

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1907

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLO'STER v. OLD MERCHANT TAYLORS

HUDSON SCORES FIVE TRIES

TAYLORS WELL BEATEN

This annual Boxing Day fixture attracted a large holiday crowd to Kingsholm.

Gloucester had Hudson back in the team, but Wood, in view of the International fixture next week, stood down, Welshman (who had played for the Seconds in the morning) filling the vacancy.

The Londoners brought a strong side, though J. E. Raphael, the International who has not played since his injury at Newport early in the season, was a notable absentee.

The teams fielded nearly a quarter of an hour late as follows : –

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; A. Hudson, G. Cook, E. Hall, and C. Smith, three-quarter backs; W. Dix and J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears, W. Johns, F. M. Stout, D. Hollands, H. Collins, B. Parham, G. Matthews, F. Pegler, forwards.

Old Merchant Taylors. – G. Sanders, back; C. L. Parker, W. H. Bull, E. N. Fuller, and M. J. Lepingwell, three-quarter backs; F. H. Cockell and W. I. Cheesman, half-backs; A. C. Tannahill, J. R. Pound, C. Bourne, M. E. Dellschaft, R. H. Wells, A. B. Wells, H. J. Pullein-Thompson, and J. M. Wyatt, forwards.

Referee : Mr. C. Palmer, Bristol.

THE GAME

Gloucester took the field one short, but Dix soon followed, taking the place of Gent, who did not turn up. Vears kicked off, and for off-side the visitors were at once penalised. Welshman took a place for goal, but the direction was not good. A visitor knocked on in receiving the ball, and a scrum followed ten yards from the Taylors' line. A penalty was given against the City and with the resultant kick the Londoners got out to the centre. For not putting the ball in straight Dix was penalised, and the Taylors punted down to Hudson, who took a flying kick, and upset an opponent who took the ball. The Taylors got possession from each scrum, but the passing was wild and little headway was made.

At length Dix fielded cleverly and cut through, finally passing out wide, but an opponent punched the ball on. From the subsequent scrum Dix fed Stephens, who slipped through and yielded to C. Smith. The latter was legged, but managed to throw the ball into the open, where Cook snapped it up and transferred to Hall. The latter in turn yielded to Hudson, who scored easily. Welshman failed at goal.

Re-starting, Gloucester showed up with some clever back play, and Cook was nearly through. Heeling well, Dix set the home backs going, but a visitor intercepted and ran clear. Hall, however, brought off a good tackle. Near the centre Hudson received a pass, and getting off in great style beat the opposition, but was pounced upon from behind, and lost the ball. The Taylors picked up and got well away, but Gloucester checked in time. The City were soon moving again, and from a pass by Stephens Hudson came through at a big pace, and beating Saunders scored another fine try, which Stout failed to convert.

Hollands slipped in preparing to receive the drop-out, but the ball went to Welshman, who got in a fine return. Hall was prominent with a really good bit of footwork, but off-side spoiled the movement.

The Taylors gained some 30 yards with a penalty kick, and from this point they dribbled close to the line, where Welshman saved. Stephens ran out cleverly, and passed, but Smith failed to take from Cook, and Parker nearly effected a score. The Taylors, with close footwork, kept up the pressure, and the Gloucester line had several narrow escapes.

Eventually a minor was conceded from a kick over the line. The Gloucester forwards followed up the drop-out very keenly, and Collins securing he punted well down. An opponent got back and saved, but Gloucester were enabled to reach the Londoners' half. Here Hudson, taking a sharp transfer from Stephens, dashed away. After running to the full-back he gave a nice pass to Hall, who had come outside, and the centre raced down touch and scored a pretty try. Stout landed a goal, giving the City an 11 points lead.

Welshman got in a good return to the kick-off, and centre play followed. Dix was again penalised for not putting the ball in straight, and this again cost Gloucester a nice slice of ground. A dashing forward burst, headed by Hollands, put Gloucester down again, and Cook, with a lovely run, was only tackled a yard from the line.

Immediately after Hudson had another dash down touch, but there was not room enough for him to clear the full-back. The home team lost a possible chance on the left wing, failure to pick up spoiling the effort. From a scrum close in Dix handed out nicely, but Cook's pass went straight into the hands of Fuller, who punted out of danger.

Taking advantage of mistakes by the home backs the Taylors got on the aggressive, and Gloucester were very lucky in escaping.

A scrum was formed five yards from the home line, but Cheesman passed out wildly. Fuller, however, gathered, and sending out to Bull, the wing man raced round and over the line with a capital try. Cockell added the extra points.

Gloucester resumed, and immediately gained a footing in the Londoners' end. Nothing further, however, was done before the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 goal, 2 tries

Taylors 1 goal

The Taylors re-started, Collins being lucky in getting in a return with a flying kick after fumbling. Dix early put the Gloucester backs in possession, but Cook held on a bit too long, and Hudson was forced to touch. Immediately after Stephens opened out, but "Whacker" fumbled badly. Cook, however, picked up, but his transfer was intercepted by Fuller, who had a clear field with the exception of Welshman. He ran up to the City custodian and then handed to Bull, who scored behind the posts easily. The place-kick, however, was a failure.

The Londoners were going strongly now, and they pressed again with strong forward play, but a good combined rush gained relief. Dix broke away nicely from a scrum, but the effort was spoiled through his pass being intercepted. Gloucester, however, rushed a scrum and were only stopped with the line in sight. The ball coming out to Stephens, the latter threw out wide to Smith, but "Whacker" failed to take. Cook picked up, and attempted a drop at goal, but was unsuccessful.

Later the Taylors touched down from a fruitless shot at goal by Stout. On the drop-out the Gloucester backs were at fault in handling, and the play of the team had deteriorated since the opening. Hudson, from a wide pass, tried hard to evade Bull, but he was hemmed in. A cross-kick and follow up, however, put his forwards on side. The ball was taken over the line, only to see an opponent touch down.

Subsequent play was of a very scrambling character, both sides being at fault. Gloucester rushed down in good style, but were again at fault when within scoring distance. The Taylors got out of danger with good kicks, and Cockell further improved matters with a strong run.

Welshman, with a splendid effort, put Gloucester on the attack, and Cook brought off a grand run and pass to Dix, who sent to Hudson, but the International just failed to cross.

The City went strongly for a try now. Bull kicking to Hudson, the latter went for the line, and though it seemed impossible for him to get through, his weight and dash carried him over. Cook landed a fine goal.

On the drop-out Dix brought off a tricky run, beating his opponents very prettily, but again his pass went to an opponent. The Taylors reached the centre by the aid of a loose rush, and some scrambling play ensued.

Dix and Stephens soon opened out, and the ball came across to Hudson, who raced away and punted over the full-back's head. Running hard he again secured and notched his fourth try. Cook failed at the place-kick.

Having started scoring again Gloucester proved irresistible, and after clever work by Stephens, Hudson crossed again. The extra points were not added.

Gloucester attacked to the end, but failed to add to their lead.

RESULT :

Gloucester ... 2 goals 4 tries (22 points)
Taylors 1 goal 1 try (8 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester won easily enough in the end, but the form of the City was very erratic. After running up 11 points early on the home players seemed to slacken up, and the Taylors were not slow to take advantage. Hudson signalled his return to the team by scoring five tries, and the International clearly showed his absence from the field had not affected his play a little bit.

At times the combination of the home backs was very good, but at other periods the ball was handled with poor judgment. Cook made a number of smart runs, and Hall shaped well; “Whacker” Smith, however, was off-colour. Dix and Stephens got on capitally together at half, and of the Taylors’ pair Cockell was the most prominent.

The visitors had one or two speedy men behind, and both their tries were well obtained. The forwards were well matched, the Taylors doing excellently in the lines-out and in the loose. Welshman gave nothing away at full back, but Saunders was uncertain at times.

GLO’STER A v. GLO’STER OLD BOYS

VICTORY FOR THE CITY SECONDS

Ideal football weather prevailed on Boxing Day, and with the keen rivalry existing between Gloucester A and the Old Boys there was a good attendance in the morning at Kingsholm to witness the first meeting of the teams this season. Dix (unwell) was unable to play for the City Seconds, and A’Bear was the only noticeable absentee from the Old Boys’ ranks.

Teams : –

Gloucester A. – F. Welshman, back; F. Bloxsome, C. Cook, W. Hall, and J. Beard, three-quarter backs; H. Smith and H. C. R. Arthur, half-backs; A. Hawker, J. Wyburn, W. Bailey, K. Griffiths, G. Holford, W. Blackford, W. Taylor, and T. Clark, forwards.

Gloucester Old Boys. – G. Collingbourne, back; W. J. Vance, Alec Lewis (capt.), V. Ridge-Jones, and K. H. Soutar, three-quarter backs; F. C. J. Romans and S. Stephens, half-backs; W. J. Pearce, L. Peckover, H. Lewis, W. D. Henderson, L. Norman, P. Simmonds, W. U. Pletts, and G. Vance, forwards.

Referee : Rev. D. T. Jones.

The Old Boys started, Hawker replying with a huge punt to Collingbourne. The latter failed to gather, and the Seconds' forwards being well up the visitors' lines were in danger. The Old Boys gained relief, and slow passing by Arthur from the scrum lost Gloucester further ground. Romans punted well to the centre, but a clever screw-kick by Hall sent the ball to touch close to the Old Boys' line. Gloucester heeled, but Cook was pounced upon before he could clear. Some fine kicking by Welshman, who followed up and put his men on side, resulted in Gloucester getting very close, the old Boys luckily saving by touching down.

Following the drop-out, Gloucester returned to the attack, the home forwards rushing in fine style. The Old Boys' backs failed to stop the movement, and the ball being taken over the line Cook was credited with a try. Welshman converted, and the Seconds were five points up.

There was a good return to the restart, and Ridge-Jones only kicking straight to touch, play was again in the Old Boys' half. Arthur, receiving from a scrum, started the home backs, and there was a perfect round of passing. Beard, however, was tackled just outside by Soutar.

Gloucester continued to do all the attacking, and twice in quick succession the Seconds only just failed to cross. Hall, with a tricky effort, nearly went through on his own, and immediately after H. Smith missed dropping a goal by the merest shave.

Up to this point the Old Boys had been hopelessly outplayed, and there was no immediate improvement. From a line-out in the visitors' 25 Wyburn secured, and dodging the opposition crossed with a splendid try, which Welshman goaled.

On the restart there were shouts from the Old Boys' supporters to "Play up!" and in response the visitors' front rank showed up with a strong burst. Arthur saved, and some scrambling play ensued at the centre. Soutar brought off a dashing run for the Old Boys, but passed forward, and Bloxsome picking up punted high. Vance, however, ran back and fielded, and sent to touch.

Clever play by Arthur tested the Old Boys severely, and only a bad transfer stopped a score. Beard next failed to take a pass with a good opening, and in the next minute Soutar's pace alone saved the visitors.

Play was wholly confined to the Old Boys' quarters, but Smith allowed the visitors to clear with a silly drop at goal. The kick was charged down, and the Old Boys' forwards dribbled away beyond the centre. The ball was eventually kicked over the home line by a Gloucester player, and Welshman's punt out did not travel far.

The Old Boys now worked desperately for a score, but the defence was great. A loose rush by the City forwards eased the pressure, and then the City had a further spell of attacking. Twice the Old Boys had to touch down from kicks over the line.

Later Wyburn got away beautifully from a line-out, but with only the full back to beat he passed back and the ball was knocked on. Soon after the interval was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 2 goals
Old Boys Nil

Hawker resumed, and play opened fast at the centre. Smith, losing possession, the Old Boys forwards dribbled away. The final kick, however, was too hard, and Welshman got in a fine punt to touch at midfield.

Collingbourne and Ridge-Jones were prominent for the visitors with good kicks, which kept play at the centre. The Old Boys eventually assumed the upper hand, but there was no finish to their attacking movements. A breakaway by H. Smith looked promising, but he was pulled down from behind.

Ensuing play was fast and exciting, both sets of forwards working with great vigour. The Old Boys had a possible chance following mistakes by home players, but Welshman effected a grand clearance.

Then a dashing burst by the City Seconds took them very close. Bad passing by Arthur lost his side a good position. A capital punt by Romans took the Old Boys to midfield.

The visitors gained further ground, but the play on both sides was too keen and mistakes were numerous.

Smith and Hawker were instrumental in changing the venue, and pretty work between the Gloucester halves enabled them to reach their opponents' end. Here Hall made a pretty opening, but Cook missed the pass, and a good chance was lost.

In subsequent loose play Bailey picked up and with a strong burst was only stopped a yard from the line. The Seconds had further chances during the next few minutes, but they were not accepted. A long kick down brought welcome relief to the Old Boys, but they were quickly sent back, and play was soon at midfield.

At length, following some loose play, Ridge-Jones gathered neatly on the run, and handing to Soutar, the latter dashed over with a try in the corner. Romans failed at goal.

Gloucester resumed, and at once set up an attack. Vance getting the ball tried to get away, but was well tackled by Smith. The ball getting loose Smith and one or two others dribbled away and over the line, Holford being credited with a try, which Welshman failed to convert.

Nettled by this further reverse, the Old Boys played up with great energy, and following some really clever back play Vance raced over on the right. Romans missed the goal-kick.

The last few minutes were hotly contested, but there was no more scoring.

RESULT :

Gloucester A Goals 1 try (13 points)
Old Boys 2 tries (6 points)

REMARKS

It was a red-hot game, and on the run of the play victory went to the better team on the day. The Old Boys woke up in the last quarter, but previous to that the Seconds had considerably the better of the exchanges, and should have added to their score on several occasions.

The combination behind, however, was often at fault. Arthur was weak at times at the scrum, and sent out a number of wild passes. Hubert Smith did excellent work, and at three-quarter Hall was the shining light. Welshman played a capital game at full back.

The Gloucester forwards were in fine trim all through, Bailey, Holford, Wyburn, and Hawker repeatedly shining. For the Old Boys, Pearce, Peckover, Simmonds, and Lewis often came under notice.

Stephens was very nippy as scrum half for the Old Boys, and Romans, despite his long absence from the field, accomplished good work. The three-quarter line were a speedy lot, and in the concluding stages they caused the home defence some anxiety. Soutar, on the left wing, showed splendid dash, and with experience would prove a good addition to a first-class combination.

Lewis and Ridge-Jones displayed capital defensive powers, and Vance made the best possible use of the few chances that came his way. Collingbourne made several mistakes early in the game, but later improved considerably.

This was the Old Boys' third defeat of the season.