

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1912

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v ABERTILLERY

CITY WITH FOUR SUBSTITUTES PUT UP GOOD FIGHT

MOTOR CAR ADVENTURES

In spite of what at one time looked like insuperable difficulties and misfortunes, Gloucester fulfilled their fixture with Abertillery on Saturday at Abertillery.

The team and officials made the journey in five motor-cars, but unfortunately one of them went wrong, causing a long delay, and then when running again the driver took the wrong road, and did not arrive at Abertillery until 6.40 !

It was hard luck for Gloucester after all the trouble and expense gone to in keeping the fixture, but four Abertillery men very sportingly donned the jerseys – also kindly provided by the home team – and the match was played.

The whole party arrived safely back, although one of them did get into a pond up to his waist in trying to read a signpost.

The Gloucester team (though positions were changed during the game) was as follows :

T. Norris (sub.); G. Holford, A. Hudson, M. G. Turland, and H. Berry; W. Dix and S. Cook; G. Vears, W. Johns, J. Meadows, A. Lodge, C. Mumford, and H. G. Thomas, S. Cook, and T. Dix (subs.).

THE GAME

Play opened at the centre, and from the first scrum the ball came out via Dix and Mumford to Stanley Cook, but he was well marked. Turland gained a nice slice of ground, and Gloucester were in the home 25, but the Abertillery forwards carried a couple of scrums well, and relieved to neutral territory.

T. Fearn led a rush well into [the] Gloucester 25, but Norris saved. From a short line-out Marsh was very nearly over in the corner, and Gloucester were hard pressed for several minutes. Dix relieved somewhat with a screw punt, and then James fielding splendidly from the Gloucester forwards cut right through and looked a certain scorer, but Hudson intercepted his pass cleverly, and a dangerous situation was saved. A minute after Marsh picked up on the 25 line and dropped a goal for Abertillery.

On the restart Johns was prominent with a clever pass wide out, but Turland was quickly grassed. Marsh put Abertillery in an attacking position again with a neat touch-finder, but the 'Cestrians cleared, and Meadows gained further ground with a breakaway from the line-out.

Abertillery were getting the ball in the scrums, and were quickly in Gloucester territory. From a scrum Mumford broke away and passed to Dix, who set Berry going, but the latter, although making a lot of ground, was unable to shake himself clear. Gloucester now pressed hard, but Abertillery carried a scrum well and got out of danger.

Gloucester were now getting more of the ball, but they were not quick enough to profit by it, and Marsh snapping up a pass punted right down to Morris, who, however, put in a capital return.

Holford was prominent with a long touch kick, and just after Stanley Cook put in a neat corkscrew run, and then Abertillery were awarded a free, but Morris put in a good return, and very little ground was gained. Gloucester gradually worked their way down to the Abertillery line, but James intercepted, and Abertillery relieved the pressure.

Dix did a characteristic burst through, but he was not supported. However, Gloucester gained ground, and the forwards, headed by Johns, dribbling clear, James was forced to mark right under his posts to save being rushed over.

The Gloucester men were playing up finely now, but the Abertillery front replied with a telling rush, and the game once more was in the Gloucester quarter. The City cleared, and the interval arrived.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Abertillery 1 goal (d)
Gloucester Nil

The first scrum in the second half was in the Abertillery 25, but Lewis broke through on his own and ran clear. Holford upset him however, and then Norris fielding beautifully from a rush put in a grand line.

Marsh and Richardson with some neat inter-passing gained ground, but another kick by Norris put Gloucester well up again. A free against them, however, gave the home men a big piece of ground, and the forwards rushing up collared Norris, who was badly hampered, and Abertillery were well placed.

The Gloucester forwards, who were getting the ball back better just now, heeled quickly, and a neat pass by Dix set Stanley Cook going, but he was quickly collared. Holford gained ground by finding touch, but immediately after Abertillery, with a fine dashing burst, carried the game right to the 'Cestrians' end. Dix cleared and again broke away by himself, but nobody backed him up, and James stopped his gallop.

A fine bit of passing work by Dix and a grand run and punt by Stanley Cook nearly put Hudson over in the corner. But then a free was given against the visitors, and the advantage was lost. Gloucester were now playing up superbly, and they were very nearly successful in getting over. Then the Abertillery threes cleared again smartly. Stanley Cook was showing up finely in the centre, doing no end of work.

A mark fell to Hudson and Norris had a shot for goal, but it was a long way, and the ball went wide. Turland cut through and sprinted away splendidly, but he was right out by himself, and could not get past James, although he punted over his head. Abertillery quickly relieved, and their backs tried passing, but knocks-on spoilt it.

A minute later the Abertillery right wing was almost over in the corner, Hudson effecting a fine tackle. Long exchange kicking followed, with the advantage to James. Then the Gloucester forwards, prominent among whom was Johns, took the ball right into the Abertillery quarter, and a good line from a mark gained them further ground.

Gloucester got the ball out in a favourable position, but twice in quick succession knocks-on spoilt what looked like a dangerous move. Webb kicked right down, but Hudson got the best of the race, and a touchdown resulted.

Gloucester had an anxious time towards the end, and after Hudson had cleared splendidly Chick James intercepted, and with a clear field scored near the posts, although Stanley Cook overhauled him on the line. H. A. James landed a goal. Towards the end Gloucester came again, but they could not score.

RESULT :

Abertillery ... 2 goals (1d) (9 points)
Gloucester Nil

REMARKS

There is no disguising the fact that Abertillery were a very lucky team to win at all. Apart from all considerations of having the full-back, two three-quarters, and a forward away, Gloucester were quite as good territorially as the homesters, and it was only sheer ill fortune that robbed them of scoring.