

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1907

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. NORTHAMPTON

CITY'S FIRST OUT MATCH

EAST MIDLANDERS VICTORIOUS

Gloucester made their annual journey into the East Midlands to-day, when they met Northampton at Franklin's Gardens.

With about one exception, previous games between the teams have been won by the City, and there was every hope that another success would be added to the list as the result of the engagement this afternoon.

Northampton started the season badly, two defeats being registered against the club – by Coventry and Bedford respectively – but the side was re-arranged and strengthened for the match with Gloucester.

G. W. Hayward, who has played for Leicester and the Midlands, was requisitioned for full-back, and W. Wood (a West-country player) introduced at centre three-quarter.

At half Percy Hodge, formerly of Newton Abbott, operated as partner to H. C. Palmer, and it was thought the combination would work well.

Gloucester relied on the fifteen that beat Clifton so handsomely. Hudson was suffering with a grazed knee, the result of getting on the hard ground, but though experiencing some discomfort he decided to take his place in the team.

Gloucester. – A. E. Wood, back; C. Smith, H. Smith, A. Hudson, F. Smith, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears (captain), W. Johns, B. Parham, F. Pegler, G. Matthews, J. Merchant, B. Quixley, D. Hollands, forwards.

Northampton. – G. Hayward, back; E. R. Mobbs, W. Wood, F. Coles, A. E. Edwards, three-quarter backs; P. Hodge and H. C. Palmer, half-backs; E. W. White, L. Skempton, J. W. Warren, A. Chalmers, J. L. Mash, H. Burke, W. Welsh, F. Pegley[*sic*], forwards.

Referee : Mr. C. Palmer (Bristol).

The weather was sweltering hot, but the attendance was fair when Northampton started, Mr. Nicholls (Leicester) being the referee.

The Gloucester forwards heeled from the first scrum, and a nice run by Hudson took the game to the home half. A free to Northampton cleared, but the City worked back through kicks by Stephens and Hollands. A clever dribble by Stephens gained further ground, but a combined rush by the East Midland forwards brought them to near midfield. Here Gent opened out, but Mobbs intercepted and raced away, Gloucester just saving in time.

The City cleared from a dangerous position, and H. Smith, following up, tackled Wood in possession. The Gloucester forwards rushed away, but Hayward made a daring save. A minute later the same player made a grand clearance under difficulties. Operations were fought out at midfield, where E. Palmer secured and made a nice opening. Wood continued the movement, and handing to Mobbs, the home captain ran over with a fine try, which Coles converted.

Gloucester re-started, and were soon hotly attacking, but Hayward cleared effectively. The City once had the line at their mercy, but a player failed to pick up, and the ball was turned to touch.

Soon afterwards, Wood (Gloucester) forced a minor with a drop at goal. On the restart Gloucester forced matters, and Stephens was nearly through.

Hayward was next collared on his line, and Northampton had an anxious time. With a useful burst the home team relieved slightly, but clever work between Gent, Stephens, Hudson, and C. Smith ended in the last-named scoring a corner try. Wood failed at goal. "Whacker" was knocked out in scoring, but was able to resume.

Stephens replied to the drop-out with a good punt, and Mobbs fumbling Gloucester were placed in a good position, the forwards nearly crossing in a body, and then Hudson missed a pass from C. Smith with a clear run in under the posts. This was a very bad mistake.

Ensuing play was exceptionally hot. Merchant and Vears shone for the City, who had another opening, but Coles stopped Hudson well. Palmer came away with a fine dribble for Northampton, but Gloucester checked in time. Then, in loose play, Wood gathered, and yielding to Mobbs, the latter outpaced C. Smith and crossed in the corner. Coles missed goal.

Northampton had the better of subsequent exchanges, and neat passing nearly let Edwards in. The Gloucester line was hotly assailed, and only grand saving by Wood prevented a score. Just before the interval, from a scrum five yards outside, the Northampton forwards rushed the ball over, and Pegby[*sic*] was credited with a try, which Coles failed to convert.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Northampton ..... 1 goal 2 tries  
Gloucester ..... 1 try

Vears resumed, and there being only a poor return play opened in the Northampton half. Wood changed the venue with a smart kick, and, following up, robbed his Gloucester namesake, though he was at once tackled. Gloucester were getting possession in the scrum, but Northampton, who were playing a wing forward, spoiled attempts at passing.

Pegler sustained a cut head, and had to retire, but with a man short Gloucester had the better of the exchanges. Hubert Smith following up a kick collared Hayward, but the latter shook his opponent off and kicked to touch. Gloucester went close to the line after this, but the home team defended stoutly. Good kicks brought relief to the East Midlanders. Once Wood failed to field, but the Gloucester custodian made a marvellous recovery.

Northampton made a brief visit to the City half, but they were beaten back. Gloucester gradually obtained a better position, and Parham gathering smartly from the scrum scored a good try. Wood failed.

Pegler now returned amidst applause, and play continued fast and vigorous. Quixley broke away nicely from the line, but Matthews, to whom he passed, was bored to touch.

Play was mostly forward, attempts to open out being nipped in the bud. Northampton eventually got in one capital bout, but Mobbs failed to get round this time. Gloucester staved off a warm attack, but misfielding allowed Northampton to dribble over the line, Hubert Smith saving.

By dint of strong forward work, Parham and Johns shining, the visitors gained a lot of ground, but the play lacked finish. Eventually Gent and Stephens put Hudson in possession, and the latter yielded to Frank Smith. The wing man, however, was pulled to touch.

From a subsequent scrum, handling by the Gloucester backs saw Hudson score after a strong dash. Wood missed goal, and Gloucester were still two points behind.

Johns had now left the field with an injured leg, and with only 14 men Gloucester had the worst of the play. Northampton worked hard to add to their score, Hodge being only stopped in the nick of time by Wood.

The home team were not to be denied, and following some exchanges Wood crossed for Coles to convert. Both Hubert and "Whacker" Smith were crocked in tackling opponents, the former going off. Johns returned, and played centre.

Subsequent play was scrambling, in which Gloucester held their own. Little of incident occurred, back play being spoilt through faulty handling. Hubert Smith now came back, but Northampton took the game in hand, and just before the end Coles scored under the posts, the place-kick failing.

#### RESULT :

Northampton ..... 2 goals 3 tries (19 points)  
Gloucester ..... 3 tries (9 points)

#### REMARKS

Northampton's big win came as a great surprise to their supporters. Victory, however, went to the better team on the day's play.

For the greater portion Gloucester were beaten forward, the home pack playing with dash and determination in the open and working strongly in the scrums. Even when Gloucester did get the ball out the Northampton wingers was generally round to spoil the passing.

Gent worked hard under difficulties, but he had a lot to contend with. For pace Gloucester were behind the home backs, Mobbs twice beating "Whacker" Smith and scoring.

There were a number of casualties during the game, Gloucester being the worst sufferers. The game was keenly fought out, but scrambling at times, especially in the second half.

The full-back play on both sides was good, but Northampton had better combination and superior speed at three-quarter. The result naturally was very disappointing to Gloucester, but there was no excuse for the defeat.

To improve the side more weight is required forward. Quixley, Parham, Johns, and Merchant were good to-day, the former doing fine work in the lines-out.

## GLOUCESTER A v. TREDWORTH

### SECONDS IN SCORING VEIN

In weather more suggestive of cricket than football Gloucester A played their first match of the season at Kingsholm on Saturday, having Tredworth as their opponents.

The A team, who have every promise of being a side to be reckoned with this season, turned out as advertised, a thing that has not happened for years.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; F. Bloxsome, E. Hall, G. Cook, and W. Robinson, three-quarter backs; H. F. R. Arthur (captain) and W. Dix, half-backs; R. Craddock, J. Wyburn, G. Griffiths, H. Holford, W. Blackford, J. Melhuish, H. Taylor, and W. Bailey, forwards.

Tredworth. – F. Perry, back; J. Beard, L. Rudge, E. Gibbs, and H. Gunstone, three-quarter backs; E. Rudge and E. Yates, half-backs; W. Mann, H. Kirby, W. G. Biffin, T. Guy, A. Hatton, G. Price, F. Organ, and W. Pegler, forwards.

Early on the home three-quarters were well fed by Dix, but Cook held too long. Shortly after he had another chance of feeding Bloxsome on the wing, but passed badly. Perry relieved with a capital kick when pressed, and then Welshman, making a poor kick when hustled by the opposing forwards, Beard secured and scored an unconverted try in the corner.

Bloxsome got away nicely, but Perry effected a fine tackle. After a good opening by Cook had been thrown away, the ball came out on the other wing, and although the passing left something to be desired, Bloxsome gathered well and scored a corner try, which Welshman goaled with a splendid kick.

Holford got away capitally on his own, and although he was robbed of tangible results by seeing Bloxsome pushed into touch at the corner, he had his reward the next moment by scoring himself from the line-out. A fine round of passing among the backs, in which Dix, Cook, Robinson and Hall were prominent, ended in the latter scoring under the posts. Welshmen majorised.

Holford, by breaking through in fine style, was directly responsible for the next try, scored by Griffiths. Welshman again did the needful.

A moment later pretty combination between Cook and Hall put the latter over with an unconverted try. Dix got the ball away from the scrum to Bloxsome, who ran right away and scored on his own. Cook failed at the kick.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A .....	3 goals 3 tries
Tredworth .....	1 try

Robinson opened the account in the second half with a try wide out, which was not converted, and a moment later from a long pass Hall secured and put Robinson in again, Welshman converting. Another beautiful bit of play between Craddock, Robinson, and Hall, saw the latter score under the posts, but no goal resulted.

The other wing had a turn after this, and Bloxsome ran in in the corner. No goal resulted.

By way of a change Dix dropped a good goal. Then Welshman was collared in possession, but the next moment relieved with a touch-finder. Even play followed for some time, then Gloucester re-asserted themselves, and Hall put Cook in after a pretty run. The kick failed.

Bloxsome again crossed in the corner, no goal resulting. Craddock, with another corner try, this time on the other wing, reached the half century of points. No goal resulted.

Still one more fell to Bloxsome in the left corner, no goal again resulting. Hall scored the next under the posts, the same player goaling.

RESULT :

Gloucester A .. 6 goals (1d) 10 tries (59 points)  
Tredworth ..... 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

The game was too one-sided to be any real criterion of the Seconds' merit, but it proves they were quick to seize their opportunities, and also that in Holford and Craddock they possess two capital forwards.

The three-quarters all played well, and Welshman at back is deserving of every praise. With further knowledge of one another's play, the present Seconds' combination promises to be real hot stuff this season.

JC