

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1906.

TO-DAY'S MATCHES.

GLOUCESTER v. CARDIFF.

DISORGANISED CITY TEAM IN WALES.

A PLUCKY FIGHT.

Gloucester paid their annual visit to Cardiff to-day, but it was a sadly disorganised side that took the field against the Welsh Metropolitans. G. Vears and Holder were able to resume their places in the team, but there was a big list of prominent absentees, viz., Gent, Parham, "Whacker" Smith (captain, vice-captain, and deputy vice-captain respectively), Romans, Hawker, Johns, and Merchant. Romans complained of an injured shoulder, and "Whacker" Smith was unwell. To complete the team was a difficult matter, and the whole back division had to be re-arranged. Cardiff had Bush and Biggs away, the teams being as follows : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	CARDIFF.
A. Wood	Backs.	H. B. Winfield
F. Smith	Three-Quarter	R. A. Gibbs
E. Hall	Backs.	J. L. Williams
J. Stephens	"	R. T. Gabe
A. Hudson	"	G. McCraith
H. Smith	Half-Backs.	R. David
A. Hall	"	R. Davies
W. J. Pearce	Forwards.	W. Neill
G. Vears	"	F. Smith
G. Matthews	"	E. Harding
W. Holder	"	J. Brown
F. Pegler	"	J. Powell
H. Collins	"	D. Westacott
J. Welshman	"	J. Casey
A. Purton	"	P. Northmore

Referee : Mr. J. Milburn (Bristol).

THE GAME.

Brilliant weather prevailed, and the turf was in grand condition. Northmore played vice Pugsley for Cardiff. Vears started for the City, and following exchange kicks Wood sent to touch at the 25. The Cardiff backs were early in possession, but the passing went astray. Hudson intercepted and punted to Winfield, who got in a splendid touch-finder.

Gloucester worked out, and a good bit of play by Pegler sent to Winfield in the Cardiff half. Here A. Hall fed H. Smith, but the latter's pass went along the ground, and E. Hall knocked on. Cardiff dribbled out, but Wood, with a fine kick, sent them back, and later Stephens punted close to the Cardiff line. A lucky flying kick brought the home team relief, but H. Smith caused Cardiff trouble with some neat footwork.

Clever passing by the Gloucester backs looked promising, but F. Smith was bored to touch. Later A. Hall beat the Cardiff halves and went through nicely. Several exchanges followed, but the Cardiff defence prevailed. Gloucester kept at it splendidly, but Hudson made a feeble attempt to drop a goal. Beautiful kicking by Winfield placed Cardiff inside the Gloucester half, where Winfield had a couple of shots for goal, but his attempts failed.

Cardiff attacked subsequently, and the visitors were hotly pressed. The defence, however, proved very sound. Taking advantage of mistakes by Cardiff the City rushed out of danger, but in the scramble E. Hall was laid out with an injury to his leg. He, however, was able to resume, though limping badly.

Directly play was continued Cardiff had a fine chance on the left, but the final pass was knocked on. By dashing forward work Gloucester changed the venue, and a timely kick by E. Hall transferred the play to the Welsh half. Wood was prominent with a grand kick with the Cardiff forwards on top of him, but ensuing play was devoid of brilliant incidents. Harding (Cardiff) was now injured, and had to be led off the field.

Resuming, Gloucester held their own for a time, but the Welsh backs eventually got off, only to see Gibbs kick dead. Winfield forced another minor directly afterwards. Harding now returned, and Cardiff attacked vigorously, but their back play lacked polish.

Eventually David cut out an opening, and, handing to Gabe, the latter went for the line. He was pressed by Wood, but sending out a pass to Gibbs, the wing man dashed over with a good try. Winfield's shot for goal struck the post.

At this point half-time was called, Gloucester being a try in arrears.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Cardiff	1 try
Gloucester	Nil

Cardiff restarted, and from the first scrum David broke away and passed to McCraith, who cross-kicked straight into the arms of Welshman, who punted to touch. Gloucester got out with good forward work, Vears being conspicuous. Then A. Hall initiated a pretty movement, and Hudson put in a dashing run and kick. Following up, the Gloucester forwards secured, and were only just stopped from scoring.

Exciting play followed in the Cardiff 25, and the Welsh lines had another narrow escape. At length Gabe eased the pressure with a good kick to touch near midfield. David fed Gabe, who sent out wide to McCraith, but Wood effected a grand tackle. Working well together Gloucester came away in the loose, but they were checked.

Cardiff tried passing, but Welshman intercepted and punted down the field. Hudson dashed up and secured, but was collared. A scramble ensued, from which Gloucester came out well, but they were stopped just inside the Cardiff half. Hall and Smith were doing well for Gloucester at half, and doing a lot of useful work.

David at length put Cardiff in a good position, but Gloucester's tackling was very safe. Though having the worst of the game territorially, the City gave their powerful opponents plenty to do, and the occasional bursts worried the Welshmen considerably.

From a line-out Westacott broke away and sent out to Gabe, who missed the ball. Gibbs, however, was handy, and with a determined burst just managed to cross with a corner try. Winfield landed a grand goal from the touch-line.

Gloucester resumed, and the City backs, with smart work, pressed Winfield, who was collared in possession. The Cardiff forwards, however, regained the ground with a sterling rush. In the loose Harding fielded and sent out to Williams, who yielded to Gabe. The latter ran grandly, and with a perfect cross-kick gave McCraith a try under the posts. Winfield landed a goal, and thus gave Cardiff a substantial lead.

Gloucester were by no means disheartened by this reverse, and for the next five minutes they pegged away at the Cardiff line. Gibbs, who had been charged over by Hudson, retired, and Harding came out to three-quarters.

A dashing bit of play by Hudson put Cardiff on the defensive, and Winfield only saved a minute later a few yards out. The last five minutes was all in favour of Gloucester, who made desperate efforts to cross. One or two splendid chances of scoring presented themselves, but Cardiff managed to save luckily.

RESULT :

Cardiff 2 goals 1 try (13 points)
Gloucester Nil

REMARKS.

On the run of the game Cardiff were the better team, but the thirteen points to nil victory greatly flattered the Welshmen. It was a ding-dong struggle throughout, but the game was not productive of anything brilliant.

Gloucester, despite their severe handicap in absent players, put up a splendid contest, the forwards doing finely in all phases. Cardiff were stronger in the scrums and smarter in the lines out, but the City were conspicuous for some dashing play in the loose, and the men tackled in grand style.

Vears proved an able leader, and he was well supported by Collins, Holder, and Matthews. Welshman made a creditable debut, being useful in line-out work. A. Hall and H. Smith performed with great credit at half, and of the three-quarters Hudson was frequently in evidence with dashing individual efforts. F. Smith shaped well on the wing and gave nothing away. Wood was very safe at full-back and had no chance of stopping either try for Cardiff, who were by no means up to the usual standard. Winfield was a tower of strength, and his magnificent kicking helped his side tremendously. Gabe and Gibbs were best at three-quarters.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A.

KEEN GAME AT KINGSHOLM.

At Kingsholm. This match is always regarded as one of the best in the Seconds' fixture list, but the crowd were apparently otherwise engaged in the streets "waiting for convicts."

The First team made a good many calls, and the City A were forced to make several changes. Cardiff, too, were playing a new half and four three-quarters who were virtually on trial. The teams were : —

Gloucester. — F. Welshman, back; W. Bridges, E. Butler, G. Day, and F. Bloxsome, three-quarter backs; W. Dix and F. Arthur, half-backs; W. Pearce, R. James, D. Hollands, D. Wyburn, T. Guy, G. Savage, L. Meek, and W. Blackford, forwards.

Cardiff. — E. R. Evans, back; L. George, F. Woods, D. Davis, and J. Heslop, three-quarter backs; Sid Jones and W. Fletcher, half-backs; G. Hewlett, D. Pike, F. Stroud, A. Horton, E. Lewis, R. H. Jennings, A. B. Jones, and J. McIntyre, forwards.

The Welshmen were the bigger lot of players. Gloucester started against the sun and wind, and play settled at the centre for a considerable time. Eventually the ball got loose, and some pretty short passing saw Bridges score in the corner. No goal resulted.

Cardiff played up strongly after this, and gained a footing in [the] Gloucester 25, but Welshman brought relief with a nice touch-finder. From a mark Welshman gained further ground, and Gloucester got beyond the centre. Arthur opened out the game, but a knock-on spoilt the movement.

Then Cardiff rushed finely, and from the 25 an abortive attempt at a drop goal sent the ball over the line. Heslop raced for the ball, but he missed it badly, and lost a fine chance of scoring, if he was not off-side. Cardiff maintained the pressure for a while, but good kicking brought relief for Gloucester. Cardiff tried passing but George held too long, but a minute later Heslop ran in with a fine try, which Woods majorised.

Cardiff were getting the ball better in the scrums, and consequently had more chances. For off-side Cardiff were penalised, and again play settled at the centre. Good kicking by George helped Cardiff, and they worked into a splendid attacking position. The home forwards, however, carried a scrum well and averted the danger.

Aided by a free-kick, Gloucester gained more ground, but George again kicked well and forced a minor. Some hot work ensued in neutral territory. Jones passed out to Fletcher, who punted up to Welshman, and the latter was forced to kick over his line. From the ensuing scrum the ball came out to Jones, who dropped a good goal.

Gloucester played up strongly after this, and got the ball into Cardiff's 25. The Welsh forwards, however, worked out, and sent play to the neutral zone again.

Gloucester worked back into the Welsh 25 again, and a passing bout looked promising, but Bridges was floored heavily and had to leave the field with an injury to his side. Half-time arrived shortly after.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Cardiff A 2 goals (1 d)

Gloucester A 1 try

Cardiff re-started, but an exchange of kicks left the game in the middle department. Then Welshman was collared in possession, and Cardiff attacked. Gloucester broke away cleverly, and Hollands dribbled up the ground, but Evans cleared grandly and found touch. Gloucester, however, worked back into the Cardiff quarter. A smart movement by Arthur and Dix was just stopped in time, and then an exchange of kicks left the game at the Cardiff 25 flag.

An amusing interlude was furnished by Harry Dyke's "All Black" horse careering over the ground. He was safely brought to hand, however, and the game proceeded, again settling at the centre.

Cardiff were having the best of matters in the front against the seven Gloucester forwards, Hollands having been brought out to take Bridges' place. Jones got away cleverly from the scrum, but was finely collared by Welshman. This run of Jones had, however, given Cardiff a footing close to the Gloucester line, which looked dangerous. The home forwards rose to the occasion, however, and brought relief with a good rush. Cardiff got back quickly into the home 25, where a series of scrums ensued. The ball came out nicely for Cardiff, but the passing was effectually smothered, and a good opportunity lost.

Dix got away cleverly, but was fetched back for an infringement. Cardiff then tried passing, in which George was prominent, but he was brought down just in time. Gloucester worked out, but Cardiff were soon back again in dangerous proximity to the home line. The home men relieved with pretty work, and good following up enabled them to change the venue to the other end. Heslop gathered beautifully and raced away, having only Welshman to beat. This, however, he failed to do, the home back bringing off a good tackle.

Cardiff tried desperately hard to add to their advantage, and some keen football was seen. The game was hotly contested to the end, but there was no more score.

RESULT :

Cardiff A 2 goals (1d) (9 points)
Gloucester A 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

Gloucester were very unlucky to have a man injured so early in the game, and taking into consideration that they were thus handicapped they made a very plucky fight against their opponents, who were bigger and heavier all round. The visitors practically controlled the ball in the scrums, and had their passing not been so effectually looked after by the home defence, they would probably have run up a big score.

Behind a pack of forwards struggling gamely against odds, Arthur and Dix played a good game, and Bloxsome on the three-quarter line made a good show. Welshman's display at full-back was marred by the irritating frequency with which he failed to find touch. Of the forwards, Hollands, Wyburn, and Meek put in a lot of hard work.

For Cardiff George, the ex-forward gave a capital display, as did Heslop and Davis. Jones and Fletcher (at half) were smart, and had plenty of opportunities owing to their forwards' ascendancy.