

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1911

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v CARDIFF

ANOTHER GLORIOUS VICTORY

CARDIFF OUTCLASSED AND BEATEN POINTLESS

WELL DONE, CITY !

Cardiff paid their annual visit to Kingsholm to-day, with a team that contained several new faces, but the fine win obtained over Swansea last week showed that the recruits are men of ability, and the Welsh Metropolitans are likely to fully maintain the brilliant form which has kept the club to the forefront of Rugby exponents for so many years.

The Cardiff fixture is always a popular one with the Gloucester crowd, though the City have more often than not been on the losing side.

Last season, however, Gloucester scored a sensational victory over the Welshmen, and followers of the Kingsholm team were not without hope that success would attend the efforts of the wearers of the cherry and white jersey again this afternoon.

With the exception that L. Hamblin took the place of Staunton at centre, Gloucester played the selected fifteen, the only absentee being H. Berry. Hudson, Cook, and Holford all made a welcome re-appearance, and the presence of such a trio of class players was bound to strengthen the side.

Cardiff had Powell and Brookman (forwards) away, but otherwise were at full strength.

The teams lined out as follows : –

Gloucester. – C. Cook, back; A. Hudson (capt.), J. Hamblin, L. Hamblin, W. Washbourne, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, W. Hall, half-backs; G. Vears, W. Johns, G. Holford, A. Lodge, G. Griffiths, F. Pegler, S. Smart, J. Meadows, forwards.

Cardiff. – R. F. Williams, back; C. Bryant, W. Spiller, L. M. Dyke, Ivor James, three-quarter backs; E. Hill, Clem Lewis, half-backs; A. H. Green, E. Mithan, J. Daley, J. Casey, J. S. Michael, A. Baker, W. Jenkins, C. Scanlon, forwards.

Referee : Mr. J. Miles.

THE GAME

The weather in the morning was most unpromising, heavy rain falling at mid-day, but later there was a pleasant change, and the sun shone brightly at the time of starting.

There was a splendid attendance, and the ground looked in capital trim. The teams were heartily cheered as they entered the field nearly ten minutes late.

Cardiff kicked off against the sun, and there being no response, the visitors made some headway before Holford checked. A neat punt by Hall put Gloucester down, but Williams gathered and returned nicely.

Opening out from some loose play, Spiller secured, and with a neat screw kick sent to Cook, who allowed the ball to roll to touch in the home 25. The City punted out, and Spiller marked. The Cardiffian took a drop, but Cook fielded well, and with a lovely kick found touch near the centre.

A free fell to Cardiff soon afterwards, and J. Hamblin in trying to run slipped and fell to the ground. The home forwards, however, got round and saved.

Gloucester heeling, Dix fed Hall, who broke through beautifully, but his pass was knocked on by Dyke. Working well together, the City forwards rushed in fine style and then Hall marked from a kick by Dyke. The same player returned the kick well to touch, but Gloucester maintained their position.

Neat passing between Dix, Hall, and Washbourne saw the latter rush down touch, but he was finely floored by Lewis. Gloucester got the ball out again, but Hudson could not get far. The ball getting loose, the Cardiff forwards dribbled away, but a foul of Dix caused them to be penalised.

Another penalty against Cardiff saw a high punt put in, but Griffiths went too high for Williams, who got in his kick to touch.

Gloucester were heeling well, and L. Hamblin brought off a pretty run, but just as he was about to pass to Hudson he was tackled from behind, a possible opening being lost. Loose play by the City allowed Spiller to dribble clear, but the International deliberately tripped Cook, and was deservedly penalised.

Gloucester made headway, but slow passing was taken advantage of by Cardiff, who got beyond the centre. Here Cardiff got the ball out, and a neat round of passing left the ball with James. The latter went off at a good pace down touch, but Cook and Hudson proved too much for him, and forced him to pass and nothing resulted.

Inside the home 25 Dix got the ball to Hall, who brought off a magnificent run, side-stepping James and Dyke very cleverly. When faced by Williams, the Gloucestrian punted. Spiller raced back and fielded, but he was upset by L. Hamblin. He, however, recovered, and passing to Williams the latter got in a fine kick to touch.

A dangerous rush, headed by Smart, was checked by a flying kick, and then followed a series of exchange kicks between Cook and Williams, ending favourably to the home custodian. A wild pass by J. Hamblin allowed Cardiff to get away, but Cook sent them back nicely.

A breakaway by the home forwards was followed up by Holford, who tackled James, but the latter just managed to pass to Williams, who sent to touch.

Gloucester attacked vigorously, and then came a fine effort. Hall, gathering in the loose, passed wide to J. Hamblin, who at once sent to Washbourne. Putting on full pace the left winger went away from Bryant, and Williams being nowhere near Washbourne crossed with a great try amidst terrific cheering, which was renewed when Cook landed a lovely goal.

Cardiff re-started, Hall replying to touch near mid-field. The City were getting possession often, but J. Hamblin slipped once with his colleagues well placed.

Immediately after the City backs were again in possession, and L. Hamblin punting, Hudson only just failed to recover from Williams. Gloucester still pressed, but though the ball was twice kicked over the line the visitors pluckily kicked out.

Centre play followed, Gloucester being twice penalised for off-side – Dix once in attempting his favourite interception. In some loose play Lewis picked up and brought off a clever run before being smothered by Griffiths and his career checked.

Johns was prominent in some close work at mid-field, and then both back divisions tried some combined movements, but the passing broke down.

Holford led a fine rush, but Williams effected a wonderful save after losing the ball. More good work by the City forwards promised well, but Cardiff got the ball out, Lewis spoiling a promising opening by holding on too long. Away Cardiff were again, Dyke breaking through nicely. A long kick put the ball right under the Gloucester posts, where Cook was beaten by the bounce, but the situation was saved.

From the scrum which followed Dix got away and passed to J. Hamblin, who punted to touch. From this point, Hamblin came right away, and reached Williams, but he passed too low to Dix with a clear field. Hamblin was tackled by Williams after he had got rid of the ball, and was winded, but he soon came round. The interval was then sounded.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 goal
Cardiff Nil

Vears re-started, the return going to touch near the centre flag. From some loose kicking the ball came across to Bryant, who punted to Cook, but the latter side-stepped an opponent and got in a lovely touch finder well up the field. Breaking away from a scrum, the City forwards got in a dangerous rush, which Spiller only checked in the nick of time. Cook was applauded for more well-judged kicking, and then the Gloucester backs indulged in a bout of passing. Hudson, however, could only punt over the line for a minor.

The drop-out was well returned by Cook, and again the City forwards got dangerous. Dyke checked, but he failed to play the ball and was penalised. Cook tried a place for goal, in a good position, but though no charge was allowed he went wide of the posts.

Cardiff punted out pluckily, but Gloucester returned to the attack, and after a series of exchanges Hudson was only legged a yard or so from the line. Hall next tried to cross, but he was pushed to touch. From the next scrum, however, Dix fed Hall, and timing a nice pass to Hudson the captain dashed through and planted the ball behind the posts amidst great cheering. Cook unaccountably missed the goal points.

Re-starting, Cardiff got in some clever work behind, and Spiller tried hard to get clear, but he was nicely tackled by J. Hamblin and Washbourne. Cardiff, however, again got the ball, and tried on the right, but it was nipped in the bud, and Hall getting possession kicked clear.

Gloucester soon changed the venue, and Dix, beating Lewis and Hill, dribbled to Williams, who got in a great clearance under severe pressure. Playing resolutely the Gloucester forwards shone splendidly in the loose, and Cardiff had a hot time. Relief was eventually afforded by conceding a minor.

On the drop out the home backs were away in good style, and Dix threw out wide to Hudson, who succumbed to Spiller when going strongly for the line. Cardiff punted out, and Hudson tried to mark, but failed. He went on, but slipping passed to Hall, but the transfer was ruled forward. Hall had kicked before the whistle went, but he was charged over and knocked out. After a couple of minutes rest, however, he was able to continue, though appearing dazed.

Immediately on resuming Hall was again heavily charged over after getting in a wonderful relief kick. From the next scrum Dix opened out, but nothing resulted, and play proceeded in the Cardiff half.

The Welshmen were awarded two frees for infringements in the scrums, and the kicks aided them to reach more favourable quarters.

Dix and Hall worked the blind side of the scrum with pretty interpassing, but Dix failed to take the pass which would have put him in a good position.

Then the Cardiff backs broke away with a splendid effort, Spiller going strongly, but he tried to do too much and was pulled over by Hudson, who had got across. The ball rolled loose, and it was sent to touch in goal.

Gloucester played up splendidly on the restart, Hall being particularly prominent. Once he ran back and fielded a high punt by Spiller, and dashing down touch cross-kicked. There was a splendid chance for Hudson, but the City captain was charged when about to field the ball – a lucky get out for Cardiff, for there was a clear opening.

Some fast play ensued after this, Dix and Hudson shining. A repass, however, went astray at the critical moment. Clever play by Hall put Gloucester close to the Cardiff line, but Lewis relieved with a capital effort, Dix going too high for his man and being thrown off his shoulder.

Gloucester continued to attack desperately, but the defence held out, though the City once or twice experienced hard lines. Cardiff worked out, but being penalised Cook had a shot for goal, the ball striking the cross-bar and bouncing outside the upright.

Cardiff were over-played at all points, and following a clever opening by Dix and Hall, Hudson beat Williams and scored wide out. The place kick failed.

The Welshmen on the drop out gained a footing in the home half by the aid of some touch kicking, but Smart led the forwards back splendidly. Soon after the end came, Gloucester being returned handsome and well deserved winners.

RESULT :

Gloucester ... 1 goal, 2 tries (11 points)
Cardiff Nil

REMARKS

Another glorious victory for Gloucester. Last April we saw the famous Welshmen on the same ground eclipsed by the City representatives, and to-day the dose was repeated in a manner that must have brought humiliation to the followers of the Cardiffians.

The defeat admits of no excuse; all round Gloucester were heaps the better team, and without any injustice to Cardiff the score might easily have been doubled. It was a fine game to watch, and productive of some really brilliant football, but nearly all the honours were carried off by Gloucester.

It is rarely a class Welsh club is so completely outclassed that one must be forgiven displaying a little more enthusiasm than usual on the City's performance.

Cardiff may not be up to the standard of former years, but practically the same side defeated Swansea last week, and the Welsh Metropolitans were hailed as a really strong lot. All the more credit, then, to Gloucester on overthrowing such powerful opponents by such a handsome margin.

Gloucester can generally be relied upon to rise to a great occasion. The stronger the team opposed to them the better the City men play, and we have evidence of this truth to-day.

In the previous matches this season the City forwards had not given of their best, but we knew the players were capable when put to the test. And how grandly they came up to the mark this afternoon !

In a word, the Cardiff pack were not in it, and I have never seen a Welsh club front so badly beaten. Gloucester were on their mettle at the very onset, and they maintained their brilliant form to the final whistle.

In the scrums, where the City men have not been doing well, Cardiff were repeatedly out-manœuvred, and the same distinct superiority was displayed in the loose and lines out. In the open the men were fast on the ball – Holford and Smart were very fine in this respect – and except for an occasional high tackle there was practically no fault to find. The whole eight worked unitedly and well, and for this game there is no need to further individualise. Well done, forwards !

Outside the scrum Gloucester's advantage was pronounced. Cardiff had some brilliant individualists, but there was not that ability to drive home attacks so often noticed in former teams. Dix, well served by those in front, worked with cleverness and effect, and he was too smart for Hill. He got the ball away nicely, and was ever on the alert to discover a weak point in the Cardiff defence.

Hall, if anything, eclipsed himself, and stood out as the finest back on the field. He was always on the move, and whether in attack or defence his play was marked by headwork of the highest standard. I heard Mr. V. H. Cartwright, a member of the English Selection Committee, was present at the match, and he having now obtained first-hand knowledge of Hall's ability, there should be little doubt of the Gloucester man's claims for inclusion in the International trials being recognised.

And the English Committee might go further and put in Dix as well. I question if any other scrum half in England would do better against Wales.

The Gloucester three-quarters had every reason to be proud of their success to-day. The four players had not the pace of their rivals, but there was no mistaking their keenness, and the tackling was good.

In the centre the two Hamblins stuck to Spiller and Dyke very well, and were able to do some effective work. Having seen the younger Hamblin on the wing and at centre, I am inclined to the opinion that he is best suited to the latter position. He was at fault once or twice in being out of position to receive his passes, but he has grit, can kick well, and knows how to tackle. There is not much to choose between him and Staunton.

All the scoring fell to the wing men, and three smart tries they were. Hudson snapped up the pass from Hall that led to his first try very smartly, and he was nearly through on several other occasions. Washbourne was more than a match for Bryant, and all round he was nippy and clean in his work.

Cardiff put in flashes of smart play, Lewis and Spiller shining most, but both were inclined to be selfish. The wing men are a long way behind Gibbs and J. L. Williams, but they are youngsters, and will probably come on. The Cardiff forwards, as already stated, were well beaten, though they were triers, and did their best.

At full-back, Cook and Williams were brilliant. The City custodian made one mistake under his goal, but otherwise he was as near perfection as possible. Williams had far more close work to do than the Gloucester man, but he was the one outstanding figure on the Cardiff side, and could not be blamed for either of the tries scored.

Trygetters for Gloucester : Hudson (2) and Washbourne; Cook kicked one goal.

Next week : Cinderford, away.

GLOUCESTER A v CARDIFF A

CITY SECONDS GO UNDER

At Cardiff. The City Seconds had to make three changes from the team originally selected, but were hopeful of giving their strong opponents a close fight.

Gloucester A. – F. W. Hayward; F. Bloxsome, H. Cook, J. M. Baldwin, and E. Harris; Allen and Cannock; J. Harris (captain), E. Yates, G. Cox, S. Millard, J. Westbury, C. Mumford, Dovey, and P. Simmonds.

Cardiff A – F. Hooper; T. Reardon, W. McKay, J. Carson, and O. Holloway; W. Morris and F. Roberts; A. Crowley, A. Green, D. Callan, F. Gaccon, L. Attey, P. Callaghan, G. Jennings, and C. Palmer.

Within five minutes of the start Yates scored for Gloucester as the result of feeble play by the Cardiff backs, Hayward converting. Holloway scored an unconverted try for Cardiff, while Cook crossed for Gloucester. Just on the interval Carson notched a try for Cardiff, which was converted.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 2 goals
Cardiff A 1 goal, 1 try

In the second moiety McKay early on scored for Cardiff, kicking a penalty goal from half-way. Hayward and Cook defended well for the 'Cestrians, who, by clever kicking, removed the venue to mid-field. Cardiff again got going, and from loose play in the Gloucester 25 Callan scored, McKay failing to convert. Following pretty passing in the Gloucester 25, Roberts added an unconverted try for Cardiff.

RESULT :

Cardiff A ... 2 goals (1p), 3 tries (17 pts.)

Gloucester A 2 goals (10 pts.)

JC