

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1910

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CARDIFF

MERITORIOUS SHOW BY THE CITIZENS

For their last out match, at Cardiff, Gloucester were able to get together a better side than has been the case of late, though the back division was still disorganised, and Wyburn and Griffiths were absent from the forwards.

Cardiff fielded minus Percy Bush and Morgan at half-back, but had the services of Clem Lewis (Bridgend), who was reserve for Wales against Ireland. Smith and Daley were away from the pack.

Gloucester. – W. Egerton, full-back; T. Burns, W. Hall, E. Hall, W. Washbourne, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), H. Berry,* G. Holford, D. Hollands, W. J. Pearce, F. Pegler, N. Hayes, W. Johns,* forwards.

Cardiff. – R. F. Williams, full-back; J. L. Williams (capt.),* W. Spiller,* T. Reardon, R. A. Gibbs,* three-quarter backs; C. Culverwell, C. Lewis, half-backs; J. Pugsley,* C. Jellings, J. Casey, J. Brookman, W. Jenkins, J. Groves, J. Powell, P. C. Pullman, forwards.

* Internationals

Referee : Mr. T. D. Schofield (Bridgend).

THE GAME

The weather was beautifully fine, but the attendance was below average. The ground was very hard. Vears kicked off for the City, and there was a series of exchange kicks which left the game at midfield.

Then Spiller, running across the ground, put in a left foot kick close to the line, where Stephens had got back to field. The Gloucester man was somewhat slow in gathering, and before he could clear he was collared by Reardon, and losing the ball, Pugsley picked up and scored a soft try. The place-kick failed.

Gloucester restarted, and following a good rush and kick by W. Hall, the Cardiff end was visited. The Welshmen changed the venue by the aid of a penalty, but capital kicking took Gloucester back inside their opponents' quarter. Lewis punted to the centre, and the Cardiff forwards following up prevented a return.

A neat run by Burns gave the City an advantage, and W. Hall with a promising effort looked dangerous, but was collared in trying to cut inside.

The Gloucester forwards were doing exceedingly well in the scrums, and Dix opened out nicely, but the three-quarters could not travel far, the passing breaking down.

Burns and Dix contributed neat efforts, but a loose rush by Cardiff brought them to midfield. Here a brilliant round of passing gave Williams a walk over, but Gibbs failed at goal.

Cardiff attacked again on the drop-out, but Dix started a dribble, which Berry and Hayes continued, and the home end was visited. Heeling by Gloucester saw the backs get off, Washbourne making a fine effort to score in the corner. Spiller brought relief to the Welshmen with a good touch kick, and another kick sent to Egerton, who in trying to run round to clear was collared.

The City were in a dangerous position, but Stephens relieved with a flying kick, and later a grand forward rush transferred the game to midfield. Weak play by Egerton nearly ended in disaster, the full-back being again collared over his line.

By a big effort Gloucester eased the pressure, but a strong dash by Gibbs nearly put Brookman over. The City had an anxious time in the next few minutes, but relief eventually came through W. Hall, and the centre was the scene of operations. Here Gloucester heeled, and Hall, with a well-judged kick, gained some twenty yards. Gloucester held their own to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Cardiff 2 tries
Gloucester Nil

Cardiff re-started, and the first item of interest was a breakaway from a line-out by Hayes, who passed to Hollands, the latter reaching the home 25 before being upset. The Gloucester backs made headway with a passing bout, but W. Hall knocked-on a rather high transfer from his brother.

Cardiff worked out with a forward rush, but Vears gathering in the loose brought off a brilliant burst before being checked by Williams. Working desperately, the City forwards carried the ensuing scrum, and, forcing themselves over the line, Pegler scored. Egerton failed to convert.

Resuming a spell of play followed at the centre until Gibbs dribbled down touch and cross-kicked. The ball was knocked-on subsequently, but it passed the referee, and the ball going over the line Jellings scored a lucky try under the posts, Gibbs adding the extra points.

Play on the re-start favoured Cardiff, but the visitors eventually gained ground with a good follow up. Williams was laid out in stopping a rush, and had to leave the field, Brookman going back. The Cardiff custodian, however, soon recovered and returned.

Ensuing play was very fast, but there was not much in it. From a passing bout Spiller executed a fine run through, but his pass was intercepted by Pearce, who ran down touch and put in a good kick to touch.

The City forwards improved the position with a capital burst, Vears and Johns being prominent. Then breaking away Gibbs and Spiller took play close to the Gloucester line, where W. Hall saved smartly.

In a subsequent scramble E. Hall was injured, and had to leave the field. Pearce came out to three-quarter when play was resumed, and the game went all in favour of Cardiff. Gloucester, however, offered a stubborn resistance, the tackling being very close.

The Welshmen's attack was persistent, and once Reardon looked like putting Williams in, but his pass went astray, and Gloucester taking advantage rushed to the 25. Then Dix, with a good touch kick, gained the centre. Cardiff, with the extra man in the scrum, were getting the ball frequently, but the play left something to be desired.

Gibbs, fielding a cross-kick, had one glorious chance, but he fell to a good tackle by Egerton. The ball getting loose Holford fielded, and with a splendid kick found touch well beyond half-way.

Gloucester lasted well, and towards the finish played up strongly. From a mistake by Spiller, W. Hall picked up, and racing up to Williams handed to Berry, who scored a smart try, which Egerton goaled with a fine kick.

Immediately afterwards the end came.

RESULT :

Cardiff 1 goal, 2 tries (11 points)

Gloucester 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester's close fight was a meritorious performance, and the score at the end was well deserved. It was behind the scrum, as expected, that Cardiff's superiority lay, though the Welshmen were by no means at their best. Two of Cardiff's tries were exceedingly lucky, and one ought never to have been allowed.

A feature of the game was the fine play of the Gloucester forwards, who continually showed grand form in the loose. At times, too, they heeled well, and had the three-quarters possessed the pace of their opponents, they would have given a lot of trouble.

Vears, Johns, Berry, and Holford were greatly in evidence for the City, the captain especially playing a splendid game. Dix worked well, and in the third line W. Hall was frequently prominent with well-judged kicks. Burns and Washbourne had few chances on the respective wings, but the former shaped very creditably. At full-back, Egerton at times kicked well, but he was slow occasionally in getting rid of the ball.

Cardiff were fairly good forward, and Lewis, the Bridgend half worked well with Culverwell. Gibbs and J. Williams were the pick of the Cardiff backs, but the combination was faulty, and mistakes in handling numerous.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A

VISITORS WIN A POOR GAME

These old rivals met at Kingsholm in brilliant weather. The match is always regarded as one of the best on the City Seconds' card, but there was only a small attendance.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – L. A. Hayward; F. Bloxsome, T. Pollard, J. Hamblin, and W. Jones; J. Rudge and W. Hamblin; W. Blackford, S. Millard, W. Henderson, F. Welshman, F. Quixley, H. Merchant, H. Price, and C. Mumford.

Cardiff. – F. Woods; Ivor Jones, E. Thomas, F. Holbrook, and E. Davies; W. Morrish and D. Davies; D. Duncan, A. Baker, M. Crowley, S. Sexton, W. Cornish, E. Smith, G. Lewis, and J. Chorley.

Gloucester, who had six St. Mark's men in the team, started with the sun in their eyes, and play opened at the half-way line.

The Cardiff forwards put in some useful work and gained a footing in the Gloucester 25, but the 'Cestrians retaliated, and a bright sprint by Bloxsome gained a nice slice of ground for the home team.

Cardiff opened out and D. Davies punted up the field, but Hayward put in a capital return. Centre play followed for some time till Millard put in a good touch-finder for Gloucester.

Rudge and Hamblin opened out nicely, and the ball travelled well along the line, but Holbrook intercepted. Gloucester, however, managed to keep a footing in the Cardiff end.

A free to Gloucester enabled Hamblin to put the ball into touch about five yards out. Cardiff, however, cleared easily, and a long exchange of kicks left matters much in status quo. Cardiff were penalised for not playing the ball, and W. Hamblin landed a beautiful goal from wide out.

Gloucester were quickly back in the Cardiff quarter again, but the visitors got out of danger by good forward footwork, and their left centre set Davies on the move nicely. He went off at a great pace, but Hayward pushed him into touch about five yards out.

Gloucester worked out, and the centre was again the venue. J. Hamblin cut through very prettily and found touch with a lovely long kick right down by the line.

Cardiff, however, again worked out of danger, and more exchange kicking followed with little advantage to either.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A 1 goal (p)
Cardiff A Nil

Immediately on the restart Cardiff opened out nicely, but the centre punted too hard and the ball rolled dead.

Gloucester at once got moving again, and carried the game right into the Cardiff 25. A free to the visitors, however, brought them welcome relief.

Hayward was called upon, but his kick was well-judged and lengthy, and he found touch at the centre. A minute or two after he repeated the dose, and kept play in the same region. Gloucester pressed for a time, but a free gave Cardiff relief.

A similar penalty to the City did not gain much, Woods returning Hamblin's kick well. Cardiff put in a fine round of passing, but Davies on the wing missed his transfer badly.

After a brief visit to the other end, Cardiff were at it again, but the passing was once more at fault. Gloucester, however, were penalised, and Woods landed a grand goal.

With the score equal, both sides made strenuous efforts to gain the upper hand, and the game was more forcible than scientific.

The Cardiff forwards were now getting the ball back more often, and Morris opened out; the passing, however, gained little ground.

A penalty fell to Cardiff, but Woods' kick fell short. The visitors were now pressing very hotly, and after a desperate melee near the goal, Morrish forced himself over, and Woods added the extra points.

Play fluctuated considerably in the last five minutes, but there was no more scoring.

RESULT :

Cardiff A 2 goals (1p) (8 points)
Gloucester A 1 goal (p) (3 points)

REMARKS

It was a poor game from a spectator's point of view, little combination or clever football being shown by either side.

In the minds of a good many present there was a doubt as to whether Cardiff's penalty was a goal at all, the sceptical arguing that the ball veered away from the objective before the goal was signalled. However, be that as it may, the Cardiffians were duly entitled to their victory on the day's form, as the home men, who were a practically scratch side, put up a poor show.

Hayward kicked very well indeed at back where Cardiff also were excellently served by Woods. W. Hamblin, too, tried very hard, but on the whole there was very little distinguishing individuality to mention.

JC