

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1912

FOOTBALL.

RUGBY.

GLOUCESTER v. CLIFTON.

CLIFTONIANS HOPELESSLY OUTCLASSED.

CITY'S HEAVY SCORE.

HUDSON AGAIN INJURED.

(By W.B.)

Gloucester were placed in an extraordinary position to-day, for with five players called on by the County; Halford, Dix, and Hall "barred" from playing for not going to Devonport; and Johns, Pegler, Cook, and Bloxsome on the injured list, it was impossible to complete two fifteens to fulfil the fixtures with Clifton and Gordon League.

Accordingly the League match had very reluctantly to be scratched.

Hudson, too, was originally on the "banned" list, but the County Union officials condescended to grant him special permission to play for the City.

The home team was made up from the Reserves, but it was a very scratch lot for the premier team.

Clifton were short of V. Eberle, Witchell, and Gardner.

There was only a poor attendance when the teams lined out as follows : –

GLOUCESTER.	POSITIONS.	CLIFTON.
F. W. Hayward	Backs.	C. Slee
E. Bowen	Three-Quarter	F. Burr
W. Sysum	Backs	C. M. Welsby
A. Lewis	"	F. G. Puckle
A. Hudson	"	R. I. Hawkins
W. Hughes	Half-Backs	P. G. Scott
F. Wilkes	"	M. Durant
C. Mumford	Forwards	J. Dommett
G. Griffiths	"	W. S. Talland
J. Meadows	"	C. T. Harrison
W. Rudman	"	J. D. Andrews
A. Saunders	"	H. V. Thomas
S. Millard	"	J. Gribble
W. Dovey	"	H.V. Mackay
A. Cook	"	E. Taylor

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis.

#### THE GAME.

Clifton kicked off against the sun, and Millard knocking on a scrum was formed in the home half. The City forwards early dribbled through, and Wilkes gathering cross-kicked cleverly, but Clifton saved. Gloucester, however, got close, and a visitor punting out straight to Hudson, the City captain raced over with a good try within three minutes of the start. Hayward missed the goal-kick.

Clifton dropped out, and Hudson at once put Gloucester down. Wilkes, missing a pass from Hughes, allowed the visitors to clear, and later Welsby ran well to the City half before being brought down. Lewis changed the venue with a clever touch-finder.

Gloucester had a chance after this, but Dovey knocked on in gathering, and lost a certain try. For off-side by the Clifton halves, the visitors were penalised, but Hayward missed from a favourable position.

Clifton made headway on the drop-out with short forward rushes, and ensuing play was scrambling. A long kick down the field went to the Clifton posts, where Slee slipped in fielding and was collared. A scrum followed close to the visitors' goal, where Hughes tried to bore his way over but failed. Then Hudson forced a touch-in-goal with a screw punt.

Hayward replied well to the drop-out, but in his own 25 Scott broke away finely and kicked past Hayward. Lewis, however, got back and cleared, and the same player was prominent with another good effort a little later.

Gloucester confined play to their opponents' half but Wilkes twice held on to the ball when he should have passed. Hughes at length dribbled smartly, and Bowen had a dash for the right corner, but he was held to have knocked on.

From the next scrum the ball got amongst the Gloucester backs, and Hudson made a creditable attempt to drop a goal. Keeping up the aggressive, Gloucester, through Lewis, tried hard to score, but it was frustrated. A minute later, however, from a pass by Wilkes, Hudson dashed through, and cutting out a fine opening, put Bowen over nicely. Hayward landed a nice goal.

Resuming, play was wholly in Gloucester's favour, but there was an absence of finished play behind. Clifton were lucky in staving off disaster on two or three occasions, but at length the defence was beaten.

From a line-out Meadows gathered and threw out wide to the three-quarters. Lewis received, and after a sharp dash passed to Bowen, who skipped over the line in smart style. Hayward landed another fine goal, and Gloucester were 13 points ahead.

Clifton restarted, and aided by a penalty they reached the home half. Immediately from a passing bout Lewis ran clean away and fed Bowen, who was tackled from behind when looking dangerous. The ball rolled loose, and Wilkes picking up ran hard for the line, but was stopped just outside.

From the ensuing scrum Hughes secured from his forwards, and passing out wide to Hudson, the latter scored easily. Hayward's kick for goal hit the upright. Soon afterwards the interval was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 2 goals 2 tries  
Clifton ..... Nil

Gloucester re-started, and the game was at once taken to the Clifton half. With a loose rush the visitors cleared, there being a lot of fumbling in fielding on the part of the home players. Bowen eventually picked up, and though tackled passed back to Hayward, who found touch nicely.

A splendid breakaway by the City forwards from a line-out looked promising, but a pass was intercepted and Clifton checked. Gloucester got the ball out, but Lewis was collared and lost the ball. A Cliftonian dribbled away, but he was stopped before becoming dangerous.

Gloucester at once rushed back, and from a movement initiated by Hughes there was a certain try in view. Sysum, however, missed the ball completely, and a visitor picking up had an open field with the exception of Hayward. He essayed a pass, but it was a bad one, and Millard kicked back.

Sysum, who had been injured, now retired, and A. Cook came out to centre three-quarter. Clifton forced a minor with a kick over the line, but play generally was very scrappy. From a rush, headed by Meadows, Gloucester kicked over the Clifton line and a touchdown was given.

Following the drop-out, Clifton intercepted, and Burr ran well, but fell a victim to Hudson's tackle. Gloucester retaliated, and after a clever opening by Lewis, Cook ran half the length of the field and scored a good try. Hayward just missed the goal points.

On the resumption Gloucester were at once seen to advantage, and Hudson receiving from Wilkes, ran round the opposition and scored a fine try. No goal resulted. Sysum now returned.

Clifton dropped out quickly, and following up gained a footing in the Gloucester end. Millard led a movement back, and a cross-kick put Clifton on the defence. Then Hudson and Lewis were to the fore with a clever bit of work, but the latter was forced to touch.

The captain, in being tackled, again injured his leg, and had to be carried off. Gloucester attacked on resuming, and Lewis, tricking the defence, smartly passed to Saunders, who scored the seventh try. Hayward missed the goal points.

From the drop-out Gloucester attacked strongly, and Wilkes judging a cross-kick cleverly, Bowen beat Slee for possession and scored. Hayward made a good attempt at conversion, the ball for the second time in the match hitting the upright.

Ensuing play was not very exciting, but Gloucester easily held their own. Wilkes once dribbled right to the line, but lost the ball, and a colleague, who was backing up, also missed it. Clifton were obviously overplayed, and the home backs getting possession Lewis ran up to the full-back and put Cook over in the corner. Hayward failed at goal.

The City simply toyed with their opponents after this, but Clifton came up pluckily after each try. A smart bit of passing by the home backs gave Bowen another try, which Hayward converted. Just before the end Cook just missed adding to the lead.

RESULT :

Gloucester ... 3 goals 7 tries (36 points)  
Clifton ..... Nil

## REMARKS.

Clifton, though plucky, were hopelessly outclassed all round, and the City's big score by no means over-estimated their superiority. Forward, Clifton made a few spasmodic bursts, but there was no cohesion, and the movements were easily checked. Behind, Scott, Welsby, and Burr were occasionally prominent, but there was little or no combination, and the kicking was very feeble. Slee was uncertain at full back.

Gloucester played bright and convincing football, though, of course, there were mistakes made. The forwards did extremely well in the loose at times, Dovey, Meadows, Saunders, and Millard shining, but the heeling might have been quicker.

Hughes shaped well at half; he is a sturdy youngster, and should develop with more experience. Wilkes got through a lot of useful work, but he attempted to break through on his own too often, and he must cultivate a sharper service of the ball to his threes.

In the third line Gloucester held a big advantage. Lewis and Hudson combined well, and the captain was going strongly when he was disabled. His injury was the old trouble to the ligaments of his leg, and it is feared he will not be fit to play again this side of Christmas. Lewis did some wonderfully smart runs, and several of the tries were the direct outcome of his clever work.

Sysum was erratic, but Bowen gave every satisfaction in attack, scoring all his tries in first-class style. What he is in defence remains to be seen, but there can be no question that he is a player of distinct promise.

Hayward was safe at full back. He had hard lines in his goal-kicking, two shots striking the upright, and several others being very close shaves for goal.