

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1912

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v LLANELLY

For this return match at Kingsholm the weather was very unfavourable, rain falling all the morning.

Gloucester turned out a far stronger side than the one which suffered defeat at Llanelly last week, though W. Hall was an absentee owing to a bad cold, and Dix was still on the injured list.

In the centre a trial was given to R. G. Clarke, son of the Rev. H. Clarke, of Berkeley, who shaped exceedingly well for the Seconds against Cainscross last Saturday. Llanelly brought a strong side.

There was only a moderate attendance when the teams took the field some minutes after the advertised time, due to the late arrival of the visitors.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – C. Cook; A. Hudson, S. Cook, R. G. Clarke, and W. Washbourne; J. Hamblin and L. Hamblin; G. Vears, G. Holford, H. Berry, F. Pegler, N. Hayes, A. Lodge, J. Meadows, and S. Smart.

Llanelly. – H. Thomas; W. Watts, J. Evans, W. Roberts, and S. Rees; D. Lloyd and W. Bennett; B. M. Job, A. T. Stacey, S. Phillips, H. Hiams, G. Evans, A. Howells, G. Stagg, and R. Williams.

Referee : Mr. J. Ford (Bristol).

THE GAME

Vears kicked off against the rain, and there was a series of exchange kicking, ending in L. Hamblin sending to the visitors' 25, where Thomas had a kick charged down, but a knock-back saved the visitors. Llanelly quickly worked out, but Cook replied well, and a scrum followed in the Welshmen's half. The visitors heeled, but Lloyd was pushed over by J. Hamblin, who also forced Bennett to pass back to Thomas. The latter attempted a flying kick, but it was stopped, and the ball rebounding over the line Holford fell on it and scored amidst applause. L. Hamblin failed to land a goal.

Llanelly dropped out, C. Cook replying with a fine kick. Useful punts by the visitors brought play to the centre, where Lloyd dribbled away. Clarke, however, picked up cleverly and punted to touch. The two Hamblins opened out nicely from the next scrum, but the passing broke down. Llanelly replied with judicious kicking, and gained a footing in the home end. L. Hamblin brought relief, and some fast play was witnessed at mid-field. Thomas, racing across, put in a punt, but Hudson was there and checked.

Gloucester made headway with a passing move; but C. Cook knocking on from a long kick down, a scrum followed a few yards from the home line. Gloucester cleared nicely, Hudson aiding with a short run. Then Vears and J. Hamblin got in a lovely dribble, Thomas saving luckily in front of the posts.

From the next scrum there was a nice opening, but Hudson failed to take S. Cook's pass. Llanelly dribbled out, only to be stopped by C. Cook, who marked under difficulties. Immediately after the ball came out to the City backs, and Hudson ran straight through. He looked likely to get over himself, but he passed wide, Clarke failing to gather with a certain try in view.

Llanelly cleared by the aid of a mark, and both sides put in some hard work. Clarke was prominent with a grand run, which was heartily cheered, but his pass was an awkward one.

Near the centre L. Hamblin broke away and fed S. Cook, who dashed through and sent to Washbourne. A re-pass gave Cook possession again with an open goal, but the transfer was ruled forward – hard lines, for the movement deserved reward.

Continuing, Gloucester showed up with some more smart work, but the loose head business caused trouble, the referee having the forwards up and giving them a talking to.

The City made further headway, and play was contested in the Welsh half. A loose rush brought the visitors out, Clarke stopping them well. A mistake by J. Hamblin allowed Llanelly to get dangerous, Clarke saving just in time. However, Llanelly had secured a good position, and following a pretty bit of combination Evans dashed over in the corner. The place-kick failed.

When play was resumed rain was falling heavily, and the ground was very dangerous. In some loose play Berry gathered and passed to S. Cook, who took the game to mid-field. Off-side by Gloucester, however, lost them ground, and Llanelly became dangerous.

Fumbling behind looked ominous for the home team, but the situation was saved at the critical moment. Useful kicking enabled Gloucester to reach mid-field, where Washbourne shone in a useful bit of work, but advantage was not taken.

The City had a possible opening on the left, but it was not taken, and Llanelly changed the venue to mid-field. Here Gloucester opened out, but S. Cook was collared, and losing the ball Evans kicked down to C. Cook, who got in a fine return.

Soon afterwards the interval was sounded.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 try
Llanelly 1 try

Llanelly restarted. S. Cook received, and running round passed to Hudson, but the next transfer was forward. The Welshmen replied, weak tackling allowing a visitor to get away. A forward pass, however, spoiled the effort. L. Hamblin put Gloucester down with a fine touch-kick, but the visitors soon changed the venue.

A foul by a Llanelly man was duly penalised, and with a grand kick C. Cook found touch at the Llanelly 25. Failure to handle allowed the visitors to break away with a loose rush, Holford finally checking at the centre. Pegler, following up a kick, prevented a return, and then followed a little display of temper by a visitor, which was quickly nipped in the bud.

Dashing forward work put Llanelly on the defence, Thomas kicking over his line from the field of play. A scrum was ordered five yards out, and the Hamblins got the ball away. S. Cook dashed through and fed Hudson, who with a great effort crossed with a good try, L. Hamblin converting.

On the resumption Llanelly played up smartly, and Gloucester were pressed, Cook being collared close in. The visitors opened out, passing and re-passing cleverly, but nothing resulted. Then from a short punt by Lloyd, Hudson made a mark, and Cook was hotly pressed in the next minute, but the Hamblins brought relief with neat play on the blind side of the scrum.

Some faulty play followed on both sides, but at length Smart got away with a good rush, and Vears shortly after distinguished himself with an equally good effort. Free-kicks to the City enabled the home men to maintain a territorial advantage, but Llanelly played very keenly.

Near mid-field S. Cook brought off a great run, and there was a beautiful chance, but Washbourne missed the pass. Gloucester attacked resolutely after this, and only sterling defence kept the Llanelly lines intact. There was a temporary delay for an injury to a visitor, but play was soon resumed, operations being in the Llanelly 25.

Here Washbourne broke away across the field, and passed, but the ball went astray and ground was lost. Immediately after the City backs were set going by the Hamblins, and the ball was handled nicely by S. Cook, Clarke, and Washbourne. The latter punted, and Thomas carrying the ball over from the field of play a scrum was ordered five yards out. Llanelly cleared with a dashing loose rush, but Gloucester got back through the agency of Hudson. Muddling by the Hamblins lost the position, but Clarke replied with a fine run which again went unrewarded.

Centre play ensued until S. Cook placed Gloucester in an advantageous position with a nice kick to touch. The venue was quickly changed, for Evans, fielding a cross-kick, punted high. C. Cook was collared immediately he received, and a scrum ensued five yards from the Gloucester line. Cook brought relief, but the home men took too many risks in passing back when strictly on the defence.

Just afterwards there was a stoppage for a Gloucester man to recover from a knock-out, and on resuming the City forwards heeled. Hudson tried to break through, but was tackled, and losing the ball Llanelly had a fine chance, which was not accepted. A rush by the home forwards brought the necessary relief, and a free-kick for off-side by Lloyd further improved matters. The last few minutes' play was evenly contested, and when "No-side" was whistled the game was at the centre.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)
Llanelly 1 try (3 points)

GLOUCESTER A v CHEPSTOW ST. MARY

At Chepstow.

RESULT :

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