

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1910

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. NEATH

Glorious weather favoured the return match with Neath, and this being the first visit of the Welshmen to Kingsholm the fixture caused a good deal of interest. Unfortunately both sides suffered from absentees, something like six prominent players being away from either team.

Neath, who had only suffered two defeats this season (Leicester and London Wasps) are leaders of the Welsh Club championship. They brought a good following of supporters, and the gate was a good one.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – E. Hall; W. J. Pearce, W. Hall, H. Barnes, and J. Hamblin; D. R. Gent and J. Stephens; G. Vears, W. Johns, H. Berry, G. Holford, D. Hollands, F. Pegler, W. Nelmes, and N. Hayes.

Neath. – Tit Davies; A. Williams, F. Rees, R. Richards, and T. John; J. Thomas and J. Brennan; T. C. Lloyd, H. Lee, F. David, T. Reason, W. Perry, T. Jenkins, D. H. Davies, and Howell Davies.

Referee : Mr. Rodway (Midlands).

## THE GAME

Gloucester lost the toss, and Vears kicked off against the sun, the return going to touch near the centre. The City were twice penalised early on, and there was some delay owing to the referee refusing to allow a loose head.

A good rush by the Gloucester forwards was well checked, but the City came again twice in quick succession, and Neath were hard pressed. The visitors cleared a few yards, but the game continued in the Welsh 25. Gent here opened out to Stephens, who passed rather slowly to W. Hall. The latter punted across, but T. Davies gathered before Pearce could get up and kicked to touch.

Heeling by Neath saw Gent nip in and tackle Rees, the latter losing the ball. A Gloucester man picked up and tried to get away, but was brought down and Neath saved. Good work by the Neath half-backs brought the game out to the centre where E. Hall made a mark and found touch cleverly some 20 yards down the field.

A penalty followed against Neath, and Hall gained further ground with a capital touch finder. A mistake by Stephens allowed the visitors to get out of danger, but E. Hall checked them with a smart effort. Some exchange kicking favoured Neath, but Gent, with a beautiful pick-up, sent to touch cleverly. The same player a minute later put in a cross kick to the right wing, and Pearce and an opponent went for possession. Between them they lost the ball, but Barnes gathering tried to scramble over, being held up on the line. Neath cleared with useful kicks, and play was carried to midfield.

The Gloucester backs were set in motion by Gent, but the passing was too slow and a fine chance went astray. Ensuing play was fairly fast, but was confined entirely to the Neath half. A miss by Barnes gave Neath an opening, and a visitor cross punting there was a possible chance for the left wing, but the ball bounced the wrong way, and went to touch.

From a line out a visitor secured and broke clean away to E. Hall when he passed. The next transfer, however, was muddled, and Johns getting back saved. In some loose play Stephens gathered and passed out, but again the ball was sent too high, and Barnes knocked on in jumping to gather.

Some lucky flying kicks by Gloucester took the City well down, but a bout of passing only went straight across the field. For an infringement at the scrum Neath were penalised, but Barnes' shot for goal was wide, and a visitor pluckily punted out. Stephens and Gent, with some pretty work, gave Gloucester an opening, but Hamblin could not take Gent's pass. A visitor came clean away from his own half, the tackling of the home men being very weak. A forward transfer, however, spoiled the good work done.

Some excellent kicking by E. Hall placed Gloucester beyond the half way, where operations were fought out with spirit. Still, so far there had not been anything in the way of class football by either team. Near the centre the Neath halves got the ball out, and there was a fine bout of passing right along the line. Williams, however, was bored to touch when looking dangerous. Neath again came under the ban of the referee for an infringement at the scrum, and E. Hall gained a nice slice of ground with the kick. The Welshmen, however, were soon on the go again, the backs displaying considerable smartness.

For not playing the ball when collared E. Hall was penalised in front of goal, but Rees made a poor attempt at goal. Barnes secured and punted out, and the same player was again prominent with a good kick a little later. Just now, however, Gloucester were being beaten badly in the scrums, and Gent got no chance. Stephens, intercepting, got away with the ball at his feet, the forwards joining in, and there was promise of a score. A Neath man, however, checked in daring fashion.

Gloucester at length got the ball out, but W. Hall had his kick charged down, and only a wonderful save by his brother stopped a score. The City at length got the ball again, and Pearce was given a chance. The Old Boy made a good dash, but was unable to clear Davies.

Immediately after pretty combination between Gent and Stephens only just failed in a try, the latter being hurled to touch a few yards from the line. Then Gent, in attempting a drop for goal, forced a minor. Following the drop out Neath transferred play to the home half, where operations were being contested when the interval arrived.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... Nil  
Neath ..... Nil

Neath restarted, and from the first scrum formed the visitors heeled. Rees, however, was grandly upset in trying to cut through, and the City gaining possession dribbled away.

The Neath backs were again at fault a minute later, and Gent gathering dashed away and put Holford over, but a forward transfer was ruled – hard lines.

A bad miss by Stephens allowed Neath to clear, but the City got back by the aid of a strong run to Pearce. Off-side lost the position, but Hamblin ran back cleverly and passed to Johns, who fed W. Hall. The latter yielded to Hollands, but Davies with a fine tackle sent his man to touch.

Gloucester attacked strongly for a brief period, but they were beaten back by well-judged kicks. From some loose play Neath started some clever combination, and a try appeared certain. At the critical moment, however, the City saved, Pegler being injured in the tackle.

Resuming after a brief stoppage Gloucester reached the 25, but Thomas breaking away from a scrum on the blind side nearly put Williams over. An anxious time followed for Gloucester, but Stephens and Gent between them brought the match much needed relief.

A movement by Pegler further improve the City's position, and play was taken to the Neath quarter. Here the visitors were penalised for not putting the ball in straight, but E. Hall was a long way out in his shot for goal.

Neath, taking advantage of slackness in the line out by the City men, changed the venue with a bout of passing, but twice in quick succession the visitors were penalised for infringements.

Gloucester, however, did not make much headway with the resultant kicks, and they were gradually forced to their 25.

The City worked out a few yards with a sharp burst, but Brennan sent play back with a nice touch kick. A passing bout by the Gloucester backs brought the game out, Pearce finally punting to well inside his opponents' half. Rees put Neath well down with a clever kick, but subsequent play was very scrambling and lacked in interest.

E. Hall was heartily cheered for some fine relief work under difficulties, but the Neath forwards rushed in splendid style and the City had an anxious time.

Then passing by the visitors broke down, and W. Hall dribbled through. The ball, however, rebounded against an opponent and went back to E. Hall who kicked to touch.

By the aid of several forward rushes Gloucester gained more favourable quarters, and some desperate play followed. Gent robbed Thomas cleverly at the scrum and started his forwards, but Neath checked smartly.

Both teams apparently had had enough, and play was very slack.

At length the Neath halves opened out cleverly, and Rees cut up the centre in grand style. E. Hall, however, waited for his man and effected a brilliant tackle.

Off-side by Gloucester gave Neath a good position in the home 25, but the City cleared by the aid of Hayes, who ran to midfield. Gloucester gained further ground, but soon afterwards the whistle went for "no side."

RESULT :

Gloucester .....	Nil
Neath .....	Nil

## REMARKS

The game was a great improvement on the previous day, but all the same it had a distinct holiday flavour and was lacking in brilliant incidents. On the general run of play perhaps a draw was the best result. The Gloucester forwards were again up against a formidable pack, who worked untiringly and were very keen. In the scrums and lines-out the Welshmen certainly had the better of the exchanges, though in getting possession there was no question the superiority was due to the way the ball was put in. Thomas was often penalised for illegalities, but this did not check him in the slightest.

Gent, as usual, played a fine game and did heaps of good things. He found his partner, however, off-colour for once, Stephens failing to handle with anything like his usual accuracy. Forward Gloucester were best served by Johns, Vears, Hollands and Holford, though the pack as a whole did not show the fine form displayed against Newport.

The City were again disorganised at three-quarter, and little in the way of progressive combined movements was carried out. For the most part the passing was much too slow, and the ball often delivered too high to give the men a chance. With the few chances he had, Pearce showed plenty of life and dash, but on the other wing Hamblin spoiled several good efforts by stumbling after getting well away. W. Hall and Barnes in the centre kicked with judgment, but did nothing in the way of making openings. Neath had the ball often enough to do something worthy [of] their reputation, but though the men possessed pace and trickiness the passing movements were not developed as they should have been.

At full back E. Hall figured in this position for the first time, and his play was easily the feature on the home side. Except for one slight error in fielding, Hall gave a splendid show, his kicking being beautifully judged, and he showed extreme cleverness at times in getting out of difficulties. His tackling, too, was sound, and he made no mistake in upsetting Rees – a dangerous man when on the move – when he got clear away. Davies also gave a creditable exhibition for Neath.

## GLOUCESTER A v. BREAM

At Bream, the home team being poorly represented. Early on Bream attacked, and Gloucester touched down twice. Griffin and Hawkins experienced hard lines in not scoring.

Later Hall scored, but the try was unconverted. Gloucester attacked on the restart, and L. Hamblin and Bloxsome scored unconverted tries.

In the second half Bream missed several chances of scoring.

### RESULT :

Gloucester A .....	2 tries (6 points)
Bream .....	1 try (3 points)