

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1913

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. OLD MERCHANT TAYLORS

FINELY CONTESTED GAME

TAYLORS DEFEATED BY SIX POINTS

Owing to Mr. Parkes, the appointed referee, being unable to fulfil his appointment, Mr. R. A. Roberts officiated. The Taylors kicked off, but the ball failing to go ten yards a scrum followed at the centre. The visitors heeled, but Baker robbed Ryan and punted, but the ball was charged down. Some loose work ended favourably to Gloucester, but the Taylors retaliated, only to be checked by a clever pick up and punt by Hamblin.

A good kick took the City down, and the ball came out nicely to the backs, but Lewis held on instead of passing, and was collared. Baker was again prominent with some good work, but Fuller gave the Londoners the advantage of position with a lovely touch-finder. Working well together, the visitors got close, but two or three attempts to beat the defence failed.

Some scrappy passing by the Taylors broke down, and Gloucester had a chance of clearing, but Will recovered beautifully, though Cook marked cleverly from his cross punt. The kick brought Gloucester out to the centre, where some fast play was witnessed.

Taking advantage of a forward pass by a visitor, Gloucester gained a few yards, and then Halford headed a splendid rush which was finely checked by Sanders. The City gained a free, and Hamblin dropped for goal, but the ball fell short.

The same player a minute later attempted a break through, but he was tackled and Sanders securing punted to Cook. The latter cross-kicked for his centre, but the deceptive wind took the ball away and it fell into the arms of Roe, who passed to Fuller. The latter yielded to Will, who inside his own half had practically a clear field. Putting on full speed the Scottish International was never approached, and finished a fine effort by scoring behind the posts. The easy place kick failed.

Resuming, some fine work was witnessed on both sides. A grand bit of individual play by Smart took the ball past all opposition, but Sanders running back managed to touch down. Following the drop-out the Gloucester backs showed up with a brilliant piece of combination. Hamblin slipped between Fuller and Roe, and, handing nicely to Lewis, the latter fed Webb, who raced over with the equalising try in fine style. Hamblin missed the goal kick.

There was no abatement in the pace of the game on the resumption. Gloucester were doing very well, and early got on the attack. From a drop at goal by Cook one of the visiting backs fumbled, and Lewis being up he took the ball over the line and scored amidst great enthusiasm. Hamblin's shot at goal hit the upright.

Gloucester, who had the assistance of the high wind, secured a good position on the drop out, thanks to Hayes, who found touch with a good kick. Then Lawson, dribbling cleverly, took the ball cleverly past the opposition and over the line, only to see a visitor touch down in the nick of time. Play continued in the City's favour, and the Taylors being kept mainly on the defensive.

Hamblin was prominent with a clever screw kick which pulled up a rush of the Taylors' forwards, and then Hall tried a burst through, but was brought down before going many yards. Halford and Lawson, with good footwork, gave Sanders trouble, but a knock-on saved the visitors. Gloucester worked hard to increase their lead, but the tackling of the Old Boys was very deadly.

A lobbing pass by a Gloucester man spoiled any chance the home backs might have had when well placed, for the ball was captured by an opponent. Some hard scrummaging followed, ending in Ryan picking up in the loose and sending to Will, who skirted past Webb and ran down to Cook, who pushed him to touch. Gloucester came right away with a splendid burst, and further headway was made from a line-out. Working well together Gloucester had another possible chance, but Sanders relieved in marvellous style.

Next Hamblin cut through nicely, but sent a low pass to Lewis, who knocked on. The Taylors gained more favourable quarters after this, but Lawson opening out, Hamblin brought off a fine run. He beat Roe cleverly, but cutting inside he was tackled. Play was well inside the Taylors' 25 when Baker fed Hall, who burst through and looked all over a scorer. He, however, stumbled and fell when within a few yards of the mark, and though he threw out a pass to Lewis it was not accepted, the ball rolling over the line and Will touching down. Ensuing play to the interval was fast and very even.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	2 tries
Taylors	1 try

A lead of one try to the City, considering they had the advantage of the wind was none too safe a margin, and a desperate second half was promised. Halford resumed, and the ball going to touch a scrum followed at the centre mark. Some scrambling play ensued ending in Gloucester kicking down the field to touch well inside the Taylors' half. Here Baker and Smart cleverly deceived their opponents with the line out, and the pair interpassing, Baker slipped over with a good try. Hamblin made a grand attempt at conversion.

Hayes and Cook collided in taking the drop out owing to a misunderstanding, but the former managed to recover and kick to touch. Passing by Gloucester broke down twice in quick succession, and this mistake led to a sharp attack on the home line. The Taylors made repeated efforts to cross in the corner, but they were kept out by determined tackling.

Then in opening out Lewis intercepted a Taylor's pass and raced down the field. He eventually passed to Hamblin and received back again, but with an open field and Will at his heels, he could not get away, and was collared from behind. A big kick by Sanders sent the Taylors back; but Lewis and Webb with neat play at once returned for Gloucester, who soon afterwards forced a minor.

The City got on the attack on the drop out through Hamblin, but after the centre had cleared nicely he stumbled and spoilt his pass to Washbourn, who, however, went very close. Gloucester were nearly over from a line out again, but a big effort by the Taylors brought relief.

Some splendid individual runs roused the enthusiasm of the crowd to a high pitch. Will and Fuller did well for the Taylors, and next came a grand run by Lewis, who feinted to pass and went right away. With a try in view he was partially collared, and though he let the ball go, the visitors saved. Gloucester, however, had secured a good position in front of the posts, and Lawson dribbling over the line touched down smartly near the posts. Hamblin just missed the goal points.

Though three tries in arrears, the Taylors played up splendidly, and had the better of subsequent exchanges. The visitors took full advantage of the wind, and one big kick found touch inside the Gloucester 25. Will, receiving from Fuller, made a strong attempt to dash through, but he was successfully tackled, though Lewis and Webb were both slightly injured.

After this the Taylors twice caused Gloucester to touch down, Will being very close up on one occasion. The City put in some strong work on the resumption, but Sanders was doing fine work in defence. The Taylors returned with nice footwork, and Ryan feeding Will, the latter sprinted and kicked over the line, but the ball went dead. Webb was seen to advantage following the drop out, but the ground he gained was quickly recovered by the Taylors, who kept the home men busy. Off-side by Baker in his own 25 gave the visitors a penalty, and Ryan landed a lovely goal amidst cheers.

Gloucester resumed, and Halford was to the fore with a good bit of footwork, which, however, was checked in time. The City opened out, but Lewis, who was suffering with a bad shoulder, could not handle the ball, and the movement was stopped. Lewis evidently had been in great pain for some few minutes, and he wisely decided to retire from the field. Washbourn took his place at centre, and A. Cook came out on the wing.

Immediately Hall shone with a splendid dash, and Cook took the ball further ahead. Baker still added to Gloucester's advantage, but the attack was beaten off. The Taylors' with good work reached the home half, where Washbourn intercepted and ran clear. He, however, was overhauled by Will after he had beaten Sanders. The ball getting loose, Smart picked up and tried to get through, but his effort failed, and the end came.

RESULT :

Gloucester	4 tries (12 points)
Taylors	1 goal (p) 1 try (6 points)

REMARKS.

A finely contested game, and fully in keeping with the sporting standard the rival teams have set up for so many years. There was scarcely a dull moment throughout, and though the erratic wind and greasy state of the ball and ground caused mistakes to be made, there was so much in the football that was first-class that the errors made by players were forgotten.

The Taylors sustained the reputation they have gained this season as a fine team, and though beaten to-day on their merits, Gloucester had to work desperately for winning points. The forwards were well matched, and both packs – individually and collectively – put in a tremendous amount of hard work. At half-back, Baker had the pull over his rival at the scrum, the Gloucester player doing excellently in attack and defence. Hall, too, opened out well, despite the close attentions paid to him.

At three-quarter the home line gave a clever display at times, but the man who attracted most attention behind was Will, the Cambridge flyer. The Taylors played to the Scottish International for all they were worth, and Will did not disappoint. His try was a lovely effort, and on two distinct occasions in the second half it was the Light Blue's pace that prevented Gloucester scoring tries. Fuller and Roe were more than useful, and Sanders was fine at full-back. Cook, fortunately recovered from his injury at Llanelly, also played a capital game.

Mr. R. V. Stanley, a member of the English Selection Committee, was present at the match, and I am informed that Lionel Hamblin is again a reserve for England next week, and Baker is on the reserves for The Rest.

Alec Lewis suffered from a bruised shoulder, and will be out of the City team to oppose Cheltenham to-morrow, S. Sysum filling the vacancy.

The collection made on the ground for the Gloucester Schools Union realised £7 0s. 10½d., and the officials desired to return thanks for the generous response to their appeal.