

# THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1912

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLO'STER v. OLD MERCHANT TAYLORS.

A GAME IN THE MUD.

TAYLORS BEATEN BY A PENALTY GOAL.

This annual Boxing Day fixture was played at Kingsholm, but the wretched weather greatly militated against the attendance.

Gloucester turned out a good side, though S. Smart rested in view of the International match next week, and Hudson and Stanley Cook were also absentees.

The Taylors had Will away.

The following were the teams : –

Gloucester. – C. Cook; F. Webb, R. A. Clarke, A. Lewis, and W. Washbourne; W. Dix and L. Hamblin; G. Vears, W. Johns, G. Halford, A. Saunders, A. Cook, N. Hayes, J. Meadows, and S. Millard.

Old Merchant Taylors. – G. Sanders; H. A. Ryan, E. N. Fuller, F. W. R. Greenhill, and W. I. Cheesman; J. S. Ryan and C. E. Spencer; G. Huskisson, L. R. Howard, P. D. Strang, F. G. Tellworthy, A. F. Botham, A. B. Wallis, P. H. Chase, and D. C. Isaac.

Referee : Mr. Southby (Bristol).

## THE GAME.

The Taylors kicked off, but there being no response Gloucester were at once pressed. The City forwards, led by Johns, rushed clear, it being impossible, owing to the sloppy condition of the ground, to gather the ball. Heeling by Gloucester saw Hamblin break through, but the ball slipped out of his hands, and a visitor picking up he ran back, but was upset from behind. A bout of passing by the visitors gave the ball to Greenhill, but he failed to hold it.

The Taylors handled smartly a minute later, and Gloucester were placed on the defensive. The venue was quickly changed with a loose forward rush – tactics which alone paid under the prevailing conditions. For off-side the Taylors were penalised, and Sanders knocking on right on his line a scrum followed five yards outside. Ryan and Spencer both came round when the City forwards were heeling, and for palpable off-side the visitors were again penalised. Cook from the easy place landed a goal.

The Taylors resumed, Halford failing to accept. Johns headed a fine dribble to beyond the centre, where Sanders brought off a splendid save. Even play followed until the Taylors passed smartly. H. Ryan, however, was well tackled by Webb, and very little ground was gained.

Penalties came to either side for infringements, Gloucester gaining a good slice of ground as the result of Cook's touch-kick. A round of passing by the Gloucester backs saw Clarke punt ahead, but Sanders fielded in good style and returned to Lewis, who put in an attempt to drop a goal, but it was a poor effort.

On the drop out the Taylors worked to the centre, where the struggle forward was waged manfully. Dix and Washbourne showed up with some pretty work on the blind side of the scrum, which put the City in a good position. A strong forward burst later took the ball to the line, where a minor was conceded.

Gloucester continued to have the better of the exchanges, the forwards working desperately. From some cross-kicking Lewis took the ball over the line, but his kick was too hard, and a dead ball resulted.

On the restart play was fairly even until the Taylors reached the home half as the result of a punt by H. Ryan. C. Cook fielded all right, but had his kick charged down, and the Taylors looked dangerous for a minute. The defence, however, was sound, and Gloucester in turn came right away to the other end. Here Hamblin broke through nicely from a pass by Dix, but stumbled just as he was about to pass, with a nice opening.

Play still hovered in the Taylors' half, but it was mostly confined to the forwards. Occasionally the rival backs handled, but the ball was too slippery to hold, and not much headway was made. Gloucester, wheeling a scrum, made some few yards until the whole pack collapsed. The ball, however, came out, and Spencer started his three-quarters going. There were some neat exchanges, ending in the ball going to touch just beyond the centre.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester ..... 1 goal (p)  
Taylors ..... Nil

Halford restarted, and there being only a weak return, play opened in the Taylors' half. The Old Boys indulged in a series of clever exchanges, till Greenhill failed to accept from Cheesman. The latter, however, recovered and punted to Cook, who found touch.

Gloucester then took up the running, the forwards rushing well. A beautiful run by Cheesman changed the venue, but a colleague to whom he passed was well tackled by A. Cook. From the subsequent scrum Spencer handed out, and the ball getting across to Greenhill, the right wing sprinted hard for the corner. Cook, however, effected a grand tackle and prevented a score. Gloucester cleared effectively from a dangerous position, Hayes being prominent.

Hamblin was nicely fed by Dix, but the outside half, in attempting to cut through, was stopped. Using his feet cleverly, Dix put the City well down, and the forwards maintained the position. Dix opening out from the next scrum, the ball was sent to Lewis, who made a good effort to burst through, but the ball bounced out of his hands. Hamblin, however, was handy and recovered.

Ensuing play was fairly even, but was somewhat scrambling. From a big punt over the line by Cheesman Gloucester conceded a minor. The resumption saw Gloucester display some good work, Dix being to the fore with a good effort down touch. Webb backed up well, but the pass was ruled forward.

The City, sticking to their work well, attacked strongly by the aid of the forwards, but finish was wanting. Then the backs attempted to get through, but they were foiled. The Taylors eventually raised the siege, and for a long spell the game was near the centre. The teams made plucky efforts to overcome the conditions, but for the most part they failed. Five minutes from the end the Taylors secured a good opening, but the final pass, with a certain try in view, was ruled forward.

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 1 goal (p) (3 points)

Taylors ..... Nil

REMARKS.

The prevailing conditions completely spoiled the game as a spectacle. The forwards struggled manfully in the mud, and on the whole there was not much to choose between the rival packs. Hayes, Cook, Saunders, and Halford were prominent for Gloucester, and Johns showed his ten weeks' absence from the field had not affected his play.

Outside the scrum the visitors did better than the home men, and some of the passing runs were excellent. A drawn game would have best represented the merits of the teams.

GLOUCESTER v. 1st. GLOUCESTER REGT.

For this match at Kingsholm on Friday (kick-off 2.30), the following will represent ;

Gloucester. – F. W. Hayward; F. Webb, W. Sysum, R. A. Clarke, and E. Bowen; J. Humphries and W. Wilkes; H. Berry, F. Yates, J. Harris, W. Dovey, J. Kingscote, A. Cook, C. Mumford, and F. Pegler.

JC