brought down heavily and he had to be assisted off the field. When play was resumed Spiller was full back and Yewlett played three-quarter.

Little of incident occurred, the game being very scrappy. Then Cardiff brought off a good round of passing, but Williams was hemmed in. The visitors repeated the bout a little later, and Williams got right to the line, when he lost the ball. Parham gathered and ran out pluckily and kicked.

Cardiff kept up the pressure, and Bush with a brilliant run was only knocked into touch-in-goal. On the restart Johns showed up with a strong effort and pass to F. Smith, but the latter was too near the touch-line to do anything even if he had accepted the transfer. Nothing further was done.

RESULT :

Cardiff 2 tries (6 points)
Gloucester Nil

REMARKS

There was no question about the superiority of the Cardiffians, but Gloucester fought pluckily and did extremely well to escape with a six points' defeat. Forward the City had very little the worse of the exchanges, but at three-quarter the home men, as anticipated, were clearly outshone in pace, skill and general ability.

In the first half Cardiff displayed excellent combination at times. Bush treated the spectators to several of his electrifying runs, but only two scores resulted, and one of the tries (by Brown) was a very simple affair.

For about 15 minutes Gloucester severely tested the Cardiff men, and had there been a semblance of the old-time attack, the Welshmen could not have escaped. Chances came in quick succession when the City were pressing, but the men behind were not smart enough to take advantage.

Bush was the outstanding player on the field, and his wonderfully judged kicking repeatedly changed the venue of operations. Morgan, at the scrum, was only fair, and more than once he was beaten by Gent.

The City three-quarters made no serious mistakes, and Barnes shaped creditably with the little he had to do. Hall did some smart things, but neither of the wing men were able to do much.

Cardiff fell off a lot in the second half, and a number of movements broke down through faulty handling. Gabe and Spiller were strong in the centre, but Gibbs did not get enough to do to show his ability on the wing. Williams, however, performed capitally, and scored his try well. Cook had rather the better of the Cardiff custodian in kicking, but there were times when he failed to find touch.

Forward, Cardiff were clever in the open, but in the scrums they did not gain much advantage. The two players standing out from the rest were Johns (Gloucester) and Brown (Cardiff). The City forward was repeatedly in evidence, and Brown was very good in the lines out and loose footwork. Other men who distinguished themselves were Holford, Berry, and Vears, of the home pack, and J. Casey, Powell, and Smith for the visitors.

The game deteriorated in the second half, and at times play was very scrappy. Wood, the Cardiffian custodian, damaged his ribs when he was injured.

This was Gloucester's second defeat at home this season, the other team to beat them being Newport.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A

VICTORY FOR CARDIFF SECONDS

The City Seconds, for this important match at Cardiff, were unfortunately unable to take down their best team. Barnes (centre, three-quarter) was required for the premiers, and both Hawker and Hayward were absent from the forward ranks.

Gloucester had all the best of the opening play, and by good forward work kept Cardiff penned in their half. Hamblin intercepted and ran half the length of the field before being tackled by Williams.

Gloucester then fell away, and passing movements by Cardiff resulted in their line being crossed four times through Reardon, Culverwell, Rhys, and Parker.

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

Immediately on the restart Hancock held up Reardon on the line, and for some time Gloucester were busy defending. Hamblin brought relief to the centre.

Smart passing by Cardiff enabled Reardon to score wide out.

Stevens intercepted, and had a clear run through, when he was unaccountably called back for a forward pass. The referee's decision was hooted by the crowd.

RESULT :
Cardiff II 1 goal 4 tries (17 points)
Gloucester II Nil