

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1897

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM

THE TOWN TEAM AT KINGSHOLM

THE VISITORS COMPLETELY OUTCLASSED

PRONOUNCED VICTORY FOR GLOUCESTER

TWENTY-SIX POINTS TO NIL

The meeting between the rival clubs of Gloucester and Cheltenham, at Kingsholm, engaged the chief attention of local football enthusiasts at this end of the county this afternoon. The Town club had only once previously opposed the senior city team on the latter's enclosure, and that was at the commencement of last season, when the visitors sustained defeat by 12 points to nil.

Both clubs commenced serious work the previous week, but whereas Gloucester won pretty easily against Clifton, Cheltenham sustained a crushing reverse at Leicester by 29 points to nil. The result of these games, however, provided no criterion of the relative strength of the two local clubs, for it would be absurd to compare Clifton with Leicester.

The Midlanders are, without doubt, a particularly warm lot this year, and the heavy reverse met with by the Cheltonians was in no way unexpected. Still, giving Cheltenham the credit of being a fairly good side, their chances against the City team were considered very poor.

Against Clifton the Gloucester men certainly did not display anything very extraordinary, but it was fully anticipated, with another week's training, the men would be in far better trim for the engagement to-day.

With regard to the constitution of the teams, Gloucester, though without the services of A. Stephens (who was unable to play owing to the death of his brother-in-law) and C. Hall (unable to get away from Sharpness), were strongly represented. Car Cummings again appeared at half-back, he being partnered on this occasion by J. E. Roberts, whose début with the Gloucester team was awaited with considerable interest.

The visitors' side differed in three instances from that which did duty at Leicester, the alterations being E. Organ, S. Hooper and G. Smith for Addis, Ryder, and Bert Lewis.

The weather was beautifully fine, but the attendance was very moderate at the time announced for the kick-off. Hinton's band was again in attendance, and played a selection of music previous to the commencement of hostilities. At 3.30 the players made their appearance in the enclosure, the men lining up in the following order : —

GLOUCESTER	Positions	CHELTENHAM
B. Hipwood	Backs	B. Daunter
W. H. Taylor (capt.)	Three-quarters	C. Gamble
P. W. Stout	"	A. F. Hailing
R. Goddard	"	A. Finch
G. F. Clutterbuck	"	F. Phipps
Car Cummings	Half-backs	F. Cooke
J. E. Roberts	"	E. Organ
C. Williams	Forwards	G. Davis
B. Hough	"	J. W. Stewart
C. Rose	"	C. Fisher
F. M. Stout	"	W. E. Nolder
A. H. Click	"	A. Uzzell
A. Pitt	"	H. Davis
C. Goulding	"	S. Hooper
T. Hatherall	"	G. Smith

Referee : Mr. A. Lawes (Gloucester County Union).

Cheltenham won the toss, and elected to defend the Dean's Walk goal. Frank Stout started the game, Daunter returning to Percy Stout. The latter failed to gather the ball cleanly, but he managed to get in a nice kick, the return going into touch at the centre. Here the first scrum was formed, and the City forwards got away nicely, but Finch saved prettily.

From another scrum the visitors' halves got possession and sent out to Hailing, who kicked to inside the home half. Roberts replied, but Finch returned with interest, leaving play in Gloucester territory. For an infringement Cheltenham were penalised, Percy Stout sending into touch. Cheltenham gained a few yards by the aid of a useful punt by one of their backs, but a free kick by Goddard enabled the home team to get beyond the half-way mark.

A fine rush by the Gloucester forwards looked dangerous for the Town, but Daunter saved nicely. An exchange of kicks followed between the rival backs, and then the city front rank, with Roberts, went away with a grand burst. The ball was taken to within a few yards of the Cheltenham line, and a general scramble ensued, but the ball was declared to be held outside. From the ensuing scrum the visiting forwards were prominent with some capital footwork which relieved their lines splendidly.

Now ensued some fast loose play, in which both teams were conspicuous. The ball was eventually kicked to Hailing, but the Cheltenham captain fumbled badly, and Taylor collared him before he could move a yard. A smart punt by Gamble on the right wing was well replied to by Hipwood, and operations were again contested on the centre mark.

The visitors made a few yards, but at length Taylor got a pass out to him. After running some dozen yards or so the city captain punted over his opponents' heads, and racing up again, secured possession of the leather, concluding a very fine individual effort by scoring behind the posts. Percy Stout easily converted.

Cheltenham restarted, and play settled down at half way. Car Cummings at length got away down the touch line, and the Gloucester forwards ably seconding his efforts Cheltenham were again pressed.

A pass out from the centre to Taylor gave the latter another opportunity, but though he ran and kicked well, the city captain failed to repeat his earlier performance. The effort, however, led to a sharp attack on the Cheltonian's lines, and the visitors were kept busy for a minute or two.

Bit by bit Cheltenham got out of danger, the ball eventually finding touch just outside their 25 flag. Here Roberts threw out to Rose, and the latter securing a good opening ran to Daunter, when he passed neatly to Taylor, allowing the latter to run behind the posts. P. Stout again kicked the goal.

On the restart play was very fast and interesting. The Cheltenham forwards, taking advantage of a weak kick by one of the home backs, got practically a clear opening, but just as they looked dangerous Percy Stout dashed up, and picking up the ball very smartly, got in a fine screw kick into touch near the centre.

Gloucester now pressed severely, and Cheltenham had all their work cut out to defend their lines. Roberts and Cummings got the ball out cleverly, and passing between Percy Stout and Clutterbuck gave the latter an opening, which he put to good use, dashing over the line with a capital try. P. Stout was again entrusted with the place-kick, but a fine shot just failed.

Cheltenham dropped out, but almost immediately Gloucester returned to the attack. Roberts was prominent with a good pass out to P. Stout, and the centre, running strongly, eluded all opposition and scored about a dozen yards wide of the posts. The same player converted, and thus, after only about twenty minutes' play, Gloucester held the substantial lead of 18 points to nil.

The visitors restarted from the centre, and by aid of some good forward work kept the game near the centre. the Cheltenham backs kicked at every conceivable opportunity, and by this means held their own for a time. A capital wheel by the Town front rank elicited well-deserved applause from the spectators, but the visitors were not allowed to go far.

A minute later, however, a pretty bit of work by Cook and Organ carried play to near the goal line. Roberts was instrumental in bringing relief, but after a spell of even play Cheltenham worked back, and eventually forced the home men to touch down.

Percy Stout dropped out, and Daunter being tackled before he could get in a reply, play opened in the Town half. The home forwards made a good attempt to get away from the ensuing scrum, but they were checked. Immediately after the interval was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester .....	3 goals, 1 try
Cheltenham .....	Nil

Cheltenham commenced the second half, and the first prominent piece of play was a grand dribble by the Gloucester forwards (F. Stout and Click leading) to well beyond half-way. Daunter had to carry the ball into touch, but from the line-out the City front rank again got away, and Cheltenham were early called upon to defend. Roberts was conspicuous by getting away from a scrum, but when he looked like going in the whistle went. Still the home team pressed, and from an attempt to drop a goal from a penalty Cheltenham had to concede a minor.

The drop out brought little or no relief to Cheltenham, and in a very short time Gloucester were busy round their opponents' goal. Once or twice the City fifteen seemed bound to score, but the visitors saved well, Gamble getting in one clever kick when sorely pressed. Though Gloucester were having decidedly the better of the exchanges, the game just now was of a very scrambling description, there being no sort of combination on either side.

By the aid of lucky loose kicks Cheltenham conveyed play to Gloucester territory, but Percy Stout with a fine punt quickly transferred operations to the other end. The city team now made every effort to effect a score, but there was something wanting in combination. Percy Stout was at fault on two occasions in his passing when there were good chances of a score. A penalty kick fell to Gloucester for an infringement by the Cheltenham halves, but Percy Stout failed in his attempt at goal, though the effort was a good one.

Play now ruled entirely in favour of Gloucester, but despite determined efforts their attempts were not rewarded with success. Roberts, P. Stout, and Clutterbuck took part in one very pretty piece of play, and it seemed odds on the visitors' line being crossed, but Hailing tackled splendidly.

Though continuing to have all the worst of the game, Cheltenham defended well, and maintained the pace which was set up. Cook and Hailing with useful kicks gave Cheltenham a slight advantage for a brief period, but Hipwood was in fine form, and generally replied with interest.

Time was now fast drawing to a close, and bearing this in mind the home team redoubled their efforts to score. With a splendid combined rush play was taken close to the Cheltenham line, a throw-out taking place a few yards outside. Cummings placed the ball nicely into Clutterbuck's hands, and the three-quarter with a fine burst scored amidst hearty cheering. P. Stout essayed the kick at goal, but was unsuccessful.

On the resumption being made Cummings distinguished himself with a smart run, and passing to Frank Stout, the International reached the centre flag before being pushed into touch. From a scrum which followed Cummings handed out behind, but the ball was snapped up by Hailing, who got a fine opening. Clutterbuck, however, was on the alert, and brought the Cheltenham captain down in fine style.

The concluding few minutes' play was very fast and open, but was slightly in favour of Gloucester. From a kick across the ground the ball got into the open, and Percy Stout, Clutterbuck, and a Cheltenham man went for possession. The visitor missed his opportunity, and Stout securing dodged one or two opponents near, and then made off down the field at a rare pace. He beat several men in the course of his journey very cleverly, and making rings round Daunter, concluded a magnificent effort by placing the ball behind the posts, amid considerable cheering. The same player took the place kick, and easily added the extra points.

Immediately after the kick the referee's whistle sounded "No side."

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 4 goals, 2 tries (26 points)  
Cheltenham ..... Nil

REMARKS ON THE GAME

The extent of Gloucester's victory is sufficient indication of how the game went. Almost from the start Cheltenham were a beaten team, and subsequent play revealed the fact, and in no uncertain manner, of their utter inability to cope with a first-class combination. It is not too much to say the visitors were completely outclassed in every department, and this was the Gloucesters being on anything but their best behaviour.

Had Gloucester utilised a decent proportion of the chances which came in their way the number of points would have reached something like 50 instead of 26. With the game so very much in favour of Gloucester, there is no need to draw comparisons between the rival teams. It may be remarked, however, that the fifteen which represented the Town to-day was nothing like such a smart all-round combination which appeared at Kingsholm last season. The backs, with the exception of Hailing, were of quite a secondary order, and were simply out of the hunt when the ball got in the open. The Cheltenham captain, as usual, did an immense amount of defensive work, and without him the Town team would have suffered severely.

Hailing got practically no opportunities to shine in attack, but though idle in this respect he was continually on the go, his presence being required on both wings in turn. Finch, Phipps, and Gamble, the ex-Gloucestrians, kicked well, but this is about the only thing that can be said in their favour. At full back Daunter several times got his side out of danger, but on the day's play he was clearly overshadowed by the Gloucester custodian, about whose display anon.

The Cheltenham forwards played a hard and plucky game, but the pack undoubtedly requires more weight. At times they gave the City front some trouble, but it never amounted to anything very serious. Fisher, Nolder, and G. Davis were the most prominent of the lot for individual work, the former doing some fine tackling.

With regard to the Gloucester team, there was an improvement on last week's display, though the form has not yet reached the high standard expected. The forwards, when they liked, rushed the opposing eight all over the field, but there were times when they got very ragged, especially in scrimmage work. In the loose the city men were seen to conspicuous advantage, some of the rushes (especially from the lines-out) being carried out in splendid style. For individual merit Williams was again in grand trim, and was generally noticeable in any onward movement. The vice-captain was ably seconded by Rose and Frank Stout; whilst Pitt, Goulding, and Click did excellent work.

At half-back Roberts made an exceedingly creditable first appearance, and should do well in subsequent matches. He is particularly smart in getting away from the scrum, and has one particularly good point in his play – [he] lets the ball go clean and often. Considering Car Cummings was again called upon practically at the last moment he did well, and proved himself a very capable substitute for Stephens. The players forming the three-quarter line exhibited very little combination, and this is undoubtedly the great weakness of the quartette. Individually each player did well, though Goddard was not so conspicuous as against Clifton.



Percy Stout again proved what a very fine individual player he is, but it does seem a pity he cannot master the art of giving and taking a pass. Stout's try at the finish was worth going a long way to see; it was a real beauty and thoroughly deserved the hearty applause which greeted it.

Taylor and Clutterbuck were in excellent form on the respective wings, and fairly tied up Messrs. Phipps and Gamble. One of the features of the match was the very fine display given by Hipwood at full back. The Gloucester custodian fairly surpassed himself, his kicking all through being of good length and well judged. In every other department, too, Hipwood shone, and we never noticed him make one single mistake.

The gate money amounted to £26 8s., as against £20 last year.

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