

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1898

## TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. OLD EDWARDIANS

A POOR EXHIBITION OF FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER JUST MANAGED TO WIN

Dull weather favoured the return fixture between these clubs at Kingsholm this afternoon. Gloucester were again very weak, the absentees including the Brothers Stout, Hall, Goulding, and Pitt, besides Broady and Stephens. The visitors brought a good side. The ground was in grand condition, but the attendance was moderate – under 2,000. The players took the field at 3.20, the men lining up in the following order : –

GLOUCESTER	Positions	EDWARDIANS
B. Hipwood	Backs	H. C. Caldicott
W. H. Taylor (capt.)	Three-quarters	W. A. Marris
F. M. Luce	"	H. Walford
J. Cook	"	A. Fox
G. F. Clutterbuck	"	C. Flewitt
Car Cummings	Half-backs	H. W. Goodman
J. Barnes	"	H. S. Nicol
C. Williams	Forwards	J. Taplin
C. Rose	"	J. Turner
T. Hatherall	"	C. Walford
A. H. Click	"	A. C. Rock
P. Holder	"	A. Brawn
W. Hughes	"	F. French
G. H. Smith	"	A. Slater
B. L. Watkins	"	H. B. Carslake

Referee : Mr. G. Page (Gloucester County Union)

## THE GAME

The visitors won the toss, and Watkins kicked off from the Worcester-street goal against a slight breeze. The ball dropped into touch near the Edwardians' 25 flag. From the line-out the home men made a few yards, but a flying kick by one of the visiting backs sent the leather to Cummings, who was immediately held. The ball got loose, and it was kicked down to Hipwood, who got in a good return, and, following up, charged down the reply.

**Play hovered in the** visitors' half for a couple of minutes until their front rank got off with a useful dribble, which Hipwood saved. The Gloucester halves getting possession a couple of bouts of passing were witnessed, but faulty handling spoiled the movements in each instance. A clever punt by Watkins sent the leather well into touch inside the Edwardians' half. Here Cummings sent out a nice pass to Barnes, but the latter was tackled before he could move.

By smart forward work the Old Boys reached the centre, where Cook effected a clever pick up and kick with several opponents almost on top of him. The visitors got the better of subsequent scrums, and were prominent with some good footwork, which caused the home backs a good deal of anxiety. Slater picking up on some loose play and handing to Fox, the latter tried hard to get away. He was, however, safely held, as was also Marris, who received from his colleague.

Ensuing play was very scrambling, and there were loud shouts to the Gloucester men to play up. For several minutes operations were contested at the centre, but at length Chick and Watkins burst away grandly from a line out, but a knock-on spoilt a good opening. Gloucester were now within scoring distance of their opponents' line, and Barnes tried to put Clutterbuck in on the left wing, but the effort was not attended with success. The home team, however, continued on the aggressive, and Click, picking up out of some loose play, started a bout of passing. The ball went rapidly across to Taylor, and the captain made a superb effort to cross in the corner, but he was pushed into touch a yard or two outside the line.

The Edwardians were severely pressed for a minute or two, but they eventually gained relief by a good kick. The visitors gradually worked out to the centre, where Marris charged down a reply of Hipwood's. The ball rebounded towards the Gloucester goal, and the Old Boys had a splendid opportunity of scoring, but they failed ignominiously to retain possession of the ball, and Gloucester managed to save.

Ensuing play was of a most extraordinary description, the players on both sides making some shocking mistakes. The Gloucester line had another narrow escape, through bad handling, but the visitors were equally at fault. A good rush of the Gloucester forwards, headed by Click, Watkins, and Hatherall, enabled the city team to get beyond the centre. Here Luce intercepted a pass from Nicol to Fox, and the Oxonian secured a splendid opening. In dodging the full-back, however, he stumbled and fell, and no other Gloucester man being up, a good chance was thrown away. The Edwardians had the better of matters to the interval, but there was no score.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester .....	Nil
Edwardians .....	Nil

The visitors re-started, play opening in the Gloucester half. Cummings distinguished himself with a short run and kick, the ball going down to Caldicott. Taylor raced up and prevented a return, but for an infringement the home side were penalised. Cummings mulled the return, and Barnes was forced to kick into touch some yards back.

By capital forward work the Edwardians rushed the home men into their half, and once or twice they looked likely to score. Nicol went very close after a strong burst, and then Marris, intercepting a pass from Barnes, was only stopped a few yards outside.

Matters looked very black for Gloucester, but eventually relief was gained by a strong forward burst. The ball was taken down the field at a good rate, and Caldicott was tackled in his own 25 before he could get rid of the ball.

Gloucester now attacked strongly, but more mistakes in passing enabled the visitors to get clear. Here Marris snapped a pass intended for Clutterbuck, and got clear, but Hipwood brought him down. Immediately after another Edwardian got clear to the Gloucester custodian, but the latter stopped his man finely.

By useful kicking the Edwardians reached the home quarters, where Taylor got hold from some open play. Racing away the City captain eluded two or three opponents immediately in attendance and though hotly pressed down the touch-line he finished up a magnificent run by scoring behind the posts amidst tremendous cheering. Clutterbuck added the extra points.

On the restart, Taylor was prominent with two more runs, but he was unable to get clear. The visitors screwed the scrums in capital style, and often made ground by loose dribbling. Gloucester, however, were having most of the play just now, and Luce and Clutterbuck, by some neat inter-passing, got well inside the Edwardians' 25. The defence, however, was too strong to penetrate.

Hostilities were now wholly confined to the visitors' end, but the City team could not seem to get going properly. The forwards executed several fine rushes, but the passing of the backs was too slow, and as often as not was intercepted by the opposing three-quarters, who stood well on the Gloucester side of the scrum.

The Old Boys made determined efforts to cross towards the close of the game, but their attacks were beaten off, and at the finish play hovered in the visitors' half.

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 1 goal (5 points)  
Edwardians ..... Nil

## REMARKS

The game calls for but very little comment. Indeed, the less said about it the better. It was the poorest exhibition of football seen at Kingsholm for many a long day, and the spectators had good cause to complain.

To sum up the match briefly, it was almost one continual series of execrable fumbling, and in this respect one side was as bad as the other. At times the players were scrambling about in a most ridiculous manner, which drew from the crowd ironical remarks.

The visitors, as usual, played a vigorous forward game, and had a pull over the home pack taking the play throughout. Both sides had several opportunities of scoring, and how the Old Boys missed on one occasion was nothing short of marvellous.

Behind the combination was absolutely lacking. Taylor's try was a magnificent effort, and his brilliant run certainly stood out as the redeeming feature of the match.

" GOOD OLD GLOUCESTER ! "

Previous to the commencement of the game, Councillor J. B. Kara addressed the company in the enclosure, and moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. J. M. Collett, and carried : –

"That the members of the Gloucester Rugby Football Club beg to thank the players in both first and second teams for the very excellent play shown by them during the present season especially, and although the much-talked-of records have received a slight check, we feel certain the teams, led by their able captains, will continue to uphold the reputation of good old Gloucester."

## GLOUCESTER A v. OLD EDWARDIANS A

### DECISIVE VICTORY FOR GLOUCESTER

Played at Moseley. The Old Boys were poorly represented. From the start it was seen the home team would be no match for their heavier opponents. The visitors secured four tries before the interval – James, Hall, Mills, and Goddard – one of which was converted.

In the second half Hall, James (twice), Manley, Goddard, Lansley, and Oswell got over. Three of these were converted. It was a one-sided game.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 4 goals 7 tries (41 points)  
Edwardians A ..... Nil