

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1903

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. PENYGRAIG

A POOR GAME

CITY TEAM WIN BY ELEVEN POINTS

For the concluding home match of the season Penygraig provided the opposition to the City team. The visitors held a prominent position in the Glamorgan League, with a record of seven wins against four defeats and two drawn games, and were expected to provide a good game. Last week Penygraig defeated Pontypridd by 3 goals (1d 1p) 4 tries to nil, and yesterday they played a drawn game with Treorchy.

Gloucester played Romans, Click, and G. Vears for L. Vears, Williams, and Purton respectively, Parham going half-back.

The weather was favourable but the attendance was only moderate.

The teams were : –

Gloucester : G. Romans, back; C. Smith, C. Coldrick, F. Rooke, and A. Hudson, three-quarter backs; Bert Parham and F. Keys, half-backs; A. H. Click, G. H. Smith, G. Vears, H. Collins, F. Pegler, W. Johns, F. Westbury, and H. Harris, forwards.

Penygraig : W. E. Lewis, back; J.A. Williams, F. Simmonds, D. Ingram, and T. Loates, three-quarter backs; D. Williams and J. Davies, half-backs; F. Shugar, J. J. Jones, D. Bowen, D. Lewis, W. Matthews, J. Lewis, D. Watkins, and G. Meeds, forwards.

Referee : Mr. J. Such (Cheltenham).

## THE GAME

Gloucester won the toss, and the visitors kicked off against a stiff wind. Collins received and punted to touch at the centre. Penygraig were early penalised for an infringement at the scrum, and Romans gained some 20 yards with his kick. The Welshmen, however, got possession in the throw out, and with a strong burst quickly recovered the ground.

A useful bit of play by Keys took the game inside the visitors' half, where Hudson made further headway with a nice kick to touch. From another penalty for off-side Romans sent to touch close to the Welshmen's line, but a wild pass by Parham from the scrum allowed the visitors to clear to beyond the 25 flag.

Play was very slack so far, but eventually Romans, with a punt and follow up, put Gloucester in a good position and Johns scrambled over in the corner, but an infringement had occurred outside the line. Wretched handling by the Gloucester backs lost considerable ground, and Williams getting a pass sprinted down touch, but "Whacker" Smith floored him nicely.

Tricky play by Penygraig half-backs gave Williams a good chance, but the latter's cross-kick was fielded by Parham, who with a strong run relieved. The forwards took the ball on, but they were stopped at the centre. Penygraig worked back with a forward rush, and Gloucester were pressed in their 25. Rooke snapped up a pass and ran down the field with a clear opening except the full-back. He passed to Pegler on reaching Lewis, but the forward threw wildly into touch.

Penygraig removed play to beyond the centre by strong forward work, Parham being at fault in gathering the ball at the scrum. A splendid loose rush headed by Westbury looked dangerous, but the ball was overrun when in a good position for scoring. At this point Parham retired for a few minutes, and Westbury played half. Play continued very uninteresting, and was mainly a forward scramble.

Parham returned, and Gloucester worked down with a dangerous rush, but the home men lost the position by bad play. Out of loose play Penygraig got the advantage – Simmonds securing in the open brought off a good run. He got close to the line when he essayed a pass which went astray, and Gloucester saved.

By the aid of a good wheel the City forwards gained relief, and midfield was the scene of operations. There was no finish to the work of either side, and a lot of mistakes were made. A big kick by Romans placed Gloucester well down the field, but the visitors changed the venue by sharp rushes.

Simmonds with a short run and kick transferred the game to the Gloucester half, where Keys, fielding in the open, started a bout of passing. Coldrick hit off several opponents in fine style, and handed neatly to Parham, who ran down and yielded to Westbury. A try seemed certain, but the next transfer was forward.

Gloucester were rushed out to near the 25 line, where Keys set Coldrick going again. The ex-soldier made a terrific burst, and though held managed to get the ball away. There was a scramble on the line, resulting in Harris getting hold and scoring a try. Romans failed at goal.

The Gloucesterian and a couple of opponents were laid out in the rush, but after receiving attention were able to resume. On the drop-out Gloucester attacked strongly again, and Westbury ran over on his own, but was called back. Coldrick was prominent in subsequent play, in which a visitor was hurt and had to retire, but nothing further of note transpired.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester ..... 1 try

Penygraig ..... Nil

Gloucester resumed, and the home forwards following up well secured possession and started a round of passing. All went well, and a score looked probable, but the final pass went forward.

Heeling by the Gloucester pack saw Parham send to Keys, who handed to Coldrick, but the latter was held. He, however, handed back to Keys, who dropped for goal, but the ball went wide, and only a minor resulted.

A spell of even play followed, and then an exchange of kicks resulted in Penygraig gaining an advantage. C. Smith, with a good touch-kick, gained the home team a nice slice of ground, and ensuing play was contested at the centre. Westbury at length dribbled from a scrum and picking up at the right moment transferred to Parham, who went over the line after a strong burst. Romans failed at goal.

The visitors dropped out, and ensuing play was confined to the Welshmen's half. The game was of a poor description, and smart movements were conspicuous by their absence. Romans did a couple of good runs, but nothing came of them, and play continued a general scramble. Gloucester eventually worked down, and Parham cross-kicked cleverly, but Rooke was adjudged off-side, and Penygraig got a free. Smith replied well to the kick, and then the City forwards going away Westbury picked up and scored smartly near the posts. Romans landed a goal.

"Whacker" Smith received on the re-start, and with a dodgy run beat several opponents. A passing bout followed, but Westbury was pulled down when trying to get clear. The same player was prominent again a minute later, but was temporarily laid out.

On resuming the visitors brought off a series of exchanges. Williams was the last to receive, and he sprinted hard for the line, but Romans effected a sound tackle. The Gloucester forwards wheeled, and brought the game out to the 25 flag, where there was some hot forward work.

From a loose rush the ball got in the open, and "Whacker" Smith following up secured the ball on the bounce. He had a good opening, but he was unable to reach the line. Penygraig easily cleared, "Whacker" Smith being at fault, and then from a passing movement Williams endeavoured to get clear, but Rooke floored him.

The Welshmen were having the better of the exchanges now, and a sharp attack took the ball close to the home goal. "Whacker" Smith cleared effectually, but at the expense of being knocked out, and he had to retire.

Resuming, the Gloucester forwards, G. Smith, Johns, and Westbury being to the fore, burst away to the centre. Gordon Vears came out at wing threequarter vice Smith, but he was not tested.

#### RESULT :

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

#### REMARKS

The game was of a poor description, and detailed comment is unnecessary. The Gloucester forwards, though lacking the strength and vigour of the Welshmen, played a clever game, and again showed up brilliantly in the open. Westbury, Johns, Smith, and Collins were a quartette always distinguished for smart work, the former especially being frequently noticeable.

The home team were none too well served at half-back, where Parham had to be requisitioned owing to Williams being wanted by his old club (Chepstow St. Mary's) and Stephens and Morgan being on the injured list. Parham worked the scrums, but he did not make much of a show, and Keys did not display the form exhibited the previous day.

The weakness at half-back handicapped the Gloucester three-quarters, and little passing was seen. Coldrick was the strong man in the line, and he was instrumental in scoring one of the tries.

Romans kicked well, and the visiting custodian was also seen to advantage in this department. Simmonds was the best of the Penygraig backs, the old Northampton centre making several good runs.

The visiting forwards played a bashing game, in which skill and resource were conspicuous by its absence.

JC