

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1907

TO-DAY'S MATCHES

GLOUCESTER v. EXETER

ANOTHER VISIT TO DEVON

A DRAWN GAME

For the second Saturday in succession the Gloucester team journeyed into Devon, to-day's engagement being the return fixture with Exeter. The first match ended in favour of Gloucester by 16 points to nil, but the score was rather flattering to the winners, as Exeter were a man short nearly the whole of the second half. Hubert Smith, Johns, and Stephens were absent from the Gloucester ranks to-day, but Exeter were strengthened by the inclusion of the Rev. C. F. Moore, who did not play at Kingsholm. Lieut. Start was unable to play, and Reed came in at three-quarter, whilst Finnimore played vice Kerswell at half. Start and Moore, by the way, formed one of the wings for Devon against Somerset, and they are again selected to operate against Kent next Wednesday. The teams were : —

GLOUCESTER	Positions	EXETER
A. Wood	Backs.	E. H. Bale-Brock
F. Smith	Three-Quarter	A. Harris
A. Hudson	Backs.	A. Skoines
C. Smith	"	— . Reed
F. Bloxsome	"	Rev. C. Moore
D. R. Gent (capt.)	Half-Backs.	— . Finnimore
A. Hall	"	R. Scoble
B. Parham	"	C. Gibbs
A. Hawker	Forwards.	T. Shorland
H. Collins	"	H. T. Lee
G. Vears	"	W. Pike
J. Merchant	"	H. Mills
W. Holder	"	W. Webber
G. Matthews	"	A. J. Record
F. Pegler	"	K. Goodman

Referee : Mr. T. E. R. Wood (Plymouth)

THE GAME

The weather was gloriously fine, and there was a fair attendance when Parham started for Gloucester. Some exchange kicking ended in favour of Exeter, who got inside the visitors' half. The Exeter forwards made further headway, and Gloucester only saved a few yards outside. Gent stopped a likely score in the next minute, but Gloucester were hard pressed. From a long throw-out Exeter got possession, and the ball being sent across to Reed, the latter sprinted past Bloxsome and scored in the corner three minutes from the start. The place kick failed.

Resuming, Gloucester at once worked down to their opponents' end, where Holder put in a strong burst. Subsequent exchanges saw C. Smith struggle through the opposition, but he was held up outside. The ball got loose, and Gloucester seemed bound to score, but Exeter saved luckily.

Play was contested in the home quarter, where Gent passed out, but the transfer went astray. Later the Gloucester three-quarters handled, but C. Smith knocked on badly. Further mistakes by the visitors were taken advantage of by Exeter, and Harris feeding Moore, the wing man beat Hudson cleverly and crossed with a fine try. The goal-kick hit one of the uprights, the ball rebounding into the field of play.

Gloucester re-started, and Gent and A. Hall opened out the game nicely, but a forward transfer spoiled the movement. Exeter cleared with a lucky flying kick, but Wood returned splendidly, and F. Smith tackled Moore on his line. The home team again cleared from the dangerous position, but for off-side they were penalised and Wood only just failed with the kick.

Gent was prominent with a smart run through and kick to touch. Fast play ensued, the Exeter backs handling well. Moore, however, fell a victim to Hudson and F. Smith this time. The home team reached the Gloucester end with good kicks, but Collins and Holder dribbled back finely and were nearly over.

Exeter worked out with strong forward play, and in turn attacked. The Gloucester backs fumbled badly when in possession and nearly gave another score away. Exeter attacked hotly again, but they were beaten off, and Gloucester got to mid-field. A bad miss by Hall lost a lot of ground, Scoble dribbling down to Wood, who saved.

Ensuing play was scrambling, but from a mis-kick by Skoines Bloxsome had a possible opening, but he was pulled down from behind as he was getting clear.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Exeter	2 tries
Gloucester	Nil

Exeter resumed, and for off-side Gloucester were early penalised. The home team were treated similarly almost immediately, so matters were level. A big kick by Holder placed Gloucester in a good position, and a passing bout looked promising. F. Smith, however, transferred forward to Hudson. From the next scrum Gent sent Hall away, and the latter handing to Hudson, the International scored after a strong burst. Wood failed at goal.

Wood replied well to the drop out, and Moore was well tackled before he could reply. From a feeble kick out by Bale-Brock, Collins marked in a favourable position, but Wood's kick went wide of the posts. Following the drop out Exeter took up the attack, but Skoines kicked when he should have passed. Holder was laid out in stopping a dangerous rush, but was able to resume.

By the aid of good footwork Exeter forced matters, but Wood twice saved with flying kicks. In the next minute Wood found touch close to the Exeter line with a big left-foot punt. Gloucester now had a chance of putting on the equalising try, but it was not accepted. In subsequent play there was a lot of loose scrambling work, in which neither side benefited to any appreciable extent. Centre play followed, until the Exeter backs got off with a bout of passing. Harris, however, passed wide, and F. Smith securing, he punted down to Bale-Brock, who was brought down at once.

Gibbs, who was playing a fine game, was instrumental in changing the venue, and some hot forward work was witnessed at midfield. At length, from a pass by Hall, C. Smith broke through beautifully, but in trying to work out an opening for Bloxsome he was collared from behind.

There was a spell of even play after this, but it was mostly of a loose forward character, and very scrambling. Wood saved well under difficulties, and by good kicks kept operations at midfield. Clever work between Hall and Parham only just failed of a score, and then Hudson and F. Smith nearly beat the defence with some brilliant inter-passing.

The last five minutes were hotly contested. The Gloucester backs shone in a lovely bout of passing, but C. Smith could not beat Bale-Brock. Immediately after Hudson made another fine run, and yielding to F. Smith, the wing man scored prettily. Wood made a fine attempt at goal. The Gloucester touch-judge waved his flag for a goal, but the referee over-ruled him.

In the last minute a fumble by Skoines nearly let Gloucester in, the home back saving luckily.

RESULT :

Gloucester	2 tries (6 points)
Exeter	2 tries (6 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester's play, except for the last ten minutes, was disappointing. The backs were by no means happy in combination, and mistakes were very frequent. In the first half Exeter were the stronger side, and they well deserved their lead. The game during this portion was fast and open, and there were some nice passing movements at times.

After the change of ends play deteriorated, and was of a scrappy, forward nature. The teams played keenly, and no quarter was given in tackling.

Wood played a fine game at full-back, and on no account could he be held responsible for either try scored against him.

Forward, Gloucester were best served by Holder, Collins, and Vears, the first-named especially doing grand work. At half Gent and Hall could claim no superiority. In the third line Hudson and F. Smith were seen to advantage, and mainly through their efforts Gloucester succeeded in effecting a draw.

With reference to the last goal kick, it was a very near thing, and opinions were divided as to whether the ball went inside the posts. It made just the difference between a win and a draw for Gloucester.

GLOUCESTER A v. LINDEN

POOR EXHIBITION AT KINGSHOLM

This match was played at Kingsholm this afternoon. The "A" team had the assistance of a number of the Gloucester Old Boys and J. Stephens of the 1st XV.

The ground was in good condition, and the teams were : –

Gloucester A. – J. Romans, back; J. Beard, Ridge Jones, A. Lewis, and W. J. Vance, three-quarter backs; F. Arthur and J. Stephens, half-backs; A. Purton, L. Peckover, S. Lane, H. A'Beare, L. Meek, D. Hollande, D. Wyburn, and W. Blackford, forwards.

Linden. – W. Smith, back; B. Wixey, O. Stephens, J. Hamlin, and H. Smith, three-quarter backs; J. Collingbourne and T. Vickery, half-backs; J. Morefield, H. Lane, W. Watkins, G. Savage, A. Davies, W. Keyes, T. Bright, and G. Taylor, forwards.

Linden started with the sun and wind against them, and in the first minute were credited with a minor as the result of a rush. Centre play followed, and the homesters were awarded a free, but Hamlin put in a good return.

In some scrambling play in the Linden 25 Ridge Jones made his mark, but Romans failed to use the opportunity. Gloucester quickly got back into the Linden quarter. From a free Romans made a good shot at goal, and Linden touched down. Jimmy Stephens made a lovely opening, but the pass was forward. Then Beard, on the left, nearly got over, but was well tackled on the line.

Vance had a chance on the other wing a minute later, but he missed his pass badly. Gloucester got the ball out pretty well, but Linden played a hard bustling game and spoilt any attempt by the home men at passing. A mis-kick by the Linden back let Gloucester up, but they muddled when well in front of goal.

Beard had a dash for the corner but he was held up. Bad passing lost Gloucester a fine chance, and Wixey cut through prettily, but was overhauled at the centre. Linden were having quite as much of the game as Gloucester, who seemed to be at sixes and sevens and to have no combination or cohesion at all, and the passing was shocking.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A Nil
Linden Nil

On resuming the Linden forwards shone, but Gloucester responded with a good rush. They then tried passing again, but it was of a most mediocre description, and made little headway. Stephens got away prettily, but there was nobody backing him up. Eventually the ball was kicked over the Linden line, but went dead. Twice in quick succession the ball came out to Vance on the wing, but he was unable to get through.

The play was dull and uninteresting. Linden, however, kept pegging away in the kick and rush style, and eventually nearly scored, the ball going into touch-in-goal. Gloucester were apparently bigger and heavier in the front but they failed to take advantage of their weight, and Linden quite held their own forward.

Their backs spoiling tactics too were quite equal to upsetting the feeble attempts of the home outsiders in the handling department. Linden kept at it hard, and eventually were rewarded with a try by H. Smith, after capital passing. There was no goal.

Linden kept up the pressure after this, but eventually Gloucester relieved and carried the game to the other end. Stephens opened out the game and passed out, but the passing broke down at Beard. The latter, however, kicked over the line, and Sid Lane raced for possession, being credited with a lucky try in the far corner. No goal resulted. No-side was immediately called.

Linden were distinctly unlucky in having the fruits of victory thus snatched from them in the last minute, as they certainly had the best of a poor exhibition of football.

RESULT :

Gloucester A	1 try (3 points)
Linden	1 try (3 points)