

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1908

## FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. NEXT XVIII

PRACTICE GAME AT KINGSHOLM

PROLIFIC SCORING ON BOTH SIDES

The season was opened at Kingsholm on Saturday, when a trial game was played between the City team and the Next Eighteen.

One or two prominent players were missing from the ranks of the premiers, but the side included Sergt. Major Elliott, of the Scots Greys, and an old Cumberland player.

There was no charge for admission, and a fair company of enthusiasts attended.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – F. Welshman; F. Smith, Sergt. Major Elliott, A. Hudson (capt.), and J. M. Baldwin; D. R. Gent and J. Stephens; W. Johns, H. Berry, D. Hollands, G. Griffiths, G. Holford, D. Wyburn, R. Craddock, and H. Bird.

Next Eighteen. – E. J. Butler; C. Cook, C. Lister, A. Pegler, P. Rodway, and W. Hall; S. Stephens and T. Burns; A. Hawker, F. Pegler, H. Wixey, W. Blackford, S. Hayward, J. Lane, C. Westbury, A. Knight, P. G. Savage, and T. Catesby.

Referee : Mr. T. Phelps.

## THE GAME

The Eighteen were deputed to face the sun, and Johns started from the Dean's Walk goal. There was no response to the kick-off, and the City forwards dribbled through until stopped by a good pick up by Lister. The ball getting loose Gent and Stephens opened out, but Hudson was finely tackled by Cook, and his pass to Baldwin went astray.

Gloucester attacked strongly, but they were beaten off, and the Eighteen reached more favourable quarters. Elliott was prominent with one or two smart bits of play, which took the City team close again, and Hollands securing he threw out to F. Smith, who crossed with the first try. Welshman failed at goal.

Resuming, some fast play was witnessed, Holford and Wyburn being seen to advantage. Cook and Hall were the means of the Eighteen getting out of danger, but Gent dribbled back cleverly to near the 25 flag. Here Gent fed Stephens, and after Hudson had handled Baldwin raced over and scored in a good position. Welshman again missed the goal.

On the re-start the Eighteen showed up strongly with loose forward rushes, and the City were forced to defend. One or two attempts to secure were frustrated by some good tackling on the part of F. Smith and Welshman. The Eighteen, however, still pegged away, and Hudson failing to field a kick under the posts the ball was rushed over the line and Catesby was credited with a try. Butler just missed the goal kick.

There was a series of exchange kicks following the drop-out, ending in Cook missing from Elliott. Johns, well up, took the ball neatly, and passing to Elliott, the recruit scored easily for Welshman to convert.

Ensuing play was a trifle scrambling, and Johns and Butler coming into collision the latter had to retire. Immediately after, from an opening by Stephens, a score should easily have resulted, but Baldwin missed Hudson's pass. Loose forward work by the Eighteen gave the City trouble, and some keen play was witnessed at the centre.

At length Gent and Stephens got the ball away from a scrum, and Elliott, with a fine burst, cleared several opponents and transferred to Smith, who got the ball down in the corner. The place kick was a failure.

Butler now returned, and play continued very fast. The Eighteen, with two extra men in the front, rushed several scrums in fine style, but the men failed to retain command of the ball. Berry and Johns led the premiers in a sharp attack, but the mission failed.

The Eighteen retaliated with some strong loose work, and twice Welshman was forced to touch down. Elliott, with a good kick and follow up, put Gloucester at the centre, but they were quickly sent back, and A. Pegler only just failed to score on the left wing, touch-in-goal being given. Just before the interval there was a fast bit of play, in which Elliott, Hudson, Stephens, and F. Smith shone, but nothing resulted.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 1 goal 3 tries  
Eighteen ..... 1 try

It was discovered that the Eighteen had been playing nineteen players. When the game was continued Gent did not appear and S. Stephens partnered his brother on the Gloucester side, Rodway coming up to the scrum and Savage playing three-quarter for the Eighteen.

The latter attacked immediately after the start, but a tackle was effected just outside the line. Gloucester got away with a clever movement, Berry and Holford shining, but it was successfully checked near the centre. The play was carried back to the City quarters, and Wixey picking up in some loose play scored near the posts. Butler added the extra points.

With the Eighteen forwards continuing to do excellent work in the loose the Gloucester backs did not get many chances. Eventually Gloucester took up a strong position, and after clever work by Hollands, Berry scored neatly under the posts. Welshman failed at goal.

The City were seen to advantage on the resumption, but play was started amongst the forwards; it was carried on for some distance, and finally a repass from Johns to Berry gave the ex-soldier his second try, which Hudson failed to convert.

The City forwards were doing better, especially in open play, and it was not long ere Berry scored again in smart fashion. The place-kick, however, proved abortive.

The Eighteen continued to concentrate their energies forward, and twice, after dashing work, they forced minors. Keeping up the pressure, a forward scored from a line-out, Butler failing at goal.

The Gloucester backs put in a neat passing movement after the resumption, but Hawker floored Baldwin when he looked dangerous. The Eighteens worked back, and following clever passing, Lister scored after a sharp dash. The kick at goal was a failure.

The Eighteen held the upper hand in subsequent play, and Gloucester were hard pressed in their 25. Here the City backs started passing, but Baldwin missed, and Lister coming along, he gathered the ball and ran over behind the posts. Butler converted.

Play to the end was strongly contested, and Craddock, after good work by Johns, scored easily for Gloucester. Hudson once more failed with the place kick.

Before the finish Hawker added to his side's score, but Hayward failed at goal.

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 1 goal, 7 tries (26 points)  
Eighteen ..... 2 goals, 4 tries (22 points)

## REMARKS

For a practice match the game was productive of some very good football. Both sides entered into the contest with great keenness, and a hot pace was kept up throughout the full eighty minutes. There was a good deal of scrambling play, but at times some really smart work was witnessed.

There was not an overabundance of back play, chiefly due to the tactics adopted by the Eighteen who went in principally for loose footwork. Hawker had a testy lot under his command, and they worried the City eight continually.

The premiers were seen to advantage in the open, and here Berry, Johns, Holford, and Hollands were frequently noticeable. Griffiths, Wyburn, and Craddock, too, were often conspicuous and Bird appeared to be a scrummager of the right sort.

On the other side, Hawker, Wixey, Catesby, Lane, and Hayward were always to the fore, the men using their feet with great effect. In the first half Gent and Stephens displayed all their old combination and resource, and behind forwards who will let the ball out the City pair should not give much away this season.

At three-quarter chief interest was centred in Elliott, who is a well-built and likely looking player. He possesses dash and a fair pace, and can kick well. Hudson was a marked man, and was not allowed much latitude, and on the respective wings F. Smith and Baldwin were well looked after.

For the Eighteen W. Hall played a very neat game, and was one of the most prominent three-quarters on the field. Lister, another ex-soldier, shaped promisingly on the wing, and should prove useful. Welshman and Butler both kicked well at full-back, and the heavy scoring by both teams was not due to any pronounced weakness on their part.