

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1911

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v CINDERFORD

CITY'S SWEET REVENGE

CINDERFORD BEATEN ON THEIR MERITS

AN EXCITING GAME

The second of the four fixtures arranged between these clubs this season was played at Cinderford, and a desperately keen contest was expected. On Mop Monday, the Foresters, with a very disorganised side, sprang a big surprise on the City at Kingsholm, winning by 10 points to 8. Gloucester were naturally anxious to avenge this, their only reverse this season, but on their own ground Cinderford are always a difficult team to dispose of.

The City's chances were not improved by the absence of half their regular forward strength – Johns, Holford, Smart, and Griffiths all being absent. The International has practically retired from the game; Holford is suffering from a bad cold, which developed on his return home from the county match on Wednesday; Smart sustained a cut eye in the latter game; and Griffiths was injured in the Cardiff game.

Cinderford had selected their best available fifteen, but Robins and James were unable to turn out, and were superseded by Walkley and Colwell. The home team had further bad luck, Watkins injuring his hand in the morning so badly that he was unable to play.

A fairly large number of Gloucester enthusiasts made the journey, and there was the best gate of the season.

Gloucester. – C. Cook, back; A. Hudson (capt.), L. Hamblin, J. Hamblin, W. Washbourne, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, W. Hall, half-backs; G. Vears, S. Millard, C. Mumford, A. Lodge, F. Pegler, J. Meadows, H. Berry, F. Yates, forwards.

Cinderford. – J. Hall, back; G. Walkley, W. Rhodes, M. Meek, O. Colwell, three-quarter backs; A. Hall, J. Baker, half-backs; J. Wright (capt.), G. Bowkett, H. Reed, E. Kilby, A. Redding, J. Hyndman, F. Russell, G. Leighton, forwards.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis (Stroud).

THE GAME

Cinderford started, and Berry receiving, returned, putting in a clever overhead kick, giving Gloucester a position in Cinderford's 25 at once. Dix got the ball away cleverly from the first scrum, and Hall punted out. The Cinderford forwards rushed well. Cook, however, got back well and punted to touch.

Rhodes kicked high and Cook marked, and gained a nice slice of ground. Replying to a kick by J. Hamblin, Rhodes made a poor shot. The Gloucester forwards gained ground, and W. Hall tried to drop a goal, but the ball went wide, and Cinderford touched down.

A good return still left Gloucester in the home quarter. The ball came out nicely, and Hall tried to cut through, but he was smothered by Rhodes and Baker, and the City Hall was temporarily laid out. He was in fact so badly injured that he had to be carried off – a serious set back for the City. J. Hamblin went up to scrum half and Pegler came out on the wing.

Cinderford got the ball back well in the scrum, but the passing broke down. As the result of an exchange of kicks the ball was left at the centre, and then Cook, with a fine return, put the visitors in Cinderford's 25. The home front, however, were getting the ball well, and Colwell had a good chance, but Washbourne raced across the field and pushed him to touch.

Pegler punted well, but A. Hall returned with interest. The rival forwards had a rare set to, and in spite of being one short Gloucester quite held their own. Hesitation by L. Hamblin lost a possible opening, and in a hot melee a couple of forwards were spoken to by the referee.

Territorially Gloucester still held the advantage, but they were unable to get their backs moving. A. Hall broke away brilliantly, and Cook marked, and then put in a good kick. From a succeeding scrum Dix whipped the ball out smartly to J. Hamblin, who passed to Hudson, and the latter, easily beating J. Hall, scored a capital try. Cook's shot for goal fell just outside.

On the resumption Dix tried his favourite trick of trying to go through from behind the forwards, but he was pounced upon just in time. Pegler, following up a kick from Dix just missed gathering with two men to beat. Again Dix got the ball out beautifully, but the Hamblins' muddled the passing. However, Gloucester kept pegging away, and all the play up till now had been in Cinderford's half.

A fine, open burst by the Cinderford men, in which Kilby was prominent, carried them well over the centre line for the first time. The pace hereabouts was very hot, and the tackling tremendous. Bad mistakes in handling behind Gloucester's scrum let Cinderford up into the Gloucester quarters, but the home men were quite as much at fault when they got the ball back. The game was just over the centre line in Cinderford's favour at the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 try
Cinderford Nil

On the resumption Cinderford went off at a great pace, and with a strong forward rush reached Cook who was floored. L. Hamblin got back and cleared. From a scrum near the centre the ball came out very awkwardly, but Hudson gathered cleverly, and, timing his pass beautifully, beat J. Hall and passed to Washbourne, who raced away with a glorious try right behind the posts. Cook added the extra points.

Gloucester had an awkward minute when Cook was collared almost on his line, but the City cleared. W. Hall returned to the game amidst an encouraging cheer. He did not take his accustomed place, however, and was merely an extra outside.

The exchanges following this were something terrific, the Cinderford front putting in some tremendous work, but they were met with an equally stubborn defence, and honours were easy. Cinderford still by strenuous forward work kept the ball in Gloucester's 25, but a timely punt by W. Hall put the game in neutral territory.

Cook gathered splendidly and sent to beyond the centre, and then a fine dribble by Berry and Dix took Gloucester well into the home quarters again. Here Washbourne was prominent with some clever work, and a brilliant passing bout followed, but the last transfer was ruled forward within sight of the Cinderford line.

Meek cut through very cleverly, and punted clear, but Cook fielded, and a very dangerous move was checked.

Aided by a charged down kick Cinderford got into a fine attacking position, but A. Hall was held up almost on the line. Gloucester cleared, and J. Hall marked, but the kick fell short.

Cinderford, however, were still able to keep up close, and they were awarded a penalty in a good position. Bowkett's kick was charged down.

The Cinderford forwards were trying their very utmost to wipe off the deficit, but the defence was equal to the whole demand. Another "free" fell to Cinderford, but W. Hall marked, and Cook punted clear.

The Cinderford forwards were still putting in all they knew, and kept play in the Gloucester 25. Still another free fell to Cinderford, and Bowkett landed a capital goal.

The Gloucester forwards rushed the scrum from the centre in great style. Vears marked, and Bowkett punted out with a well-judged touch-finder. In the gathering dusk it was very difficult to distinguish the players. Play waged for some time at the centre, the rival forwards putting up a rare tussle. There was no further incident.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)

Cinderford 1 goal (p) (3 points)

REMARKS

It was a very vigorous contest throughout. Contrary to the usual custom in games of this sort, the ball was given plenty of air, and it was an interesting and exciting match to watch.

It was cruelly hard lines for Gloucester to lose the services of W. Hall in the first five minutes. It quite upset the back division, and although he returned later in the second half he was little better than a passenger. Nevertheless he managed to save cleverly at times, and used the touch line with considerable judgment.

Taking these things into consideration there is, therefore, all the more credit and praise due to the City team for the way they adapted themselves to the adverse conditions, and they are heartily to be congratulated on having wiped out the Kingsholm reverse.

With seven forwards against eight – and eight such redoubtable scrummagers as Cinderford can put up – the visiting front had a rare task on hand, but they rose to the occasion magnificently, and came out of the game with flying colours.

The amount of work put in by the Cinderfordians in the last ten minutes was simply enormous, and nothing but the staunchest and best could have stood against the odds. Vears, Lodge, Berry, and Yates were fine, in fact all played in their very best form.

Dix, of course, had a hard struggle, handicapped, as he was by Hall's upset, but although some of the transfers went astray, no one could blame him or the Hamblins.' One could only take the flattering unctiousness to one's soul that if Hall had been fit, there would indeed have been something going on, as the visiting three-quarters undoubtedly had the foot of the home quartet.

Washbourne's try was a beauty, and he played consistently throughout. Hudson, too, besides having the main hand in making the opening for the second try, played splendidly, being fine in defence. Cook, at full back, was severely tested at times, but he came through the ordeal with every credit, and his kicking was a marked improvement on that of Wednesday.

Cinderford undoubtedly felt the absence of Robbins and James outside the scrum. Rhodes and Meek did a lot of clever defensive work, and broke up some of the Gloucester passing most effectually.

A. Hall at the base of the scrum was a power in himself, while Baker, his partner, also played a good, hard, bustling game. The home forwards played a fine, dashing game, and they looked dangerous right up to the last, and, under those circumstances, it would be unfair to individualise.

GLOUCESTER A v CINDERFORD DISTRICT

SCRAMBLING GAME AT KINGSHOLM

CITY SECONDS EASY WINNERS

Played at Kingsholm. The City Seconds had to replace Yates, Mumford, and Millard, who were called upon to do duty with the premiers at Cinderford. The vacancy at three-quarter, caused by Baldwin going to Cheltenham, was filled by E. Harris. There were several changes in the visitors' ranks.

Teams : –

Gloucester A. – W. Egerton; F. Bloxsome, F. W. Hayward, W. Staunton, and E. Harris; E. Allen and W. Cannock; J. Harris (capt.), F. Russell, R. Merry, J. Westbury, W. Banner, W. Dovey, P. Simmonds, and A. Cook.

Cinderford District. – G. Phelps; H. Martin, I. Woolford, W. Beddis, and W. Taylor; W. J. Davis and S. Young; H. Webb (capt.), T. Price, F. Evans, A. Manns, A. Harris, A. Worsfold, J. Pick, and W. Elton.

Referee : Mr. F. T. Lawrence.

Gloucester kicked off, but opening play was very tame. The Seconds forwards heeled nicely once or twice, but the passing was too slow to be effective. Charging down a kick the Foresters reached the home end, only to be at once repelled by a forward rush. Phelps saved by falling on the ball, but the City worked close, and Cinderford were hard pressed. The ball getting loose, a home player picked up and passed to Staunton, who forced himself over the line with a try, and Hayward added the extra points.

Ensuing play was scrambling, and little of incident occurred. Bloxsome at length got in a smart run, but after beating the full back he was collared from behind. He managed to pass and a colleague crossed, but the transfer was ruled forward.

Gloucester had the better of subsequent play, but little enterprise was shown. From a long pass out by Cannock, Staunton ran well, but succumbed to numbers. A free to Cinderford brought relief, and centre play followed.

Working well the Foresters opened out nicely, but the wing man failed to field with a good opening. Gloucester changed the venue largely through a run by Allen, who fielded a cross-kick by an opponent and reached Phelps before being upset. The Seconds heeled several times, but the halves showed no initiative, and nothing resulted.

Then Merry, following up, charged down Phelps' kick, and the ball being picked up by Banner, the latter scored in the corner. Hayward failed with the goal kick.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A 1 goal, 1 try
Cinderford and District Nil

Cinderford re-started, and the Foresters at once worked to the home end. A punt out went to Phelps, who dropped for goal, but the ball fell a long way short and E. Harris, with a flying kick, sent to touch. The same player made a neat run and pass, but Bloxsome was bored to touch.

The Seconds attacked in earnest, and one or two possible chances presented themselves, but they were not accepted. Cannock eventually broke through smartly, and when near the line passed to Staunton, who scored. Hayward made a fine attempt at conversion.

In waiting to take the drop out, Cannock was charged over and heavily winded, but soon came round. The game developed into a rough and tumble for the next few minutes and was absolutely devoid of interest.

Gloucester rushed down, but they were checked in time. Then from a punt by Phelps, Egerton received and cross kicked over the line. Putting his men on side, Bloxsome dashed up and beating an opponent for possession, scored near the posts. Hayward placed a goal, though at the time he kicked the referee had blown his whistle for no charge. Cinderford shouted for another kick to be taken, but the referee allowed the goal to stand.

On the resumption Allen made a nice run down touch, but passed forward. Then loose play by the City allowed the visitors to reach the other end, where a drop for goal struck one of the uprights.

In the concluding stages Gloucester attacked strongly, and after Staunton had just failed, Allen nipped over from a scrum very cleverly. Hayward again landed a goal. Before the end Merry also crossed for Gloucester, the place kick failing.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 3 goals, 3 tries (24 pts.)
Cinderford and District Nil

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