

THE CITIZEN

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 1905.

MONDAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD.

FOREST CHAMPIONS AT KINGSHOLM.

A DESPERATELY-FOUGHT GAME.

GLOUCESTER JUST MANAGE TO WIN.

The visit of Cinderford to Kingsholm proved a big holiday attraction, the fact that the Foresters defeated Gloucester in the first match adding to the interest of the return meeting. Cinderford were short of Burgham and Teague, whilst in the City team Pyart replaced Quixley. The following were the teams : –

Gloucester. – G. Romans, back; C. Smith, E. Hall, J. Harrison, and A. Hudson, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent and J. Stephens, half-backs; W. Johns (captain), B. Parham, A. Hawker, F. Pegler, J. Jewell, G. Matthews, G. Vears, and F. Pyart, forwards.

Cinderford. – F. Fields, back; J. White, W. Rhodes, J. Wright, and W. Smith, three-quarter backs; T. Willstead (captain) and F. Niblett, half-backs; A. Smith, G. L. Jones, J. Hyndman, C. Russell, F. Parker, H. Williams, H. Trafford, and P. Ridler, forwards.

Referee : Mr. A. Lawes (Bristol).

THE GAME.

Cinderford won the toss, and Hawker started against the wind from the Worcester-street goal. The ball failed to pass the ten yards' mark, and another kick was necessary, the ball this time going to touch.

Cinderford made headway from the first throw-out, and later Niblett kicked to touch on the half-way mark. Gloucester heeling, the City backs brought off a good bout of passing, Harrison sending to touch nicely.

Cinderford relieved slightly, but Gent feeding Stephens, the latter passed to Hall, who sent on to Smith. The latter was well collared by Rhodes, but managed to transfer inside to Hall, who punted high. A visitor failed to gather, and the Gloucester forwards being well up rushed the ball over the line, and Parham was credited with a try, which Romans converted.

The restart was returned by Gent, and play was fast and interesting. "Whacker" Smith was prominent with good work, and then Parham, picking up in the open, ran nicely and whipped out a wide pass to Hudson. The wing man took the ball well, and beat several opponents, but was collared from behind on the 25-line.

A punt out by Fields brought the game to mid-field, where Stephens missed a pass from Gent, and allowed the visitors to gain a few yards. Gloucester, however, got back again with a passing bout, Gent and Stephens working prettily together. Hall subsequently dribbled down, only to see White kick to touch.

Near the centre Cinderford heeled, but Willstead's pass was intercepted by Matthews, who broke away and kicked to Fields. The latter, however, was safe. A splendid bit of footwork by Jones was nicely stopped by Gent, and the City half was again conspicuous a minute later in stopping another dangerous rush of the visitors' front.

Owing to an injury to Jones the game was stopped for a brief period whilst he had a bandage bound round his wrist. Resuming, the Cinderford forward carried a scrum in grand style, and completely beating the opposition went over the line in a heap, a try being awarded. Fields landed a good goal, and this placed the teams level.

Hawker resumed, and play was continued with tremendous vigour. Stephens, in attempting to cut through from a pass by Gent, was upset, and losing the ball, it went wide to Hall, who kicked down the field. A mark by Hawker saw the City player punt to Fields, who waited for the bounce, and only got in a weak return. For an infringement in the scrum Cinderford were penalised, and no charge being allowed, Romans made a fine attempt to kick a goal, just going wide of the posts for a minor.

Gloucester pressed for a few minutes on the drop-out, but Fields placed Cinderford out of danger. A beautiful wheel by the Cinderford front was well checked by Gent, but from a mark a visitor placed the Foresters well on the Gloucester 25. The City forwards relieved with a good burst, but a mistake by Stephens nearly led to disaster. The outside half missed his pass altogether, and the ball being sent back to Romans the latter had no chance to clear as he was behind his line. He was collared by the Cinderford forwards, and a scrum was ordered five yards out.

Gloucester relieved from the dangerous position, but Cinderford, who were playing a determined game forward, returned to the attack, and Gloucester were sorely tried. From a kick by Wright, Romans made a good mark, but no whistle went, and the City fullback was pulled down right in front of his goal. Romans, receiving from the subsequent scrum, punted out only to see the Foresters at once rush back. A series of transfers looked likely for a score, but the ball was knocked on. Jones was hereabouts laid out again, and the game continued without his presence. Immediately after, however, half-time was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 goal
Cinderford 1 goal

Cinderford resumed with 14 men, and opening play was fought out at the centre. Gloucester tried to open out the game, but Hudson, who received from Hall, was beautifully tackled by W. Smith. From a line-out Johns broke away strongly, but White effected a daring save when matters looked dangerous.

Jones now returned, and at once the Cinderford halves opened out. The ball went across the ground to Wright, who attempted a pass back inside. The ball, however, was taken by Romans, who punted and found touch a few yards from the Cinderford line. By grand footwork the Foresters shifted the venue, but Gloucester got back, Fields being pressed.

From a return by the Cinderford custodian Romans sent out a wide pass to Harrison, who cut through and handed to Hudson. The wing man made a grand effort to cross, but he was just pushed into touch-in-goal. Following the drop-out Gloucester put in some excellent combined work, and only a forward transfer robbed Parham of a try under the posts.

Cinderford were severely pressed now, and Gloucester had hard lines in not scoring after some remarkable handling. From a short punt by Stephens, Fields marked on his line, but the Cinderford forwards got in front when he kicked, and a scrum followed five yards out. This was broken up, and a Gloucester forward securing, he dived over with a try, Romans failing at goal.

Cinderford dropped out to Harrison, who, in attempting to beat the oncoming forwards, was upset, and the Foresters gained a good slice of ground. By dint of desperate forward work Cinderford made further headway, but Hall gave Gloucester a good position with a nice kick to touch. Fields twice cleared his lines under pressure, and then, Stephens punting over the visitors' line, Fields conceded a minor.

On the drop-out Cinderford forced the pace, but Gloucester kept them at the centre, where a cessation of hostilities occurred owing to a Cinderford forward being injured. When the game was continued the visitors heeled, but the ball went astray, and Harrison nearly dribbled clear. Hall and Gent made marks for Gloucester, but the kicks were well returned, and little ground was gained.

Gloucester benefited through a big kick by Parham when apparently off-side, the ball bouncing to touch ten yards from the Cinderford line. The Foresters worked out by big kicking, and in the last five minutes they made resolute attempts to pull off the match. Gloucester were kept penned inside their 25, and only the keenest defence prevented the visitors from scoring.

Wright once looked certain to cross in the corner, but he was pushed to touch, whilst Niblett was only held up in the nick of time. By dint of great efforts Gloucester warded off the pressure, and soon after the end came.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)

Cinderford 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS.

It was a desperately-fought game, in which Cinderford had very little the worst of the exchanges. The visitors played a rousing game forward, and in the loose and lines-out they were ahead of the City eight.

Smith and Jones especially greatly distinguished themselves, but the whole pack were in good form. Gloucester were slightly superior in the scrums, and heeled a fair number of times, but Stephens was not in his happiest mood, and missed several passes from Gent.

The latter, as usual, was very effective in all departments, but Niblett and Willstead, on the other side, did not give much away. The Gloucester three-quarters passed neatly at times, but the Cinderford men tackled deadly, and few openings resulted.

Hudson had one or two dashes, and twice had hard lines in losing tries. Rhodes and Wright were the most prominent for the visitors at three-quarter, whilst Fields, though slow occasionally, was generally safe, and kicked well. On the play he was quite the equal of Romans.