

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1906

## TO-DAY'S MATCHES

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM

WEAK CITY TEAM AT KINGSHOLM

CHELTENHAM'S AMBITION REALISED

CITY BEATEN AFTER A HARD GAME

Unfortunately for the success of this match at Kingsholm to-day Gloucester were sadly weakened owing to injuries to players and other causes, no fewer than seven reserves having to be called upon to replace Gent, Parham, Wood, G. Vears, Merchant, Holder, and Johns. The absence of Wood necessitated "Whacker" Smith playing centre, the wing position being filled by L. Vears. The other vacancies were filled by second teamers, three of whom (James, Pearce, and Hollands) were making their first appearance with the senior team. Cheltenham were short of Champain and G. Marsden.

There was a capital attendance of spectators when at 3.15 the teams took the field as follows :—

Gloucester. — G. Romans, back; A. Hudson, E. Hall, C. Smith (capt.), and L. Vears, three-quarter backs; J. Stephens and A. Hall, half-backs; H. Collins, G. Matthews, W. J. Pearce, D. Hollands, A. Hawker, R. James, A. Purton, and F. Pegler, forwards.

Cheltenham. — B. Davey, back; C. Clifford, Lieut. A. Marsden, R.N., F. Fry, and L. W. Hayward, three-quarter backs; A. Goddard and G. T. Unwin (captain), half-backs; G. Cossens, H. Manley, C. Barnett, C. Bennett, W. N. Unwin, J. V. Bedell-Sivright, T. Clarke, and H. Quixley, forwards.

Referee : Mr. J. Milburn (Bristol).

## THE GAME

Bedell-Sivright appeared on the ground as the players took the field, and after consultation with G. Unwin, H. Pearce (who was out as reserve) retired in order to allow the old Scottish International to play. Meantime the teams were kept waiting until Sivright changed.

Cheltenham were successful in the toss, and Hawker kicked off, the ball going to G. Unwin. The Cheltenham captain fumbled, but recovered, and got in a kick to touch just outside his 25. Stephens gained a few yards with a neat kick, but G. Unwin dribbled out to more favourable quarters. Weak punts by E. Hall lost Gloucester ground and G. Unwin, with a timely kick, found touch at the centre.

From a scrum Cheltenham heeled, but A. Hall beat Unwin cleverly and dribbled some 20 yards before the ball went out of play. The Cheltenham pack again got possession, and from passing Marsden punted down the field. Hayward raced up and tried to gather, but he was thrown to touch by Hudson.

In some loose play Stephens picked up and punted, and the ball hitting a Cheltenham forward the City men were put on side. Purton gathered and punted, but the movement was checked at the centre. Here A. Hall was given possession at the scrum, and the Gloucester backs shone in a beautiful bout of passing. Vears was the last to receive, and the wing man made a bold bid for a score, but was held outside.

Cheltenham were severely pressed now, and had E. Hall taken a pass from Smith a score might have resulted. As it was Hudson, who got possession, put in a cross-kick to the Cheltenham goal-line, a knock-on stopping operations. G. Unwin was instrumental in changing the venue to more favourable quarters, but a good rush by the City forwards gave Gloucester an advantage. Off-side by Cheltenham gave the home team a penalty, and with a lovely kick Romans found touch inside the Cheltenham 25.

The Town forwards got away with a capital burst, but Stephens checked them nicely. A. Hall, with neat play, set Gloucester going, but Hayward fielded a kick and tried to break away. He was, however, surrounded, and brought down heavily, being slightly stunned in falling. The Cheltonian, however, soon resumed.

The Town benefitted by a couple of penalties for off-side by the home men, G. Unwin putting in some good touch-kicks. The Town captain made further headway, but the City forwards, with a splendid burst, replied, only to see Hayward effect a clever save. Cheltenham were next penalised twice in quick succession, and Romans, with the resultant kicks, gained ground for Gloucester.

G. Unwin checked a dangerous move by the City front rank, and later Clarke got in a clever dribble to Romans. The latter, however, effected a good save. Clever work by Stephens was well supported by Pegler, who led a sharp attack on the Cheltenham line. A. Hall fielding the ball nicely, passed to James, who sent to Collins, but the latter was at once smothered by Marsden. Gloucester were penalised, and following an exchange of kicks A. Hall marked. From ten yards inside the half-way, Romans had a shot for goal, a fine attempt just falling short of the cross-bar.

Some hot forward work followed the drop out, both sides doing splendidly in the loose. Gloucester eventually heeled, but the passing was smothered, and C. Barnett kicked down to Romans. The latter punted straight to Fry, who had a good opening, but he failed to take the ball, which rolled out of his arms to touch. From the ensuing line-out the Town forwards dribbled away, but Stephens saved in daring fashion.

Cheltenham, however, progressed further, and the Gloucester defence was tested. From a pass by G. Unwin, Hayward attempted to break through, but he was well tackled by Hudson, and the ball rolling away A. Hall kicked to Davey, who sent the ball dead with his return. On the drop out, Gloucester worked to midfield, where some strenuous forward work was witnessed.

At length Goddard opened out, but G. Unwin failed to clear. Fry, however, came inside and took a pass, and the ball being dropped the Town forwards rushed away, being only stopped in the nick of time.

Following this effort the Cheltenham backs made a nice opening, but Hayward held too long, and was pulled down by C. Smith. Ensuing play was fast and even, but Stephens at length put Gloucester in a good position with a capital kick. Davey made a mark, and directly he had kicked half-time was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester ..... Nil  
Cheltenham ..... Nil

W. Unwin re-started, and the return by Romans went to touch inside the home half. Gloucester heeled from the first scrum, and the ball went across the ground to Hudson. The latter put in a short punt, and E. Hall racing up was only just robbed of possession with a possible opening.

The Cheltenham forwards, headed by Sivright, rushed back, but Matthews gathered and punted to Davey, who returned well. Keen play followed at the centre, until Sivright dribbled finely for 20 yards. Gloucester saved, and Vears, getting a pass from Stephens, punted high to Davey, who misfielded, but recovered and sent to touch.

G. Unwin transferred play to the home end with a pretty touch kick, but E. Hall replied with similar tactics, and Gloucester gained a footing in their opponent's half. Cheltenham worked hard to remove the game, but they were held splendidly. Then Romans, with a beautiful kick, found touch ten yards from the line.

In the line-out Cheltenham broke away, and the Gloucester backs failing to gather, the Town came out to the centre. Here Marsden fielded in some loose play, and he only had Romans facing him. The Cheltonian, however, threw out a long pass to the wing, and Gloucester easily saved.

L. Vears was prominent just now with some clever play, which gave Gloucester an advantage. Desperate work ensued, both teams working with great energy. Gloucester looked like getting away, but Hudson was upset by Fry. From this point Sivright dribbled grandly and Cheltenham were not stopped until the home 25 was reached. Here Goddard and G. Unwin worked the blind side of the scrum, but the Town captain was pushed to touch.

Stephens, with a clever kick, sent to Davey, who was floored by Hudson before he could reply. Gloucester tried hard to take advantage of this smartness, but the town got round and saved. Subsequent play was keenly contested, but there was little back work. Cheltenham once tried a passing bout, but the exchanges were too slow to be effective. Gloucester rushed a scrum in fine style, but G. Unwin picked up, and with a dodgy run cleared several opponents in fine style. His pass was taken by Marsden, who punted to the Gloucester quarter.

Cheltenham now worked strenuously for a score, and Gloucester were severely pressed. L. Vears cleared with a useful punt to touch, but the City could not get out of their quarter. Then Stephens, in trying to clear, had his kick charged down by Clifford, who fielded and ran over with a try amidst the cheers of the Cheltenham supporters. Sivright failed at goal.

Resuming, play was contested at a fast pace at mid-field. Gloucester tried to open out, and three times in succession the home forwards heeled. The passing, however, broke down.

Gloucester continued to have the better of the exchanges, and one passing bout looked promising, but Hayward brought down Hudson grandly, and prevented further progression.

The home team made a final spurt just before the end, but they were successfully repulsed.

RESULT :

Cheltenham ..... 1 try (3 points)  
Gloucester ..... Nil

## REMARKS

Cheltenham have at last achieved their great ambition in beating Gloucester at Kingsholm, and on the day's play the Town just about deserved the spoils. We had great doubts in the ability of the weakened City team being equal to the task imposed upon them, and they failed just where we expected – forward. The Reserves called upon by no means did badly; they were plucky and fought desperately throughout, but the extra weight and experience of the Cheltenham men told its tale.

The first half of the game showed Gloucester in a favourable light, and the City ought to have been a few points up on the run of the play. Gloucester's attack, however, was lacking in finish, and one or two good chances went astray. The nearest approach to a score was when Vears was held up just outside the right corner. The movement which led up to this effort deserved a tangible score, though Clifford's grand tackle for Cheltenham should not be lost sight of.

In the second half both teams were dangerous, but Cheltenham had slightly the better of the play. The Town forwards took a lot of stopping when on the move, and only a steady and sound defence kept the City's lines intact. It was unfortunate for Gloucester, after holding out so long, to give away the only score of the match, but Clifford took full advantage of his smartness in charging down Stephens' kick.

It was a gruelling contest from start to finish, and the pace generally was very fast. The game was not productive of any brilliant back play; the passing for the most part was too mechanical, whilst the close tackling prevented many openings being made.

Towards the end the Gloucester backs got the ball frequently, but they never looked like pressing the attack home to a successful finish. There were some splendid individual bits of play witnessed during the game, and in this respect G. T. Unwin and L. Vears shone for their respective sides.

Unwin contributed in a large measure to his side's success, and the Town captain has not been seen to better advantage for a long time. With well-judged kicks he frequently gained large slices of ground, and this also had the effect of saving his forwards a lot of hard work. Goddard was sharp at the scrum – too sharp at times – but he and Albert Hall were well matched. Stephens tried his hardest to turn the game in his side's favour, and did the work of two men at times.

Forward, the City eight gave a downright plucky display. They were opposed to a strong pack, who played with dash and determination, but the home men never gave in and stuck to their work splendidly. James and Pearce, of the recruits, made a creditable show, and should train into useful players for the premier team. Of the old hands, Pegler and Matthews were always to the fore, and Hawker put in a lot of sound work. Cheltenham were splendidly served by Sivright and Barnett, both of whom were brilliant in the loose. W. N. Unwin was useful as wing forward, whilst for solid scrummaging Bennett, Cossens, and Quixley were among the best.

At three-quarter neither side showed much combination. For Gloucester, L. Vears was the most successful player on the line, and the City Club are greatly indebted to him for turning out. "Whacker" Smith tackled in characteristic fashion, but in attacking movements he was not a great success. E. Hall was not over prominent, and Hudson did not shine to any great extent.

Cheltenham were best served by Hayward, who was smart all through. Marsden did one or two good things, but Fry and Clifford were not often called upon. The latter, however, had the honour of scoring the try, and this no doubt made him the proudest man of the team. Romans and Davey, at full-back, gave little away, and there was not much to choose between them. Naturally Cheltenham's win was hailed with enthusiasm by their supporters, of whom there was a large company present. Without wishing to detract from the merit of the performance, however, it must be confessed the Town caught Gloucester at a very bad time. It is to be hoped when the teams meet again it will be on something like level terms.

## GLOUCESTER A v. WEST END

### CITY SECONDS WIN

On Castle Meadow. The City second string were weakened by the numerous calls made upon them for the premier team.

Play opened in the City team half, and a judicious cross kick by Sid Rust resulted in a scrum being formed right under the posts. Welshman brought some relief, but from a scrum on the 25, "Snowball" Hall got possession and dropped a magnificent goal.

Encouraged by this early success the West Enders continued to have the better of the game, but no score was effected.

Nearing the interval the Gloucester backs started a promising movement, and ended by dribbling very close to the line. Bloxsome cross kicked, and Draper gathered beautifully and scored under the posts. Welshman converted.

#### HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A .....	1 goal
West End .....	1 goal (d)

On the re-start West End pressed immediately, and a forward rush looked certain to end in a score. Welshman, however, dropped on the ball in daring fashion and saved.

For a subsequent scrum infringement Gloucester were penalised, and Sid Rust placed the West Enders two points ahead with a capital kick.

Arthur now began to get the ball to the backs with more success, and working the blind side he yielded to Bloxsome. The latter cut up the field at rare speed, and "Tinker" Smith completed the effort by dribbling past the back and scoring wide out. Welshman majorised with a really fine shot.



The game remained an open one, but at this stage it was apparent that the Seconds' backs were much too good for their opponents, and tries came in rapid succession from Butler, Hubert Smith, Savage, and "Tinker" Smith.

Jack Watts, the West End full back, who has already been reported to the County Union, was ordered to leave the field, presumably for "talking" to the referee, Mr. W. Thomas.

RESULT :

Gloucester A .....	5 goals, 1 try (28 pts)
West End .....	2 goals (1 d, 1 p) (7 pts)

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