

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1911

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v PENYLAN

POOR GAME AT KINGSHOLM

WEAK CITY TEAM SUCCESSFUL

Penylan, a smart Cardiff suburban team, visited Kingsholm this afternoon for a guarantee match. The Welshmen had met Bristol twice this season, losing the first game by 10 points to 8, and the second by 11 points to 6. Against Cheltenham they lost by 8 points to nil.

Owing to the county match Gloucester were very weak, as C. Cook, J. Hamblin, Washbourne, Vears, Holford, Lodge, and Smart were all engaged at Redruth.

W. Hall was still an absentee, so that the City only had eight regulars doing duty.

The teams lined out as follows :—

Gloucester. — W. Egerton; A. Hudson, T. Burns, W. Staunton, and F. Bloxsome; W. Dix and L. Hamblin; H. Berry, A. Russell, J. Meadows, E. Yates, G. Griffiths, S. Millard, N. Hayes, and C. Mumford.

Penylan. — W. Lewis; J. Macartney, R. Jones, T. Powell, and F. Lewis; C. Gibbs and F. Roberts; W. Farrell, P. Davis, A. Lewis, T. Whitney, T. Bright, J. Smith, E. Evans, and J. Cleaves.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis.

THE GAME

Berry started for Gloucester against the sun, and from the return Dix sent to touch in the visitors' half. Good kicking by the Penylan backs transferred play to the home quarter, where a forward made further headway from a line out. Gloucester worked out, but the first time Dix got the ball out Staunton dropped his pass. He, however, recovered, and found touch nicely.

Exchange kicking left Penylan with the advantage, but a penalty to Gloucester regained the ground, and centre play followed. Gloucester heeled, but nothing resulted from an attempted passing move, Burns being collared and sending the ball behind Hudson.

So far the game had been terribly tame and devoid of any incident. Penylan worked down to the home line, where Egerton relieved with a good kick. Hamblin twice held on too long and spoiled possible chances, but at length a series of exchanges left the ball with Hudson at the centre. The captain got off well, and beating his opponents scored in the corner. Hamblin failed at goal.

The visitors getting in front of the ball at the drop-out, a scrum followed at the 25 line, where Dix got possession and passed to Hamblin. Staunton in turn received, and sent to Bloxsome, who was tackled a few yards outside after a capital effort. Gloucester still pressed, Staunton making a creditable effort to break through, but he succumbed to numbers. Then from a high punt to the line by Hamblin, Penylan just managed to touch down.

On the restart the visitors reached the centre by the aid of a useful kick, but a long throw out to Hudson saw the captain burst through, being tackled just in time. A clever round of passing by the Welshmen brought them well out of danger, but subsequent play was very scrambling. The Gloucester forwards were doing well in the scrums, but the passing lacked finish.

Burns was prominent with a neat effort, and next Dix and Hamblin combined in a clever movement, which took the game to the visitors' half. The home attacks, however, were feeble, Staunton holding on with Burns and Hudson on his left. Burns, with a good dribble, gave Gloucester a nice position, but from a subsequent free to the City, Gibbs cleared in fine style.

Penylan improved with a short forward burst, and Gloucester were forced to their 25. For off-side the visitors were penalised, and with the kick Gloucester changed the venue. There was some delay subsequently owing to a visitor being laid out, and Dix also left the field, Yates playing scrum half.

Resuming, Yates at once made his mark and the City gained some 20 yards with the kick. A loose rush followed, ending in Yates picking up and securing a good opening. Hayes and another handled but the final transfer was muddled with a certain try in view. From the next scrum Yates broke away and fed Hamblin, but the latter tried to do too much and was pulled down.

A penalty against Gloucester enabled Penylan to get relief, but immediately after Hamblin brought off a fine run. Again, however, he held on too long, and Staunton, fumbling his pass, the visitors easily cleared.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 try
Penylan	Nil

Dix, who had sustained a bruised shoulder, resumed in the second half. Penylan's kick-off was replied to by Griffiths, and from the subsequent return Egerton found touch in the visitors' 25. Burns fielding a kick by an opponent ran and fed Hudson, who with a great dash, scored in the corner. Hamblin's shot for goal hit one of the uprights.

Macartney, who had attempted to stop Hudson, was knocked out, and had to retire.

Millard, who fielded the drop-out, ran through smartly, and there was a fine opening on the right, but Staunton tried to go over on his own and was tackled. Penylan cleared cleverly, and with neat passing gained a footing in the home half. Twice they had good opportunities, but threw forward wildly. Gloucester came away with a loose rush, Lewis just turning the ball to touch in time. From a scrum, Dix opened out, and after all the three-quarters had handled Bloxsome crossed far out with a pretty try. Hamblin, from a difficult angle, landed a splendid goal.

From the re-start, Yates received and cut out a fine opening. Millard continued the movement, but Hudson failed to take his lofty pass. Gloucester attacked strongly, and another fine passing bout just failed, Bloxsome being tackled a yard [or] two outside. Penylan relieved from a dangerous position, and midfield was the centre of operations.

A long kick down went past Egerton, but Bloxsome got back and kicked dead from the field of play. A scrum followed five yards out, and Gloucester soon cleared. Hamblin, from a pass by Dix, ran clear to the full-back, but in attempting to beat Lewis was collared, and a glorious chance was lost. Immediately after Burns was upset in trying to cut through, though in this instance he did the correct thing, for Hudson was closely marked. Gloucester got the ball out again, but this time Hudson's pass was snapped up by an opponent, who ran to Egerton and then passed to Gibbs, for the latter to score near the posts. The place-kick was successful.

Gloucester re-started, and Dix opening out Hudson received from Burns. The captain cross-kicked to the centre, but a visitor captured the ball and sent to touch. Penylan, with a sharp rush, visited the home end, but the City soon replied, and scrambling play followed near the centre. Hudson was just legged and brought down when a score looked probable, and then Russell injured his leg and had to be carried off.

Resuming, Penylan, with smart work, reached the home half, Burns marking cleverly. Gloucester at once came right away, and Hamblin made a good effort to score on the right wing.

The game continued to be very scrappy, but in favour of Penylan, who had hard lines on several occasions. For off-side well inside the 25 Gloucester were penalised, but the shot at goal was a long way out. The City worked out by the aid of a mark and then Berry, gathering near the centre, dashed away and passed to Burns. The latter fed Bloxsome, who after a splendid run, got the ball down safely over the line. Hamblin failed at goal, and the end came.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal 3 tries (14 points)
Penylan 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS

A downright poor game and calling for little comment. Considering the general scrappiness of the play it was remarkable that all the tries came from splendid efforts. Hudson's two scores were very fine, and Bloxsome showed pace, dash, and cleverness when he crossed for both his tries. All round Bloxsome shaped very creditably, and he and Burns both did well in the third line. Staunton, however, was again a weak spot.

The Gloucester forwards heeled well at times, and Dix got the ball away smartly, but Hamblin would persist in holding on too long. Otherwise he performed well in the position, taking all his passes cleanly and kicking with judgment. He also made some clever runs, but after making openings the policy was to let the ball go.

That further successes would have attended the City's efforts had he done this was plainly evident by the tries which followed from combined movements.

The home forwards did well at times, Millard, Berry, Hayes, and Meadows being prominent, but judgment was lacking at critical moments.

Penylan played a plucky game, but they possessed no particular star. Their tackling, however, was very sound, and the men kicked well.

Scorers for Gloucester : Hudson and Bloxsome two each; Hamblin converted one.

Next week : Newport away.

JC