

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 12, 1909

TODAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD

FORRESTERS VICTORIOUS

CITY'S FIRST LEAGUE DEFEAT

The change in the weather on Monday was not appreciated by the multitude of holiday seekers, but to football players the altered conditions were very welcome.

The return League fixture with Cinderford had been anticipated with a good deal of interest, and the Foresters had a good following of supporters at Kingsholm when the teams took the field.

Gloucester were short of C. Cook (who was taken ill on Sunday) and Griffiths (injured), whilst Cinderford were without Gwilliam and G. L. Jones.

There was a record crowd for the season when at 3.30 the teams lined out as below :—

Gloucester. — H. Barnes; F. Smith, W. Hall, T. Elliott, and Hubert Smith; D. R. Gent and J. Stephens; G. Vears, W. Johns, H. Berry, G. Holford, J. Wyburn, W. Nelmes, D. Hollands, and S. Hayward.

Cinderford. — C. Harrington; T. Burns, W. Rhodes, M. Meek, and L. Bradley; F. Niblett and A. Hall; J. Hyndman (captain), A. Teague, G. Cook, A. Redding, J. Watkins, G. Bowkett, R. Adams, and J. Wright.

Referee : Mr. A. John (Cardiff).

## THE GAME

Gloucester won the toss, and Hyndman kicked off for Cinderford against a strong wind. After one false start, the game was set in progress, the ball going to touch in the home half. The City forwards broke away grandly from the line-out and gained some 20 yards before being checked.

Heeling by the home front saw Gent open out. Hall missed, but he managed to get in a flying kick which was gathered by Elliott. The latter was at once tackled, and losing the ball, a visitor picked up and passed to Niblett, who was finely tackled by Barnes, who was deputising for Cook at full-back.

Cinderford with a desperate forward burst went very close, but for off-side the Foresters were penalised. Hall took the kick, and found touch at midfield with a grand punt.

Exciting play followed, but neither side could get an opening, the tackling being very fierce. Gloucester twice got the ball away, but the passing went astray. Some deadly tackling was witnessed at the centre, nothing being given away on either side.

In subsequent scrums Cinderford heeled smartly, and a good touch-finder by Niblett took play to the home 25. Cinderford working desperately, Hall made one or two strong dashes, but the passing went wrong. Still the Foresters attacked, and one great effort only just failed to materialise in the corner.

Gloucester, with a forward burst, broke clean away from their line, and the ball being kicked into the open, Hubert Smith fielded on the run, but was caught by Rhodes and brought down. Berry subsequently got possession, but he passed forward to Hollands when there was a possible opening.

A stoppage here occurred whilst attention was given to Meek, who had been knocked out in stopping the rush.

Resuming, Gloucester heeled, and F. Smith, receiving from Hall, sprinted for the line, but was well tackled and thrown to touch by Harrington. Gloucester had now secured a good position, and immediately some pretty inter-passing between Hall, F. Smith, and Hubert Smith, saw the latter dash for the corner. There were loud shouts for a try, but on the referee appealing to the linesman, a touch-in-goal only was given.

Cinderford dropped out, and a fierce tussle ensued between the forwards. Gloucester at length heeled, but the Foresters tackled deadly, and Hall (Gloucester) was injured, having to be carried off the field. This necessitated Holford being brought out of the scrum to full-back and Barnes going centre – a serious handicap for the City.

Resuming, Gent, with a lucky kick, found touch at the Cinderford 25, but the visitors quickly changed the venue. The wind was proving very troublesome, and made accurate handling difficult.

Hall and Niblett at length put in a clever bit of work, and later Hall made a strong dash on his own, but failed to get through. Still, the efforts led to a hot attack by Cinderford, who were eventually beaten off by a good kick by Stephens.

Niblett sent the Foresters back with a clever touch-finder, and Gloucester were again pressed. Frank Smith eventually cleared with a kick which Harrington misfielded. He recovered and punted straight to Elliott, who only had Bradley to face, but the soldier was thrown to touch.

Willie Hall now returned to the field amidst applause, and the Gloucesterian was at once conspicuous with a good kick which found touch at the Cinderford 25. Niblett cleared from this position, but the Gloucester backs getting away, Elliott put in a strong dash, but succumbed to Hyndman and Meek. Immediately after Cinderford were penalised for off-side, but Hayward failed with his shot at goal, a minor resulting. Berry forced another minor with his return to the drop-out, and soon afterwards the interval arrived.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester ..... Nil  
Cinderford ..... Nil

There was some delay in restarting owing to the crowd getting on the field of play at the Dean's Walk goal. When everything was ready the referee could not find his whistle, and he had to borrow one from a spectator.

Vears eventually resumed for Gloucester, who had now to face the strong breeze. There was no reply, and then from the first scrum Cinderford were penalised. Gloucester were almost immediately similarly dealt with, and with the resultant kick the Foresters found touch at the centre.

Smart work down touch by Hall, Niblett and Bradley made headway for Cinderford, and the Gloucester 25 was reached. The City cleared slightly, but a mistake in fielding by Hall gave four Cinderford forwards a splendid opening, but Gent saved by turning the ball to touch.

The Foresters pressed severely, but Stephens and F. Smith, and then Johns and F. Smith, combined in bringing relief. Gloucester several times heeled, but the backs could not do anything, the passing breaking down badly.

Cinderford worked back by the aid of some neat transfers, and the City 25 was the scene of operations. Gloucester defended well, but at length Gent was at fault, and Hall taking advantage burst through to the line and passed to Bowkett, who got the ball down over the line amidst enthusiastic cheering from the Forest supporters. Burns failed at goal.

Great excitement prevailed on the restart. The Gloucester forwards got away, Wyburn, Berry, and Holford being prominent, but Cinderford cleared in daring style. A punt by Gent took Gloucester to their opponents' half for the first time, but Niblett, and later Meek, quickly transferred play to the other end.

Burns, marking from a kick by Stephens, had a long shot for goal, but the ball fell short and Barnes kicked out. Ensuing play favoured Cinderford, who kept the City in their 25. The Foresters put in several dashing efforts, but they were kept at bay. Once Bradley sailed away down the wing, but Barnes effected a beautiful tackle, though he injured himself in the effort and had to go to the touchline. Holford again came out to full back when the game was continued.

With a strong loose rush Gloucester reached mid-field, but Hall replied with a fine break-away and pass to Teague. A score looked certain, but another pass was attempted and the try was lost. Barnes now re-appeared, and Gloucester made one splendid dash, but Rhodes stopped them smartly. Cinderford returned to the attack strongly, and Gloucester were continually defending. Carrying a scrum, the ball was taken over the City line and Wright credited with a try, which Burns failed to goal. Soon afterwards no-side was called.

#### RESULT :

Cinderford ..... 2 tries (6 points)  
Gloucester ..... Nil

#### REMARKS

Cinderford achieved their great ambition by beating Gloucester at Kingsholm, and to the credit of the Foresters it must be said they thoroughly deserved their success. All round they were the superior combination, and in the second half especially Gloucester were clearly outplayed.

It was a desperately fought game, the tackling at times being "tigerish," but to a large extent back play was spoiled by the erratic wind. As a line the Cinderford three-quarters were better than the City quartette, and although Gent played an heroic game at half, Hall and Niblett were the more effective pair. The Gloucester forwards did good work, and had a fair share of the ball in the scrums, but they were beaten in loose play and in the lines-out. At the close there was a great demonstration by Cinderford's supporters. This was the City's first defeat in the league.

## GLOUCESTER A v. CINDERFORD A

### VICTORY FOR CITY SECONDS

At Cinderford on Monday morning. A keen struggle, both sides putting in all they knew, and Gloucester proved the victors. In the first half Meek dropped a grand goal for Cinderford, and in the second half Hall scored a try for Gloucester, which was converted, and afterwards Hawker scored, which was also majorised. Then W. Dix scored an unconverted try.

Result : Gloucester A, 2 goals, 1 try (13 points); Cinderford A. 1 goal (d) (4 points).

JC