

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1910

FOOTBALL

THE COUNTY CUP

SECOND ROUND

GLOUCESTER ENTER THE FINAL

LYDNEY AND BRISTOL DRAW

The senior county cup competition has excited no great interest this season, and even the semi-finals, down for decision to-day, occasioned no particular enthusiasm.

Since the cup competition was revived in 1904-5, Gloucester, Bristol, Cinderford, and Lydney in turn have landed the trophy and medals, so that the honours have gone round the county.

The results of the first round brought Gloucester and Cinderford together in the semi-final, whilst Lydney (holders) had Bristol for opponents.

With such keen rivals the matches were fully expected to produce some exciting football, with the final result fairly open.

The following are the previous winners of the cup : –

- 1904-5 – Gloucester beat Bristol.
- 1905-6 – Bristol beat Gloucester.
- 1906-7 – Cinderford beat Bristol.
- 1908-9 – Lydney beat Cinderford.

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD  
FORESTERS AT KINGSHOLM  
CITY WIN AFTER GREAT STRUGGLE

Unpleasant weather prevailed for the time at Kingsholm, and the attendance was in consequence considerably affected.

For the first time for many weeks Gloucester were able to field something like a representative team, Vance and Griffiths being the only absentees. Cinderford were short of Rhodes and Gwilliam, and A. James being ineligible this necessitated bringing in Bowkett at three-quarter, the latter's place forward being taken by J. Cook.

The ground was greasy on the surface after the recent rain, but was by no means in bad condition.

The teams took the field nearly ten minutes late as follows : –

Gloucester. – W. Egerton, back; A. Hudson (capt.), W. Hall, H. Barnes, W. Washbourne, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears, W. Johns, H. Berry, F. Pegler, G. Holford, D. Hollands, J. Wyburn, W. J. Pearce, forwards.

Cinderford. – C. Harrington, back; T. Burns, G. Bowkett, M. Meek, L. Bradley, three-quarter backs; A. Hall (capt.), F. Niblett, half-backs; A. Teague, G. L. Jones, J. Watkins, J. Hyndman, J. Wright, G. Leighton, A. Redding, J. Cook, forwards.

Referee : Mr. H. Smith (Bristol).

THE GAME

Gloucester kicked off from the Dean's Walk goal, Watkins returning to Hall, who found touch inside the Cinderford 25 with a lovely kick. From the line-out Wyburn passed out to Hall, who fed Washbourne, who, however, was well tackled by Meek from behind.

Cinderford cleared with a useful punt to the centre, where Gent was prominent in tackling the Cinderford captain before he could get away from the scrum. For feet up Cinderford were penalised, and Egerton, with a well-judged punt, sent to touch near the Cinderford quarter line.

Breaking up a scrum the Gloucester forwards got away, but they were cleverly robbed of the ball by Niblett, who kicked to the centre. Here Gloucester got the ball, but the passing was fumbled, and Burns nipping in secured and punted high. Teague was well up, but failed to gather, and Johns saved what looked like a dangerous situation.

Hall (Cinderford) hereabouts fed Niblett, and Barnes, in effecting a tackle, was temporarily laid out. Resuming, the visiting Hall at once broke away strongly, but he was upset before getting dangerous, and a Gloucester man receiving touch was found at mid-field.

Cinderford made headway with a sharp burst, but Gloucester quickly recovered the ground, Berry shining in a follow up and tackle. Off-side by Teague lost the Foresters a good slice of ground, Egerton getting in a splendid kick from the resultant penalty. Johns led a fine rush through for Gloucester, and the Cinderford 25 was the scene of operations.

Harrington marked from a flying kick by Stephens, and Hudson knocking on Cinderford were enabled to gain a position near the centre. Here Hall and Niblett tried hard to get away, but Hudson sent the latter to touch.

Niblett, a little later, however, got in a clever touch-kick to the home end, where Cinderford heeled. Burns, however, missed his pass, and Gent securing, the International ran and punted, tackling Harrington in good style.

Play was exceptionally fast and keen, but neither side could gain an opening. Gent once fed Stephens smartly, but Hall tackled the latter, who lost the ball.

A Cinderford forward kicked to Egerton, but the City custodian fielded smartly and got in a good kick. Gent was next in evidence with a very smart bit of work, but from his cross punt Meek marked. By the aid of the kick Cinderford reached the centre.

Even play followed, the tackling being exceptionally keen. At length Gent opened out, and Washbourne tried to break through, but was collared. The ball rolled loose, and a Gloucester man kicked down the field past Bradley, who failed to gather. W. Hall coming up picked up and tried hard to get over, but stumbled and fell to the ground.

A scrum followed ten yards from the Cinderford line, and Hall being penalised for off-side Egerton placed a goal.

Resuming, Cinderford showed up strongly, and the Gloucester line was in danger. From a scrum Hall served Niblett, who in turn fed Bowkett. The latter broke through cleverly, and with a determined burst beat the defence and scored a fine try. Harrington landed a goal, giving the Foresters a lead of two points.

Gloucester restarted, and the City, from a kick over the line by W. Hall, compelled Harrington to touch down. Cinderford dropped out, and hot play followed at mid-field.

A dangerous loose rush by the Foresters was checked, and then the City forwards got away in fine style with some close dribbling. Bowkett fell on the ball to save, and was knocked out, necessitating the attention of the ambulance men. The Cinderfordian appeared in a dazed condition when he stood up, and he had to be led to the touch-line.

Cinderford continued with fourteen men, Wright coming out to three-quarter. Gloucester showed up well from a line-out, but the ball went astray, and Cinderford kicked down to Egerton who kicked to Bradley near the touch-line, and the wing fielding nicely had a dash, but was floored by the centre, where they were nicely checked.

Then from a pass Barnes cross-kicked, but some Gloucester men got off-side and spoiled a good opportunity. Bowkett now returned, and Cinderford, aided by a fine kick by Niblett got well down. Hesitation by Egerton near his line nearly let the City down, for Cinderford made desperate efforts to score. Twice Gloucester narrowly escaped, but relief was eventually gained by Barnes.

Cinderford, however, stuck to their task well, their marking being especially close. A promising movement by the City forwards was spoiled by Berry getting off-side, Cinderford benefitting considerably by the kick. Well inside the Gloucester half Gent opened out and Stephens passing wide to Hall, the latter fed Hudson. The captain got off at a fine pace, and cut inside Wright and Harrington cleverly. Niblett, however, had got back and effected a grand tackle when a score seemed certain.

Immediately after Hall lost a possible opening through failing to take a transfer from Stephens, with Hudson well placed. Gloucester again muddled up some passing directly afterwards, and half-time arrived with no further addition to the score.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

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

Teague restarted, and an exchange of kicks saw Gent fail to gather at the first attempt, but he recovered, and some loose work followed. Out of this a Gloucester forward picked up and passed to Johns, who handed on to a confrere. Niblett, however, sneaked in and punted well down to Egerton, who was only able to get in a poor kick to touch.

Gloucester changed the venue with a long kick, and Gent and Stephens put the City beyond the half-way with useful punts. Then a kick over the line by Gent gave Gloucester a penalty. The drop-out was well returned by Barnes, who received again from Bowkett. This time the City centre cross-kicked, but the ball went to Wright, who raced down the field and punted. Egerton had to get back to field, and was only able to get the ball to touch in the nick of time.

Gloucester were pressed severely in the next few minutes, but the defence prevailed. Relief subsequently came, but Cinderford returned to the attack, and from a fine opening by Hall, Redding only just missed a try. Previous to this Meek only missed dropping a goal by a few feet.

Play continued in the City half, but there was a delay owing to a Cinderford man being knocked out. When the game was continued Hudson immediately received a kick on the knee in a scramble, causing a further stoppage. Neither player left the field, though Hudson limped badly.

Cinderford opened out on the resumption, but from a kick by Meek Egerton marked in front of his goal. After this a long punt by a Gloucester man was fumbled by Hall (Cinderford), and the Foresters were in danger. Cinderford temporarily relieved, but Gloucester got back with a splendid forward dash, the men handling smartly. The defence appeared beaten, but Cinderford saved in remarkable style, there being a general melee just outside the goal.

Cinderford worked out a few yards, but Jones, getting off-side, was penalised. Egerton had a shot for goal, but failed, and only a minor resulted. Berry made a feeble reply to the drop out, but the ball got through, and a Cinderford man fumbling their lines were in jeopardy again.

A dash by Stephens and a pass to Hudson looked certain for a try, but again the tackling was superb. Gloucester, however, kept up a hot attack, and only determined tackling saved the situation.

A clever bit of work between Gent and Hollands nearly spelt disaster to Cinderford, but the forward was floored a few yards outside. By tremendous efforts Cinderford worked out to near midfield, where Holford led a grand rush back. Harrington, however, saved in daring fashion. Then Gent broke away and passed to Johns, who handed to Berry, but the latter threw forward when tackled.

Gloucester were now playing in great style to secure the lead, but luck was against them. A punt by Stephens was well followed up, and there was a scramble for possession just outside the Cinderford line. A scrum five yards out was ordered, and from this the Foresters gained much-needed relief.

Gloucester, however, got back again, and Wyburn, from a throw out, made headway. Washbourne, receiving, the youngster made a dash for the corner, but succumbed to numbers. Cinderford had to defend stoutly in the next few minutes but Gloucester lost a good position through an attempt by Egerton to drop a goal. Barnes well returned the drop-out, and Gloucester kept up the advantage. For some infringement – not noticeable from the Press seats – Cinderford were penalised, and Egerton, with a lovely kick, landed his second penalty goal, which gave Gloucester the lead of a single point.

Cinderford re-started, and Hudson mulling, the Foresters gained a position in the home 25. Cinderford, however, lost ground through a wild pass, Holford taking advantage and dribbling right away to Harrington. Subsequently Johns and another took part in a splendid piece of work, but Cinderford saved on the 25 line. Both teams were now playing an extra man outside, Pegler figuring on the wing for the City.

Gloucester by fine work secured a footing in their opponents' half, where a passing move was initiated. Barnes cut through nicely, and yielding to Pegler, the second teamer, with a grand dash for the line beat the opposition and got the ball down safely over the mark amidst great enthusiasm. Egerton converted from the touch-line with a superb kick, at which success there were further demonstrations of delight.

The game was practically settled now, but the concluding minutes were fought out with no abatement in keenness. Gloucester, owing to a mistake by a visitor, had a fine chance, but Harrington effected a plucky save. Washbourne made a good effort down the wing and cross-kicked, and later W. Hall, with a gallant attempt, only just failed to pierce the defence. To the end Gloucester pressed, but there was no more scoring.

### RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 3 goals (2p) (11 points)

Cinderford ..... 1 goal (5 points)

### REMARKS

It was one of the hottest games seen at Kingsholm this season, and characteristic of cup football. Gloucester won, but for a long time the City's supporters were very anxious about the result.

Cinderford well deserved their two points' lead at the interval, for all round they played a stronger game. Their forwards were better in the scrums, and heeling well, Hall and Niblett had plenty of opportunities. Only one attacking movement, however, was brought to a successful issue, and for his try Bowkett deserves the highest praise.

For ten minutes in the second half the Foresters fully maintained their advantage, and had the visitors added to their score no one could have grumbled. At this point Gloucester recognised the danger they were in and thenceforward the City took the game in hand.

It was a fierce struggle between the packs, but Gloucester triumphed as the play proceeded – so much so that Cinderford found it necessary to bring Wright out from the pack to help the defence.

Again and again the Foresters were tested, but the marking was close and sure, and the tackling deadly in the extreme. Try as they would Gloucester could not get through, though there were numerous narrow shaves.

Then came the second penalty goal, followed by Pegler's try – a splendid effort – and the game was all over. As a reward for their repeated attacks in the last twenty minutes Gloucester just about deserved their success, but taking the play throughout there was precious little in it.



The game by no means produced good class football. It was desperately keen and exciting, but too close to allow of developing open movements. Forward, it was a battle of giants. In the first half Cinderford were on top, the men performing prodigies in the scrums and loose.

Individually, Wright, Hyndman, Teague, and Redding were always in the van, but the others supported well. Gloucester gave of their best in the second portion, and their play at times was positively thrilling. Johns, though suffering with a very bad cold, threw himself into the fray with his accustomed dash, and he was continually prominent. His best supports were Pearce, Holford, Berry, and Vears, though the other men did fine work, Holland especially rendering signal service with clever screw punts to touch.

At half-back, Hall and Niblett worked hard, the former especially taking a lot of looking after. Gent worked the scrums splendidly, and with Stephens did everything possible to open up the game.

At three-quarter neither side accomplished anything particular in combination. Hudson got in one good run, but he did not come anywhere near his old form. Hall and Barnes were both smart in the centre, and Washbourne was useful.

Bowkett was the better of the Cinderford threes, though all the men kicked and tackled well. The full-backs both made mistakes, but on the whole performed creditably.