

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1903

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. LONDON WELSH

SPLENDID VICTORY FOR THE CITY TEAM

There was a big crowd at Kingsholm to witness the above match. The visitors brought a strong side, including W. Llewellyn and A. F. Harding (Welsh Internationals), F. Young (Cardiff), D. L. Bowen (Cardiff), J. C. Jenkins (Newport), J. T. Timmins (Somerset), and W. G. Hodge (Middlesex); whilst Gloucester fielded short of Romans, Collett, Stephens, and Click.

Despite this great disadvantage the City team gave one of the brightest and best displays of the season, and the Welshmen were soundly beaten all round. Gloucester set the pace from the start, the forwards especially showing grand form. Westbury was particularly smart in the open, and early on the visitors' lines had a narrow escape.

Play was very fast in the Welshmen's half, when, from near the centre, a beautiful combined effort – in which Keys, Williams, Parham, and Purton took part – resulted in the latter scoring in the corner. Vears converted with a splendid kick from the touch-line.

Soon afterwards a clever move by Hudson gave Parham a clear opening, but the forward stumbled and fell when within scoring distance. The Gloucester forwards were seen to great advantage in several loose rushes, and only the smartness of Young saved the visitors.

The City men, however, kept up a sharp attack, and following a determined burst, Johns picked up and scored near the posts, Vears again goaling.

At the interval Gloucester led by 10 points.

In the second half Gloucester well maintained their superiority, and in less than five minutes Williams, with a clever run, scored prettily. Vears failed at goal.

After this the Welshmen paid a visit to the home end, but they were quickly driven out, the home forwards not being checked until close to their opponents' line. The visitors came away with a loose dribble, but Williams gathered the ball from their toes, and slipping past the defence scored the fourth try, which was not converted. The same player was nearly over again a few minutes later, but fell in trying to get past Young.

Following this effort the Welshmen reached the home end, and Harding had a couple of shots at goal from penalties, but they were not successful.

Play subsequently was fairly even, the visitors doing better. From a bout of passing the ball was sent to Llewellyn, who raced hard for the corner, but Vears smothered the International in fine style on the line – a grand tackle, which evoked enthusiasm.

Coldrick brought relief with a strong run to mid-field, where play was being contested when the end came.

RESULT :

Gloucester ... 2 goals, 2 tries (16 points)
London Welsh Nil