

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1907

## TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

### GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM

The return meeting of these local rivals at Cheltenham proved a big attraction.

Owing to the frost the match in December had to be abandoned, and but for the foresight of the Town officials in covering the ground on Thursday there would have been another cancellation to-day.

Cheltenham were successful in the first match at Kingsholm by a try to nil, and Gloucester were anxious to avenge this defeat.

Unfortunately the City, as on the previous occasion, were again unable to field a representative team, the absentees including C. Smith, Stephens, and Johns. There was also a number of changes in the Cheltenham team.

There was an inspection of the ground by the rival captains and officials, and it was found that there was a lot of bone in it, besides being greasy on the top.

Eventually it was agreed to play, it being understood there would be no rough tackling.

A big crowd of visitors attended from Gloucester, and the gate, considering the uncertainty as to whether the match would be played, was a good one.

The teams took the field as follows : —

GLOUCESTER	Positions	CHELTENHAM
A. Wood	Backs.	F. Boite
F. Smith	Three-Quarter	F. Fry
A. Jones	Backs.	H. Hughes
H. Smith	"	H. Beck
F. Bloxsome	"	L. Hayward
D. R. Gent (capt.)	Half-Backs.	G. T. Unwin (capt.)
A. Hall	"	A. Goddard
B. Parham	"	W. N. Unwin
A. Hawker	Forwards.	H. E. Quixley
G. Vears	"	W. H. Williams
G. Matthews	"	C. S. Barnett
H. Collins	"	H. Manley
W. Holder	"	C. Bennett
J. Merchant	"	J. V. Bedell-Sivright
F. Pegler	"	T. Clarke

Referee : Mr. J. Milburn (Bristol).

Champaign was on the ground, but declined to play for Cheltenham, being of the opinion that the ground was unfit. A. Jones, who took Stephens' place at centre, was an assumed name taken by one of the Gloucestersians.

Gloucester won the toss, and Bedell-Sivright kicked off amidst considerable excitement. There was a good return, and the reply being fumbled, the Gloucester forwards burst away, but were stopped in the home half, before Cheltenham got down with a flying kick. Wood sent back with a splendid touch-finder. Breaking away from a line-out, Matthews dribbled beautifully to Boite, who saved on the line. Gloucester heeled smartly, but nothing resulted.

A minute later, however, Cheltenham conceded a minor, the result of a kick over the line. Following the drop-out Gent got possession and punted nicely, but the situation was quickly saved. Gloucester, however, went strongly for the line, and Parham was only stopped just in time. Goddard gave relief with a useful touch-kick, but Gloucester worked back, and the Town were hard pressed.

From a throw-out Merchant secured and passed to A. Hall, and a lovely bout of passing ensued, in which H. Smith, Jones, and F. Smith took part, and ended in the latter scoring in the corner. Wood failed at goal.

Cheltenham dropped out, and from A. Hall's return G. Unwin marked. The resultant kick gave Cheltenham a nice slice of ground near half-way. A Gloucester man passed wildly, and Bedell-Sivright coming through dribbled cleverly. The Gloucester defence was beaten, and Barnett picking up forced himself over with a try within three minutes of the Gloucester score. From near the touch-line Bedell-Sivright landed a fine goal, giving Cheltenham a two points' lead.

Gloucester resumed, and the pace was fast and play keen. Just inside the Town half Gent got the ball away in clever fashion, and exchanges followed between A. Hall and H. Smith, the latter yielding to "Jones," who cut through in fine style and passing at the right moment to Fred Smith, the wing man raced over with his second try. Wood failed at goal, though the attempt was a good one.

On the re-start some hard forward work was contested at the centre. Wheeling well the Town forwards rushed away in great style, and some neat exchanges nearly resulted in a score. Gloucester gained relief by the aid of a penalty, and midfield was the scene of operations.

Fumbling by the Town halves saw Gent pick up and try to open out, but the ball went astray. For an infringement Gloucester were penalised, and Jones allowed the ball to roll to touch close to the Gloucester line. A splendid kick by Wood changed the venue, and even play followed.

The slippery nature of the surface made foothold a difficulty, and several mistakes were made on both sides. Goddard spoiled Gent at the scrum, and the ball getting loose the Town forwards dribbled away. They were checked in time, and Wood sent Cheltenham back with some good kicks. The Town backs got the ball out, and Hughes cross-kicked to Hayward, but the latter was tackled.

Fred Smith here shone in a brilliant dribble, taking the ball down to Boite. There was a tackle, but H. Smith secured the ball and sent Collins in easily, but a forward pass was ruled. Gloucester immediately after put in some beautiful passing, but the defence could not be beaten. However, a minute later the visitors got off again, and a nice effort by Jones put Fred Smith in with another try. The place kick failed.

Cheltenham resumed, but were at once placed on the defensive. From a lovely movement, initiated by Gent, a certain try was worked out for Bloxsome, but he dropped the ball. Gloucester continued to display grand form, the backs combining splendidly. Jones was prominent with another smart effort, and A. Hall too was nearly through. Then H. Smith punted right under the posts, but off-side was given against Gloucester. Half-time was then called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 3 tries  
Cheltenham ..... 1 goal

Parham resumed for Gloucester with a big kick, the ball rolling over the line for a minor. Jones received the drop-out, and with a run and kick sent to touch in the home half. From the first scrum Goddard was penalised for off-side. Manley charged down Wood's kick, receiving a nasty smack in the face as a result. He was, however, soon able to resume.

The Town forwards heeling, the home backs tried passing, but Jones smothered Fry before he could move. Goddard was again penalised for off-side, and Wood gained a nice slice of ground with his kick. The Town forwards rushed back, and G. Unwin punted down to Wood, who gathered beautifully and put in a grand return. Some neat exchanges by the City backs and a capital run by Jones nearly defeated the defence, the latter, however, losing the ball in trying to field. Immediately after Gent got the ball out to Hall, who cut clean through, and yielding to Collins, the latter scored in a good position. Wood however missed the goal.

On the resumption the Town forwards were conspicuous with some good footwork, but Gloucester retaliated, and ensuing play was fought at midfield. Gent and Hall worked the blind side of the scrum prettily, but the latter's pass inside was knocked on. Gloucester looked likely to gain an opening through Merchant, but the ball was lost.

Getting possession, Cheltenham rushed away, but were checked in wonderful fashion by Wood, who gathered the ball at their feet, and got in a grand touch kick. Both packs were working with great energy, but not much heeling was witnessed for the next few minutes.

Cheltenham gained a footing in their opponents' half, and Hughes cross-kicked, only to see Jones make his mark. Wood took the kick and found touch well inside the Town half. Gloucester tried to open out the game a bit, but H. Smith could not clear the opposition. Next Bloxsome was smothered by Fry, and losing the ball Hughes picked up and punted over the line, Wood touching down.

Gloucester dropped out, and more strong forward play was witnessed. Cheltenham got the better, and following a combined rush another minor was recorded. Gloucester took up the running after the drop-out, and Boite was tackled a few yards outside his line by a couple of City forwards in a scramble over the pick up, and tried hard to break through, but he was held up and rushed to touch.

Cheltenham worked out of danger, only to see Gent feed his backs. H. Smith, however, got the ball with a couple of men well placed. A. Hall next tried hard to make an opening, but was tackled. Hughes, with a good kick, put Cheltenham close to the Gloucester line. From a scrum Goddard picked up and passed to G. Unwin, who scored, though he was apparently pushed to touch-in-goal. Gloucester appealed against the point, but it was allowed. The goal-kick failed. No side was immediately called.

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 4 tries (12 points)  
Cheltenham ..... 1 goal 1 try (8 points)