

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1911

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v PONTYPOOL

DRAWN GAME AT KINGSHOLM

AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT

PONTYPOOL PLAYER'S LEG BROKEN

Owing to the Welsh trial match Pontypool were seriously weakened for their match with Gloucester at Kingsholm, no fewer than five of their players being called upon to appear at Abertillery, viz., Jack Jones (three-quarter), S. Prosser (half), and Rees Thomas, H. Jarman, and E. Stephens (forwards).

A further serious defection was L. Bradley, the old Cinderford three-quarter, who accepted a big offer to join Wigan (N.U.), and was expected to assist the Lancashire club to-day.

Gloucester, too, were handicapped by absentees, W. Hall, J. Hamblin, and S. Smart being on the injured list, whilst G. Holford was called upon to play for the South at Twickenham. The weather was dull, but there was a fair attendance.

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

Pontypool. – W. Vallis, back; S. Griffin, J. H. Evans, F. A. Parkhouse, J. G. Preece, three-quarter backs; S. Tovey, R. Lloyd, half-backs; T. Carter, S. Oliver, S. Smith, F. Andrews, F. Talbot, A. Hockey, G. Boots, G. Veater, forwards.

Referee : Mr. J. Ford (Bristol).

THE GAME

Pontypool started from the Worcester-street goal, and following an exchange of kicks Lloyd sent to touch in the home half. Gloucester were early awarded a penalty, and Cook sent nicely to touch. Breaking away Griffiths came through with a splendid dribble, and his colleagues joining in Pontypool saved luckily in their own quarter. In a scramble Pegler was laid out, but he was soon able to continue.

Hall twice stopped Tovey getting the ball away from the scrum but the visitors gained considerable ground by the aid of a flying kick. Gloucester quickly came back with some loose play, and Staunton securing he punted high to Vallis, who had to kick straight across. Dix fielded and fed Washbourne, but the wing man, though running cleverly, stepped into touch. The Welshmen relieved with loose kicking, the ball travelling down the field at a fast pace.

Hall and Hudson combined in changing the venue, and then Dix working the blind side of the scrum, served Washbourne nicely. The Gloucester left wing got away splendidly, but being hampered he passed into the centre of the field, the ball being captured by an opponent. The latter punted to Dix, who was declared off-side, and a penalty followed to the City. Cook dropped for goal, but a fine effort failed, Evans marking.

Gloucester continued on the attack, Washbourne putting the City close with a well-judged kick to touch. Pontypool punted out to Cook, who again essayed a drop at goal, but it was a poor attempt, and only a minor resulted.

Ensuing play was confined to the forwards, the City pack showing up with a fine burst. They were checked by Vallis, and then more fly-kicking took the visitors beyond mid-field. Here Hudson twice passed back to Cook, who got in his kick cleverly.

Parkhouse luckily saved in the teeth of a dashing burst by the Gloucester forwards, but Berry started another movement, though spoiled his effort by pushing an opponent over.

Scrambling forward play ensued, neither side being able to get the ball out. Lloyd eventually shone in a pretty bit of work for Pontypool, the movement ending in Hudson touching down.

Gloucester showed up strongly on the drop-out, Staunton and Hall securing a nice opening, but the final pass went astray.

In some loose play Staunton gathered and punted high. Preece failed to field, and Hudson racing up, the home captain snapped up the ball, and beating Vallis, scored a fine try in the corner. Cook landed a fine goal.

Staunton replied well to the re-start, and play was contested at the centre. Receiving from Dix, Hall broke through with a strong burst, and feeding Hudson the latter gained further ground and passed.

The ball got loose, and the City forwards dashing away in a fierce rush the Pontypool line narrowly escaped.

Just previously Lloyd had been knocked out, and there was a temporary delay whilst he recovered.

Resuming, the Welshmen cleared from a dangerous position with a forward rush, and then Lloyd opening out, Parkhouse punted to touch near the home 25.

A kick across saw Hamblin field, and get in a splendid punt down, following up and again securing the ball. He gave a timely pass to Staunton, who punted, but Evans was there and saved.

Hall, with a dash through, put Gloucester in a favourable position, but the City were beaten off.

Pontypool heeling, the visiting backs kicked at every opportunity, and twice Gloucester were pressed. The defence, however, proved equal to the occasion. However, the home team had to concede a minor from a kick over the line by Griffin.

Continuing, the game was very fast, Lloyd beating Dix very nicely at the scrum and passed out, but Staunton intercepted. The City centre, however, was tackled, and losing the ball the visitors sent down to Cook who though pressed severely, got in his kick to touch.

A strong dribble by the visiting forward was splendidly checked by Cook, and then Dix, Washbourne, and Hamblin combined in bringing play to the centre.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 goal
Pontypool	Nil

When the game re-started, Gloucester appeared in white jerseys owing to the similarity of the colours of the rival teams.

Following Vears' kick-off there was a kicking duel between Cook and Vallis, ending in the ball going to touch in the Pontypool half. Gloucester at once got away, but the tackling was sound. The City, however, continued the pressure, and Staunton had hard lines in the corner.

After a brief delay Dix opened out, and Hudson made a fine effort to break through, but he was just checked. He, however, managed to pass out, but Hamblin could not gather, and Pontypool rushed out of danger. Cook was heartily applauded for some fine kicking, and then Dix and Hall combined nicely, the former just failing to take the re-pass.

A clever cross-kick by Cook was not taken advantage of by Gloucester, though Hudson stopped Preece doing anything. A desperate rush by the City front was beautifully stopped by Vallis, and then Cook further distinguished himself in the kicking department and saving.

Pontypool got in some neat exchanges after this, but Preece preferred to punt, and Washbourne saved. Lloyd picking up cleverly on the run put in a short punt which Hudson had to run back to gather. The City captain was tackled and sent to touch by Preece, who injured his shoulder in his effort, necessitating his leaving the field. Hockey came out of the pack to the wing position, and the game waged fast and furious.

A clever reverse pass over the scrum by Lloyd was not accepted, but a minute later the visiting backs got in a splendid movement, Evans only being held up on the line. The Gloucester defence was subjected to a severe test in subsequent play, but it survived.

Dix was instrumental in changing the venue, intercepting and running to Vallis, but his pass was not accepted. The ball, however, rolled loose and it was sent to Vallis, who slipped and was collared by Yates. Pontypool quickly returned, Lloyd doing grand work at the scrum. Slipping away on the blind side, the Pontypool player cut out a fine opening for Hockey, but the latter was beautifully tackled by Cook, though at the expense of his being laid out.

After attention from the ambulance men the City custodian was able to resume, and immediately Gloucester gained relief with a judicious kick to touch. Still the game continued in the home half, and Lloyd getting away cleverly fed Parkhouse, who though partially checked managed to pass to Hockey, who scored wide out. Vallis converted and the teams were level. Hockey was knocked out in scoring his try, and had to be carried to the touch line.

Vears re-started, and the game became more exciting than ever. Dix fed Washbourne on the short side of the scrum, but the wing man could not clear the opposition. Though a man short in the scrum, Pontypool controlled the ball well and heeled repeatedly. The backs kicked hard, and once Cook was collared in possession by the opposing forwards who had been put on side.

Useful kicking by Staunton gained ground for Gloucester. Hudson received from Staunton, ran and punted, but Vallis marked as the City captain got up to him. With the kick Pontypool got out of danger, but with a sharp dash put the City back again. Gloucester looked to have a possible chance on the left, but the home players over-ran the ball and allowed a visitor to clear.

From this point the Welshmen came away with a lovely bout of passing, but Hockey was well tackled by Cook. Then Gloucester replied, but Hall's kick was charged down by Parkhouse, whose leg went with a crack. The visiting centre went down to the ground, and it was discovered that he had sustained a compound fracture of the leg.

It was a most unfortunate mishap, but the result of a pure accident. Dr. St. Johnston attended Parkhouse with the ambulance men, and the stretcher being procured he was conveyed to the Royal Infirmary. There was a long delay, but with only a minute left for play, the match was brought to an end.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal (5 points)

Pontypool 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS

It was a most unfortunate ending to a fast and keen game. Considering they were a man short for the greater part of the second half Pontypool did extremely well in making a draw, and what is more their play fully entitled them sharing honours.

Gloucester started in dashing style, the forwards performing splendidly in the loose, but the City did not keep it up, and in the scrums they were out-pointed again and again. The best back play seen during the game came from the Welshmen, and the try scored by Hockey was a beauty. Gloucester had chances, especially in the second portion, but there was an absence of that finish so necessary in beating a keen defence.

Pontypool had a weighty pack, and the men were all triers. Even with seven forwards they more than held the home front in the scrums, whilst they were determined and clever in the open. Hockey, Carter, and Boots were a fine trio, the old Newport player being very good in the lines-out. Behind the scrum, the visitors had a very clever player in Lloyd, who is the best scrum half seen in a Welsh team at Kingsholm this is season. Quick to seize an opening, Lloyd broke away repeatedly, and varied his tactics with consummate judgment. He was a big asset for Pontypool, and in a large measure was responsible for his side saving the game.

Tovey was fair at outside half, and of a good set of three-quarters, the centres (Evans and Parkhouse) were the pick. Parkhouse, though in the veteran stage, can still play a good game, and he had a big hand in the scoring of Pontypool's try. His accident evoked the greatest sympathy from the spectators. Vallis was a capable custodian.

Gloucester were not seen at their best by a good bit, though some capital work was exhibited at times. Forward, they were for the most part beaten, especially in heeling, and in this handicapped Dix very much. Hall again got through a tremendous amount of work, but he was well marked. In the third line, there were a few passing movements of merit. Staunton kicked nicely, and did better all round than last week, but he is not up to the standard required for the City. Hamblin was safe without being brilliant. On the respective wings, Hudson and Washbourne both did well with the chances they had in attack. Cook, at full back, again played a perfect game.

Scorer for Gloucester : Hudson; Cook converted.

Next week – Penylan, at Kingsholm.