

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1905.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. CARDIFF.

POOR GAME AT KINGSHOLM.

MATCH DRAWN.

This time-honoured fixture – always a popular draw – attracted a large attendance of spectators at Kingsholm, amongst whom were the City Member (Mr. Russell Rea), Mr. Lloyd-George, M.P., and Mr. H. Terrell, K.C. Gloucester played full strength, with the exception of H. Collins, injured last week, but Cardiff were weak, the absentees including F. Young, R. T. Gabe, W. Ham, and E. Rumbelow. The old International, P. C. Brice, however, appeared in the forwards, it being understood he was on trial with a view to a place in the Welsh team against Ireland. The ground was in grand condition, and the teams lined out punctually at 3.30 as follows : –

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	CARDIFF.
G. Romans	Backs.	E. R. Evans
C. Smith	Three-quarter	J. Williams
E. Hall	backs.	W. Pullen
J. Harrison	"	W. H. Gunstone
A. Hudson	"	A. Williams
D. R. Gent	Half-Backs.	R. David
J. Stephens	"	Cecil Biggs
W. Johns (capt.)	Forwards.	W. Neill
A. Hawker	"	H. Brown
G. Vears	"	E. Harding
B. Parham	"	H. Smith
F. Pegler	"	D. Westacott
G. Matthews	"	D. Evans
H. Quixley	"	A. Brice
J. Jewell	"	G. Northmore

Referee : Mr. Rodway (Midland Counties).

## THE GAME.

Brice started the game from the Worcester-street goal, Hawker receiving. The City forward, however, was quickly upset, but the ball getting loose it was punted down to Evans, who ran to touch. Cardiff got away from the first scrum, but off-side lost them ground.

Immediately after David slipped the home halves and passed to J. Williams, whose kick was charged down. A clever bit of work by Gent, who cut between David and Biggs and punted, gave Gloucester a good position in the Cardiff 25. From a throw-out Hawker secured and made a big burst, but held too long.

Ensuing play was contested in the Cardiff quarter, but a lucky kick by the visitors sent the ball past Hudson. The latter, however, fielded, and sent back to Romans, who ran round and cross-kicked, but an opponent marked. The kick availed little, and Gloucester kept play at the 25.

From a pass by Stephens, Hudson received and dashed down the line, but just stepped out of play. A kick out by Cardiff sent the ball to Romans, who found touch beautifully near the Welsh line. Play was exceedingly close until Cardiff heeled, but David failed to pick up, and Stephens dribbled through. Gent took it on, but was ruled off-side, and Cardiff were awarded a free. With the kick Biggs found touch at the centre, but Gloucester worked back, and the visitors' lines narrowly escaped.

Evans relieved a dangerous pressure by running out and passing to Gunstone, who, however, was floored by E. Hall. Smith picked up smartly and passed inside to Hawker, who rushed over, but touch was given. Gloucester, not to be denied, attacked strongly, and a lovely bout of passing along the three-quarter line gave Hudson a nice try. Romans failed at goal.

Harrison, who gave the final transfer to the scorer, was tackled after getting rid of the ball, and was knocked out. He had to be carried off the field, and Gloucester resumed with only three men at three-quarter.

Cardiff resumed with vigour, and play was fought out near the centre. Gloucester, however, held their own splendidly. At this moment Harrison resumed amidst cheers.

The Gloucester forwards heeling well, the City backs passed nicely, Harrison making a brave though unsuccessful attempt to cut through. A good burst by the City forwards saw Matthews rob Evans and make straight for the line, but he was held outside. Cardiff had another narrow escape just after, Gloucester being all over their opponents.

From near the 25 line Hudson took a shot for goal, but the ball went wide, and only a minor resulted. E. Hall made his mark from the drop-out, and with a well-judged kick sent to A. Williams, who knocked on in taking the ball.

A desperate rush by the Cardiff forwards gained the visitors a lot of ground, and a wild kick by a City player sent the ball right in the hands of Pullen, who made off to the left wing. "Whacker" Smith was confronted by three men, but a dangerous moment was checked. Cardiff, however, got on the attack almost immediately, and following a series of transfers amongst the forwards Neill scored a good try in the corner. The place kick failed.

Resuming, play was in the Gloucester half until a couple of good kicks brought the game to midfield. Hawker and Johns, by useful following up, pressed the visiting custodian, and Gloucester were having the best of matters.

Gent, getting the ball from his forwards, initiated a nice bout of passing. Harrison cut through beautifully and worked out a nice opening, but E. Hall missed the transfer.

This was followed by a capital combined movement by Cardiff, but Gent tackled A. Williams in good style. Stephens punted out from his 25 to Evans, who ran round but attempted too much, Smith smothering his man in a deadly tackle.

Both sides made mistakes after this, the back play especially being faulty. Gloucester had a couple of penalties in quick succession, but they lost a good position by Gent failing to pick up. Hawker, however, checked the Cardiff forwards when looking dangerous.

A kick over the home line gave Cardiff a minor, and a visitor made his mark from the drop-out. His kick, however, was a poor one. Soon afterwards the interval was sounded.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 1 try  
Cardiff ..... 1 try

Hawker resumed, and after a series of exchange kicks A. Williams sent to touch inside the Cardiff half. A short throw-out was captured by a visitor, who kicked down the field and followed up. The City defence appeared beaten, but Hall saved cleverly and got in a good kick.

Gloucester made splendid headway subsequently, and Parham breaking away he made a fine opening, but he was not backed up. From the next scrum Stephens fed Harrison, who feinted and ran down, but was floored from behind. Cardiff relieved with a loose rush to near midfield, where Hudson was prominent with a good kick under difficulties.

Play was contested at the centre for a few minutes, neither side being able to make much ground. Eventually the Cardiff forwards broke away, and Stephens being at fault the visitors were nearly over. Gent brought relief with a clever burst from a scrum, and timing a good pass to Hudson, the latter raced down touch to beyond midfield where he was upset by Evans.

Scrambling play ensued, in which Cardiff eventually gained an advantage, thanks to good kicking by Biggs. Gloucester, however, soon changed the venue, and there was a spell of even play at midfield.

Cardiff tried to open out the game, but A. Williams preferred to kick, and the ball going to Romans, the latter found touch nicely. The Gloucester backs next were set going, and E. Hall whipped out a neat pass to Smith from off the ground. The wing man kicked, the ball going to touch in the Cardiff half.

The game at times was very scrappy, and more than one player was laid out in the keen tackling. Cardiff, with a combined movement, got off with some capital passing, and J. Williams punted down to Romans, who only got in a weak kick to touch in his own quarter.

Cardiff, carrying a scrum, got right to the line, where a forward tried to force himself over, but he was pushed back into play. From the next scrum David passed out to Biggs, who looked a certain scorer, but Smith smothered the Cardiff captain and saved the situation.

For palpable off-side play by David, Cardiff were penalised, and Romans finding touch with a fine punt gained the City much needed relief. Almost immediately Biggs sent play back to the home 25, where some tight scrums were fought out.

Romans eventually cleared for Gloucester, and the forwards, with a good wheel, rushed to the centre. Cardiff tried to get away with a passing movement, but it was soon checked, and then from a long kick the ball rolled over the line and Romans touched down.

Gloucester made one spirited rush on the resumption, but play was woefully lacking in interesting incidents. Gloucester conceded another minor from a kick over the line, and after two fruitless efforts owing to the ball bouncing out of play, play was resumed.

Nothing of interest, however, occurred during the remaining few minutes, and a poor game ended in a draw of three points.

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 1 try (3 points)

Cardiff ..... 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

In the long series of matches played between the rival teams, we never remember such a disappointing exhibition as that furnished at Kingsholm to-day.

Of football there was very little that approached the standard usually expected from such exponents of the game, and more often than not it was a case of playing the man instead of the ball. Gloucester did their level best to open out the game, but Cardiff departed from their usual tactics, and went in largely for the old-fashioned bashing forward play. For a time the City pack rose superior to their opponents, and in the first half heeled a fair number of times. But as the game progressed weight and brute strength prevailed, and Cardiff were having the best of matters at the finish.

Taking the run of play a draw about represented the merits of the teams, though Gloucester ought to have done better with the chances they had early in the game. Several times nice openings presented themselves, but lack of pace or a mistake at the critical moment robbed the City of well-deserved scores.

The Cardiff forwards were a very hot lot, but they indulged in a lot of dirty play, which drew forth the condemnation of the crowd. Brice played a hard game, and Neill was also very prominent, but as a whole the pack did not display any particular cleverness.

The Gloucester men started well, but they were put off their game by the rushing tactics of their opponents. Vears, Johns, Parham, and Matthews were especially good in the open, and the former stopped several dangerous bursts by dropping on the ball. Hawker was a marked man, and the City forward received some hard knocks in the course of the game.

At half the advantage rested with the Gloucester pair. Gent frequently beat David, and got the ball away smartly to Stephens. The latter, however, was a trifle off colour, and did not take his passes so cleanly as usual. Biggs, for Cardiff, kicked well, but was never allowed much room to move.

The back play on either side was below par, but the Gloucester four were the smarter all round. Harrison did some clever work at times, and Hall, barring that one mistake when he failed to accept his pass with practically a clear field, played good football. "Whacker" Smith tackled with great effect, and Hudson made the best possible use of anything that came his way.

The Cardiff line was about the weakest set that has ever represented the club, Gunstone perhaps being the pick. Romans, on the whole, gave a good account of himself at full-back, and Evans on the other side did not do at all badly for a Second teamer.

#### GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A.

#### CITY SECONDS DEFEATED.

Played at Cardiff. The City team underwent one or two changes, but the side which made the journey was a good one, and considered likely to give trouble to the Cardiffians.

Gloucester A. – J. Watts, back; H. Hughes, H. Cook, H. Smith, and H. Hall, three-quarter backs; A. Hall and H. Ewers, half-backs; F. Pyart (captain), H. Wixey, H. Taylor, A. White, C. Voyce, R. Craddock, T. Meadows, and S. Annandale, forwards.

Gloucester showed better form fore and aft during the first quarter of an hour, Smith, Cook, and the two Halls being prominent. Gloucester's great superiority was at half, where A. Hall and Ewers, well served by their forwards, repeatedly got the ball away admirably.

Jones ran over cleverly for Cardiff, Evans converting. Thus, although they had done nearly all the pressing, Gloucester were five points behind at the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Cardiff A ..... 1 goal  
Gloucester A ..... Nil

Resuming, Gloucester nearly scored from a penalty. McCraith and Jones both ran behind the posts for Cardiff, Evans converting each try. These points were got by clever passing.

By vigorous play the Gloucester forwards carried the game to the Cardiff line, where Hughes, Cook, and Smith in turn were nearly over.

Watts was injured, and had to leave the field.

Wixey, Pyart, Taylor, and Ewers put in further good work for Gloucester, but could not score.

RESULT :  
Cardiff A ..... 3 goals (15 points)  
Gloucester A ..... Nil