

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1903

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. CARDIFF

THE CITY TEAM OUTCLASSED

WELSHMEN EASY WINNERS

After a week's rest, owing to the county match, the City team resumed their fixtures to-day, meeting their old rivals from Cardiff at Kingsholm.

In the matches with the principal Welsh teams this season Gloucester have been badly beaten, but hopes were held out that a closer fight would be given Cardiff, who, however, are going strongly just now.

The Welsh Metropolitans brought a powerful fifteen, including five Internationals (Winfield, Nicholls, Gabe, Jones, and Brice), the team being practically identical with that which so decisively defeated Leicester and Moseley.

Gloucester, with the exception of Parham for Pegler, fielded the same team which did so well at Devonport.

The weather, after heavy storms of rain in the morning, was favourable, but the attendance was below expectations.

The teams lined out punctually to time as follows : –

GLOUCESTER	Positions	CARDIFF
G. Romans	Backs	H. B. Winfield
C. Smith	Three-quarter	J. Williams
G. Foulkes	Backs	R. T. Gabe
A. Hudson	"	E. G. Nicholls
L. Vears	"	C. Biggs
J. Stephens	Half-Backs	W. Jones
L. F. Morgan	"	A. Tresize
B. Parham	Forwards	A. Brice
F. Goulding	"	G. Northmore
A. Hawker	"	A. Spackman
A. Purton	"	H. Hutchings
W. Johns	"	J. Brown
J. Gough	"	D. Reed
G. Vears	"	W. Ham
H. Taylor	"	P. S. Smith

Referee : Mr. GIL EVANS (Birmingham)

Gloucester won the toss, and Romans elected to defend the Dean's Walk goal. Brice kicked off against the wind, and Morgan receiving he punted to touch at the centre.

From the first scrum Tresize dribbled away, but Hudson secured and put in a short punt, which was taken by Nicholls. The latter tried hard to break through but was forced to pass – a bad one – and the movement stopped.

A free to Gloucester enabled Romans to punt down the field, but Williams replied beautifully to touch in the home 25. Stephens and Vears gained ground with useful kicks, but a smart series of exchanges between the Cardiff backs led to a sharp attack on the home line. The defence, however, prevailed.

More passing followed by the visitors, but Hudson intercepted, and had a clear course with the exception of Winfield. He, however, had no pace and was forced to kick. The ball went over the Cardiff back's head, but Jones got back and saved.

After this the Welshmen came away with a brilliant bout of passing, all the backs handling. Williams' repass, however, went to Parham, who kicked to touch finely.

The Gloucester forwards made headway with a rush, but the Cardiff pack heeling, Jones, Gabe, Nicholls, and Williams again handled cleverly. The latter's pass back inside was not taken, and the situation was saved.

Romans was prominent with a couple of good kicks, but almost immediately the Cardiff backs were in motion. Gabe was tackled by Smith and Foulkes, but he shook himself free, and passing to Biggs the latter went for the line. He cross-kicked nicely, but Romans fielded all right and cleared.

Cardiff again attacked, and from a kick over the line Winfield forced a minor. Following the drop-out there was a spell of even play at the centre, but the Cardiff halves getting possession Jones feinted and dodged through in fine style. He went clean through to Romans, and a try seemed certain, but his pass went forward right on the line.

Gloucester were in a dangerous position, but taking advantage of some loose handling by Tresize the City team dribbled to mid-field, where Nicholls stopped them with a dexterous screw kick to touch.

A moment later L. Vears did some good work, and the forwards tried hard to clear, but they failed. Then the Cardiff forwards heeling, Jones started his three-quarters moving. Again the home men tackled feebly, and Gabe got right away to Romans, when he passed to Biggs, the latter running over easily. Winfield failed at goal.

Gloucester dropped out, and a Cardiff forward kicked back to Morgan, who punted to touch. At this point a heavy storm of rain descended, making the ball and ground greasy. Smith, with a long kick, sent to Winfield, who only returned moderately, with the result that Gloucester visited their opponents' 25 for the first time.

Working well together the home forwards brought off a superb burst, which was only stopped just in time. Gloucester now attacked strongly, but the visiting forwards relieved with a wheel. The ball, however, getting loose, Morgan kicked across the field, and Vears receiving he had a possible opening. He dropped for goal, but failed to raise the ball sufficiently, and only a minor resulted.

Cardiff dropped out, and Hawker being at fault in fielding there was no return. From the subsequent scrum the Cardiff half-backs secured and started a bout of passing. The ball came right across the ground, but Williams had to kick to touch.

From a line-out Stephens made a mark cleverly from a knock-back, and punting high the Gloucester forwards were well up when the ball fell. A visitor failed to gather, and Stephens picking up made a dash and pass to Purton, who was upset. There was a scramble on the line, but Nicholls saved in daring fashion.

Cardiff wheeled the scrum smartly, but G. Vears and Morgan stopped them. Then Gloucester returned to the attack, thanks to a good piece of work by L. Vears. A foul by a Cardiff man led to Cardiff being penalised. Romans took a shot for goal, but the ball fell short. Winfield, however, failed to clear, being finely tackled by Gough on the line.

A scrum followed five yards out from which Cardiff made headway. A bad pass by Morgan was taken by Tresize, who handed quite a yard forward to Biggs. The infringement passed, however, and Biggs kicked to the centre, where there was a big race. Williams got up, but Hudson robbed him of possession, and kicked to touch.

Exciting play followed at mid-field, Gloucester doing much better than in the early stages. A fine burst by the City forwards, Goulding leading, led to Gloucester securing a favourable position in the visitors' quarter. Here Stephens put L. Vears in possession cleverly, but the wing man punted over the line, and only a touchdown resulted.

From the drop-out the Gloucester forwards again distinguished themselves with some grand loose work, and Cardiff were closely pressed.

A punt being well followed, Winfield made his mark and with his kick sent to Stephens, who returned. Soon afterwards the interval was sounded.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Cardiff 1 try
Gloucester Nil

Parham restarted, and after an exchange of kicks Williams found touch beautifully well inside the home half. Cardiff carried the first scrum, and Morgan taking a flying kick landed the ball in the arms of Brice, who was nearly through. The game hovered dangerously near the home 25, and Jones breaking away, after being apparently held a score looked promising, but the pass was knocked on.

A beautiful bit of combination between Morgan and Stephens led to the home three-quarters putting in a bout of passing. Smith, on receiving, ran and passed back inside, but Nicholls knocked on. At this stage there was some disturbance amongst the spectators on the shilling side, and the game was delayed for a couple of minutes.

Resuming, the Gloucester forwards showed up well, but the ball was kicked too hard, and Nicholls picking up he cut up the field nicely. Passing to Gabe the latter threw out a transfer – apparently forward – to Biggs, who beat Romans easily and ran behind the posts. Winfield landed a goal.

Gloucester restarted, and there was a short spell of even play at midfield. At length Tresize started Gabe on the move, and the International with a fine run put Williams over cleverly in the corner. The place kick failed, but Cardiff's lead in the space of five minutes had been increased by eight points.

Romans dropped out, and immediately the Cardiff backs were prominent with some passing, Biggs eventually kicking to touch inside the Gloucester half. Gloucester worked out, and "Whacker" Smith with a good punt found touch in the Cardiff end.

The City team confined operations here for a few minutes, but Cardiff cleared by the aid of a mark. Good play by Tresize and Gabe saw the latter make a grand opening, but after clearing the three-quarters he essayed a wide pass out which Nicholls failed to accept. Thanks mainly to Stephens Gloucester secured a better position, and Foulkes distinguished himself with a good effort which further improved matters.

Cardiff, however, got back again by the aid of a good run by Biggs, a certain try being lost through a forward pass. From the subsequent scrum Jones brought off a wonderfully clever run, beating the opposition in the most simple fashion, but he tried to do too much, and in attempting to jump Romans was tackled.

Gloucester cleared with a sharp rush, Hawker being prominent, and then the Gloucester backs gained considerable ground by a passing movement. Vears tried hard to clear Biggs, but he was collared and thrown to touch. Winfield sent the game out with a huge punt which caused Romans to go back to gather. This he did, but being pressed he only got in a moderate reply.

Nicholls, with some remarkably good screw kicks to touch, earned hearty applause from the spectators, and the efforts helped to keep the game confined to the home half. Gloucester made ground with an occasional burst, but Cardiff had the game well in hand, and displayed pretty football at times.

For a time the home defence prevailed, but Biggs, receiving from the scrum, beat the Gloucester men cleverly, and sending to Nicholls at the right moment, the Cardiff captain scored behind the posts. Winfield failed at goal.

On resuming Cardiff were soon on the attack again, and from a scrum under the Gloucester posts Jones received and dropped a goal with the left foot.

Re-starting, Romans was twice prominent for clearing kicks to touch, but Cardiff got back through Tresize, who took the ball from the Gloucester halves, and was all but over in the corner. Gloucester were on the defence to the close, but there was no further scoring.

RESULT :

Cardiff 2 goals (1 d) 3 tries (18 points)
Gloucester Nil

REMARKS

Cardiff proved immeasurably the superior team, but it was behind the scrum where the visitors' advantage was so marked. There was an occasional individual effort on the part of the home backs, Stephens greatly distinguishing himself, but generally speaking the rear division was hopelessly outclassed.

The Cardiff three-quarters were well supplied with chances, and Nicholls, Gabe, Williams, and Biggs combined in some brilliant movements. It was not always that the attack was carried home to a successful point, but Gloucester were decidedly lucky in escaping on several occasions.

In pace, cleverness, and general work the visitors gave a display fully in keeping with the traditions of the famous club. The only weak spot was at half, where Jones and Tresize, though effective at times, were not up to Cardiff's standard of past seasons.

Nicholls played a beautiful game at centre three-quarter, showing all his resource in attack, and kicking with splendid judgment. Gabe, too, was in great form, and with Biggs formed a dangerous wing.

Gloucester were best served behind by Stephens, who did an immense of useful work[*sic*]. The men, as a whole, tackled feebly at times, even allowing opponents to get away after being once held. No single player was unduly prominent, and, as before stated, they showed up very moderately in comparison with the visiting line. At full-back neither Romans or Winfield was up to form, but of the two the Welsh International was the more successful.

Forward, Gloucester made a very creditable show, and at one period in the first half they had their opponents beaten. Their work in the loose and lines-out was distinctly good at times, but more than one player made the mistake of collaring too high. Goulding and Parham were perhaps the pick of the eight, but for downright honest forward work Gordon Vears and Gough came prominently under notice.

Cardiff were well led by Brice in front, and for three parts of the game they held the advantage in the scrums. The heeling was not altogether satisfactory, but they got the ball back oftener than the home eight.

Gloucester have now lost five games at Kingsholm (four in succession), the only solitary win being over Stroud. It is a very long time since the club performed so badly.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A

CITY SECONDS BEATEN

At Cardiff, in unpleasant weather. The homesters opened with vigour, and Rumblelow kicked a goal from a mark. Morgan followed with a try after good forward work, following which Gunstone made a brilliant run from which Jones scored, each kick at goal failing. Gloucester were rather outplayed in general work, but their passing movements were more varied and skilful than those of Cardiff.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Cardiff 1 goal (m) 2 tries
Gloucester Nil

Gloucester exhibited remarkable improvement in the second half, excelling Cardiff in every department. Time after time they came within an ace of scoring, and were distinctly unlucky in getting no more than a penalty goal by Pugh.

The 'Cestrian halves were decidedly clever, but, together with the three-quarters, were handicapped by the wet ball.

Jones scored for Cardiff.

RESULT :
Cardiff 1 goal (m) 3 tries (13 points)
Gloucester 1 goal (p) (3 points)

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