

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1907

TO-DAY'S MATCHES

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM

THE THIRD MEETING

THREE POINTS EACH

Owing to the frost, Gloucester and Cheltenham were unable to bring off the second fixture of the season at Cheltenham in December.

To-day, both clubs had a blank date, and the officials promptly fixed up the postponed match.

In accordance with arrangement the clubs equally divided the receipts, and with a fine afternoon there was every prospect of a large crowd of spectators.

Cheltenham experienced considerably difficulty in making up their side, Bedell-Sivright and Lieut. Marsden, R.N., both failed at the eleventh hour.

Tripp, of Nottingham, Hughes and Tinson came into the team, the former displacing Davey at full back, and the home custodian going centre three-quarter.

Cheltenham played three half-backs and seven forwards. Gloucester, who adopted the usual formation, had only one alteration, D. Hollands coming into the pack vice A. Hawker.

The weather was delightful, and there was a large crowd, over 2,000 being present when the teams took the field, lining out as follows : —

GLOUCESTER	Positions	CHELTENHAM
A. E. Wood	Backs.	–. Tripp
F. Bloxsome	Three-Quarter	C. Clifford
H. Smith	Backs.	L. W. Hayward
A. Hudson	"	B. Davey
F. Smith	"	G. Marsden
J. Stephens	Half-Backs.	G. T. Unwin (capt.)
D. R. Gent (capt.)	"	A. Goddard
–	"	H. Hughes
B. Parham	Forwards.	W. H. Williams
W. Holder	"	W. N. Unwin
G. Matthews	"	C. Bennett
G. Vears	"	H. Manley
H. Collins	"	H. E. Quixley
A. Purton	"	H. Evans
W. Johns	"	G. G. N. Tinson
D. Hollands	"	–

Referee : Mr. A. J. Lawes (Bristol).

### THE GAME

W. N. Unwin started for Cheltenham, and H. Smith's return went to the centre. Here scrambling play was seen. The Gloucester pack came into possession, but went into touch, and neutral territory continued the scene of operations until Goddard got the ball from G. T. Unwin and sent to touch hard on the Gloucester line.

From this Cheltenham attacked, and the Gloucester half was made the scene of operations. Goddard got going, but was checked by Wood. Gloucester attempted to clear, but Tripp sent them back with a neat line. Cheltenham failed to field, and Gent got possession. Off went the little International, and, kicking across, transferred the venue to midfield. From here Gloucester ran into the home half, but Goddard saved. Cheltenham were getting the ball in the scrum every time, and by dint of capital work in the front line came back to the centre. Gent picked up from a scrum at the centre, and, racing away, was almost over, when Hayward, dashing up, collared him cleverly and saved a score.

Cheltenham now had to adopt a defensive policy, the City team being predominant. The Citizens were penalised, and the kick enabled Cheltenham to work out of danger. From a penalty Hudson got hold and sent to Bloxsome, who ran into the home 25. Davey cleared, and Wood's return only went to midfield.

Play was decidedly on the fast side, and slightly to the advantage of Gloucester, until Goddard found touch on the Citizens' line with a capital kick. Now Cheltenham were seen in the rôle of aggressors. From a scrum the City backs got going, each in turn handling the ball, and a fine bit of combination transferred play into Cheltenham's quarters. A penalty lost the ground thus gained. Immediately after Cheltenham were penalised, Goddard getting off-side. Wood took the kick from a position close on the half-way line, and landed a magnificent goal.

G. T. Unwin put Cheltenham well up with a useful run, and Leslie Hayward marked. Davey gained additional territory with the kick. Goddard and Unwin baffled the Gloucester halves in the scrums. Hayward and Quixley were prominent in a scramble for possession, but gradually Gloucester worked back out of danger.

From a scrummage in mid-field Parham raced up, but Tripp was too good for the attacker and although closely pressed got in a magnificent kick that evoked applause from the crowd. Gloucester were now revisiting the Cheltenham half. Hughes tried to clear, but Wood got the better of the argument. Presently after an exchange of kicks the Town worked into position once more, Hughes neatly finding touch in the Gloucester 25. Davey received from Goddard from Unwin[*sic*], but held on too long, and a second later Hughes ought to have sent Clifford over, but made the same mistake.

Cheltenham were now right on the Citizens' 25, and the crowd became enthusiastically optimistic. The home pack of seven were proving fully equal to the task of holding the Gloucester eight. Goddard got off-side again, and lost the Town ground by the offence, Wood's kick helping the Citizens out of danger.

Hudson sent to touch at the centre. Here the strenuous contest was resumed. Hayward kicked ahead, and Marsden racing up beat Wood in the race for possession and scored a glorious try in the centre. Davey failed to add the extra points.

With the accounts level excitement ran high. With redoubled energy, Cheltenham, showing better form than they had done for weeks, pressed vigorously, and the Gloucestersians had to defend. Bennett found touch right on the corner flag, but nothing came of the opening. The visiting half removed the theatre of operations. Davey and Unwin both handled the leather with little result.

Gloucester tried to clear, but Tripp, after a mistake, cleared with great cleverness, and the Town returned to their ding-dong attack on the City citadel. Marsden was almost over when Gent forced him into touch, saving a certain score.

Stephens received from Gent, and sent to H. Smith, who continued the movement as far as the home 25. Cheltenham at once beat the attackers back, and resumed operations at the centre. The game continued to rule very fast, but not as open as might be expected. Bloxsome raced away down the wing and kicked across, but his colleagues failed to take the ball. Unwin kicked out, and Woods had just returned when the interval came.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Cheltenham ..... 1 try  
Gloucester ..... 1 goal (p)

In the opening moiety Cheltenham delighted their supporters by showing greatly improved form, and playing a better game than they had done for some weeks. They had had the better of the game. Gloucester had, so far, been somewhat below par, the backs having had few openings owing to the Garden Towners superiority in the tight. Immediately following the resumption a series of scrums was seen at the centre.

Hudson kicked ahead, and Frank Smith ran up and held Tripp, but was undoubtedly off-side, and the leather went back to the centre line. Goddard set G. T. Unwin going, but Hughes failed to accept his captain's transfer. Marsden retrieved the error, but Gloucester playing up well ran to Tripp, who stopped with a mark. His kick sent the ball back to neutral ground.

The Cheltenham custodian was playing a capital game, negotiating difficulties with an admirable coolness and accuracy. From the centre G. T. Unwin found touch on the Gloucester 25, but Parham helped the City men to work out. Play was very scrambling, and practically confined to the forwards. Unwin and Davey essayed a rush down the field, but were held up. Still Cheltenham pressed, and once again Goddard was instrumental in putting Cheltenham right on the Gloucester line with a kick to touch at the corner flag. Gloucester touched down, and were thus enabled to save themselves.

Cheltenham continued to have the best of the game. Gloucester got back to neutral ground, where Cheltenham suffered a penalty for off-side work, as the result of which they were called upon to defend. Davey held F. Smith in possession, and sent to Leslie Hayward, who passed to Clifford, a neat bout that resulted in considerable benefit accruing to the Town.

Marsden (on the other wing) was immediately after in evidence. W. N. Unwin led the home pack down, and Wood had to save. Fast work on the Gloucester 25 resulted in the Citizens clearing capitally. Leslie Hayward saved grandly. Bloxsome threatened the home line by a fast run on the wing, but was driven into touch.

Hudson failed a moment later, and Cheltenham were on the attack. Marsden had a chance of racing off on his own, but failed to intercept. The home pack playing up with indomitable energy and resource changed the venue after a few minutes hard work of a give and take nature. Goddard opened up the game, but Davey failed and Wood kicked out.

Unwin and Goddard ran into the Citizens' 25, where the County half-back was hurt, falling on his neck as the result of a hard tackle. He resumed, however. Unwin and Hughes combined to give Hayward an opening, but Leslie was earthed when a fine opportunity presented itself. Tripp, with a long punt, enabled Cheltenham to maintain the pressure, and Hayward, Hughes, and Clifford gave the Citizens' defence a fright. Mr. Lawes warned one of the visiting players.

Hopes of a victory for the Town ran high, as Cheltenham stuck tenaciously to the position they had taken up well in the Citizens' 25. Bloxsome made a neat run, but his effort was ineffectual. Cheltenham returning to the attack via Hayward. Clifford should have scored, but messed up Hayward's transfer, and enabled Gloucester to clear to the centre, the farthest up field they had been for a long time.

Goddard dribbled to Wood, and Cheltenham were once more on the Citizens' 25 line, when Gloucester were penalised for off-side. With a chance of deciding the question of who should win the rubber, Davey took the kick, but failed to go anywhere near scoring the coveted points.

Wood's kick out was a beauty, and gave Gloucester a chance, but they were beaten forward, and Wood was soon called upon to save once again. Tripp showed up with some fine long punts, and Gloucester remained on the defensive, greatly to the delight of the spectators.

The time was getting short, and Cheltenham realising this fact, made effort after effort to secure a further score. Davey marked from a high kick by Wood, and from this Cheltenham gained a further slice of territory. Johns ran back to the centre. Following a series of scrums Davey helped the Town back in to position. Goddard got the leather from the scrum and transferred to Unwin. The home skipper ran down and transferred to Hughes, from whom the ball came to Marsden. The latter player made a bee line for a try, but was forced into touch in the nick of time – from a Gloucester point of view.

Hudson dribbled to midfield, where he knocked-on, but for some reason the referee awarded Gloucester a "free" for a foul. Nothing came of the kick, which was charged down. Play was at the centre when "no side" was called.

RESULT :

Cheltenham ..... 1 try (3 points)  
Gloucester ..... 1 goal (p) (3 points)

REMARKS

(By our Cheltenham Representative)

Honours even. The question of superiority remains still undecided, though on to-day's play Cheltenham should have won. After being off-colour for some weeks the Town returned to their old-time form against Gloucester, and with a weak and disorganised team had by far the best of the game with their great rivals.

The experiment of playing seven forwards and three halves was entirely successful, the Citizens eight being held and eventually beaten by the home pack, who played a magnificent game. It was upon the rival packs that the bulk of the work devolved, and the Cheltenham seven acquitted themselves admirably, and are one and all deserving of commendation.

Parham and Matthews were the pick of the Gloucester eight. Johns was handicapped by an injury, but showed up occasionally, but little was seen of Holder. At half Goddard and G. T. Unwin proved fully a match for Gent and Stephens, who were playing behind a more or less beaten pack. Cheltenham got the ball 8 times out of 10, and thus the home backs were afforded many more chances than fell to the lot of the Gloucester quartette. The latter, however, did not play up to their reputation, the centres being very poor, and the wing men suffering in consequence.

F. Smith and F. Bloxsome were occasionally prominent for individual work, but the quartette did little in the way of combined effort. Hayward and G. Marsden were constantly prominent in both attack and defence for the Red and Black Brigade, the latter's try being a beautiful effort. Davey also did well, whilst "Cherry" Clifford on the wing often troubled the visitors' defence.

Tripp was very safe in charge of the home citadel, kicking with accuracy and great length. He was, however, rarely badly troubled. Wood, in a similar position on the Gloucester side, played a superb game, saving his side time after time. To him, and to him alone, do Gloucester owe the result, for it was often only their full back's confidence, daring, and skill that saved their line, and the least failure in that department would have spelt defeat for the 'Cestrians.

The game was not of the open nature that might have been expected with so dry a ground and such excellent conditions, but as is often the case the keenness of the competitors resulted in the finer points of the game being absent.

Cheltenham had infinitely the better of the argument, and officials and supporters of the Gloucester Club admitted after the match that they considered themselves very lucky to get out with a draw. Just a little extra pace and skill on the part of Cheltenham, or the least relaxation of the vigilance of Wood would have resulted in the Town being returned victors in the third match between the teams this season.

As a whole, Gloucester failed to play up to their reputation, and their exhibition must have been a disappointment to their supporters.

## GLOUCESTER A v. NAUNTON PARK HEAVY SCORING BY THE GLOUCESTRIANS

Naunton Park started off from the Worcester-street end with only 13 men. Gloucester were penalised for off-side. The play, however, was taken to the Naunton Park half, and continued there some time.



Naunton tried to rush a kick from a mark by Gloucester, but were unsuccessful. Egerton a few minutes later broke through from a scrum, and a pretty bout of passing was seen, but the ball went to touch. Undaunted Gloucester did some more passing, which resulted in Merchant scoring. Perry failed.

A scrum on the Park's goal-line resulted in nothing, but the game was confined to their half. There were several scrums close to Naunton's goal-line, but Gloucester failed to do the needful. Fumbling on both sides in passing followed, until Beard scored easily from a better combination. Perry failed to add the extra points.

Another try by Butler was obtained a few minutes later, and Perry again failed. Careless work by Gloucester let Naunton into their own half, and Day scored for them. There was no goal, Leybourne failing.

HALF-TIME SCORE ;  
Gloucester A ..... 3 tries  
Naunton Park ..... 1 try

Resuming, play continued to be in the Naunton half, but no scores were effected. Some good passing by Gloucester was seen later, but Beard dropped the ball. Gloucester, however, continued to press, and Robinson scored. No points were added.

A kick by Beard from the Gloucester half of the field was splendidly followed up by him, and a brilliant dribble resulted in his scoring easily. He scored again a minute later. Neither try was converted.

A penalty goal by Robinson followed, and two tries quickly after that by Beard and Meek, the latter of which was converted by Merchant. Egerton kicked a splendid drop-goal just on time with the players all round him.

RESULT :  
Gloucester A ..... 3 goals (1p, 1d), 7 tries (33)  
Naunton Park ..... 1 try (3 points)

## REMARKS

The game was a fairly open one, but the amount of Gloucester's win is certainly flattering for them on their first half's form. They missed their opportunities then and lost many chances.

Naunton Park played well throughout, especially as they only had thirteen men the whole game. Gloucester woke up, and put in much better work during the second half, but their goal-kicking was bad.

Naunton Park hardly entered the Gloucester half in the second moiety, but their defence was good.

JC