

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1909

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD

ROUSING GAME AT KINGSHOLM

FORESTERS BEATEN BY A TRY

Gloucester and Cinderford meet four times this season, three friendlies and once in the county cup. The first of these contests was decided at Kingsholm on Mop Monday, when a large crowd, including a goodly number of Foresters, attended in anticipation of seeing an exciting game.

The City, unfortunately, were unable to play full strength, both Hudson and Gent being unable to play, whilst Pearce was absent from the front rank. These vacancies were filled by Barnes, Dix, and Pegler, of the A team. Gwilliam and Adams were away from Cinderford.

The weather was dull, and rain threatened just before the time of starting. The teams were as follow : –

Gloucester. – W. Egerton; F. Smith, W. Hall, H. Barnes, and J. M. Baldwin; W. Dix and J. Stephens; G. Vears, W. Johns, H. Berry, F. Pegler, D. Jones, J. Wyburn, G. Holford, and Lieut. Carleton.

Cinderford. – C. Harrington; S. Young, W. Rhodes, M. Meek, and L. Bradley; A. Hall (capt.) and F. Niblett; A. Teague, A. Redding, J. Hyndman, G. L. Jones, J. Wright, G. Bowkett, J. Cook, and J. Watkins.

Referee : Mr. A. John (Cardiff).

THE GAME

Vears kicked off, and there being no return, the first scrum was formed in the Cinderford half. The visitors heeled smartly, and Hall and Niblett twice made headway with neat work. Johns led the city forwards back, but Meek stopped them in good style. The Cinderford forwards continued to do all the heeling, and Hall, with a strong burst, looked like making an opening, but his pass went astray.

A penalty against Dix was taken by Harrington, who found touch near the home 25. With a good loose rush Gloucester gained more favourable quarters, but Hall, getting possession from a scrum, cut out a fine opening. A timely pass to Teague looked all over for a score, but Niblett failed to take a difficult transfer, and a grand opening was lost.

Gloucester cleared by the aid of a forward rush, Vears leading. A flying kick went to Harrington, who ran across and punted, F. Smith gathering and running to touch. Neat play by Dix enabled Gloucester to gain a few yards, and then Cinderford were penalised for an infringement. Egerton had a long shot for goal, but a good effort failed.

On the drop-out, Dix, sneaking round the blind side of the scrum, cross-kicked, but the ball went to Meek, who sent to touch. Ensuing play was fought out in the Cinderford half, and Egerton, with a long punt, kicked almost to the line. Harrington received and running round punted to touch on the 25 flag. Cinderford relieved with a combined forward rush, and a penalty kick enabled them to further improve their position.

The City changed the venue, thanks to Hall charging down a kick by Young, but the Foresters came back again to the centre. Here Gloucester heeled, and Stephens tried a long pass out to the wing, but Baldwin could not field. Several men overran the ball, but Rhodes finally kicked through to Egerton, who found touch nicely. Neat passing by the Cinderford backs promised well. Rhodes, being hampered, punted high to Egerton, who misjudged the ball at first, but recovered and kicked to touch.

In the next minute Young, from a sharp pass, tried hard to get through, but being tackled, he let the ball go, Gloucester saving on the line. Cinderford were very close, and Hall made two desperate efforts to cross, but was held up each time. Gloucester were having a very anxious time, and their defence was tested to the full. Relief eventually came through the aid of a penalty. The City again gained further ground by another penalty – though the referee was in error in awarding the kick against Cinderford.

Subsequent play was hotly contested at midfield but at length combined play between Hall and Niblett gave the Foresters an opening. The latter's pass, however, was missed, and Hall gathering, he punted down the field. Hyndman misfielded and Johns being up dribbled on to Harrington, who effected a grand clearance.

Gloucester now brought off a neat round of passing, but Smith was finely thrown to touch by Young. The ball came quickly across to the other wing, where some loose play ensued, ending in nothing accruing to either side. Wheeling a scrum, the Cinderford forwards got away in a bunch, but they kicked a little too hard, and Egerton sent them back with a splendid touch-finder at the centre. The interval was now called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester Nil
Cinderford Nil

Jones re-started, and Watkins gathering, he punted to touch near the home 25. Dix, with a useful kick, sent to the centre, but the Foresters soon changed the scene of operations. On the City quarter line Stephens opened out, and Dix punting down, Smith raced hard to get up, but he was robbed of the ball by Harrington, who got into touch.

Ensuing play was contested in the Gloucester half, but not much brilliance was shown. Cinderford twice tried passing, but nothing was done. Once F. Smith intercepted and slipped a couple of opponents cleverly. He finally punted and ran to re-gather, but Harrington fielded all right and kicked out of play.

At the centre the City backs put in a fine round of passing. Baldwin, the last to receive, put in a grand run down touch, but was forced out of play by Harrington. The City forwards were now getting the better of the scrums, and more passing exchanges were indulged in. Meek, however, intercepted and spoiled one good chance.

Immediately after Dix, Stephens, Barnes, Hall, and Smith took part in a fine bout, but again Harrington proved a stumbling block.

Just now there was a delay owing to an injury to Meek, who had to receive the attention of the ambulance men. The Cinderfordian's knee was damaged and he was carried off the field to be attended to.

When the game resumed Wright came out to three-quarter. Gloucester immediately heeled, and Stephens opened out nicely. The ball, however, was mishandled, and though Holford recovered he sent a bad pass to Baldwin with every chance of a good opening. Gloucester still held the advantage, but Dix, dropping for goal instead of passing out, forced a minor.

Meek now returned, and immediately the Gloucester backs were on the move. Baldwin had another dash down the touchline, but Hall came across and effected a grand tackle. The effort, however, placed Gloucester in a good position, and from a long line out Holford secured and passed out. Barnes coming along gathered, and went over the line with a try. Egerton's shot for goal just missed.

Resuming, Cinderford played up strongly. Hall feeding Niblett, the latter went down the field and repassed. Hall in turn passed to Teague, who hit the ball with his hand in trying to field it. The referee, however, missed the infringement, and another Cinderford man picking up he sent out to Bradley, who had a dash for the line, but was upset.

Cinderford pressed severely for a couple of minutes, but relief came to Gloucester through a fruitless drop at goal by Niblett.

After the drop-out Gloucester paid a visit to their opponents' half, but neat combination between the Cinderford backs took them back. The City relieved, Johns and Carleton showing up finely, and to the end the home team maintained the upper hand.

RESULT :

Gloucester1 try (3 points)
Cinderford Nil

REMARKS

A rousing game, but at times over-keenness resulted in some very scrappy play. Cinderford undoubtedly had the pull in the first half, and but for the grand defence of the home men, they would have been a try or two up at the interval. The Foresters were clearly superior forward during this period and Hall, at half-back, put in some sterling work. Niblett, however, was not up to form, especially in taking his passes, and this failure robbed the Cinderford three-quarters of their chances.

Changing over, Gloucester were a different side. The pack worked wonderfully well together, and they continually beat their opponents in getting possession. In out-of-touch play, too, the City men held the advantage. At half-back, Dix stood up pluckily to his big opponent, and in the second half he got the ball away smartly.

The Gloucester backs indulged in some very neat passing bouts, and on the respective wings, both Baldwin and Smith put in some praiseworthy efforts to score. Harington, however, tackled in splendid style.

There was not a great deal to choose between the teams, and taking the game throughout, a draw would best represent the merits of the two sides. However, Gloucester's victory was very pleasing, and the team deserve credit on their achievement.