

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1909

## FOOTBALL

### GLOUCESTER v. CLIFTON

These old rivals met at Kingsholm for the return County League engagement.

Gloucester were without the services of Johns and Berry (who were at Cardiff) and Hollands (on the injured list), but T. Elliott, who has recovered from his accident, was down to play at wing three-quarter in place of Pegler.

Clifton were not at full strength.

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; F. Smith, W. Hall, J. Hamblin, T. Elliott, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), B. Parham, G. Holford, G. Griffiths, J. Wyburn, R. Craddock, A. Hawker, J. Nelmes, forwards.

Clifton. – E. Briggs, back; E. F. Eberle, V. F. Eberle, A. L. Weir, C. M. Welsby, three-quarter backs; A. Gardiner, R. Witchell, half-backs; P. J. Bretherton, J. S. Beiderbeck, H. M. C. Hosegood, P. V. Ealand, J. A. Brown, F. T. Boucher, H. G. W. Prideaux, J. H. Savory, forwards.

Referee : Mr. C. Smith.

## THE GAME

Clifton started from the Dean's walk end with the wind behind them, and the first scrum was formed at the centre. A free-kick to Gloucester gained very little ground, and loose scrambling play followed at the centre for some time.

Hawker got possession and kicked across, but the forwards muddled, and a long kick by Weir forced Welshman to touch down. A return to the drop-out enabled Clifton to keep a footing in the Gloucester 25, but the Cliftonians' attempt at passing was easily broken up, and Hall dribbled clear. He, however, overran the ball, and the movement was stopped. Gradually Gloucester worked down into Clifton territory. The brothers Eberle broke away cleverly, and Victor dribbled clear, but Gent got back and saved nicely.

Gent opened out well, but Hamblin put in a very poor kick, and Clifton got to within five yards of the home line. Gent again got the ball away, but Frank Smith held too long. Clifton were awarded a free on the 25 line, but the kick went wide. A little later the visitors broke away from touch, and the ball being kicked past Welshman, he again conceded a minor. The Clifton forwards broke up a scrum, and made a nice slice of ground, but Hall stopped the movement going any further and looked like cutting through, but he was upset.

The Eberle's were again prominent, but E. F. could not take his brother's pass inside, and Welshman upset Victor about two yards out. Briggs then had a drop for goal, but it went outside. Victor Eberle again got going on the wing, but Welshman proved a stumbling block as before. Up to quarter time Clifton had practically kept Gloucester on the defensive.

Clifton again had a beautiful opening, and E. F. Eberle was out by himself. When confronted by Welshman, however, he hesitated, and the old proverb proved only too true, and he was lost. He also lost the ball, and Gloucester broke away to the centre. Once or twice the ball came back nicely, but Hamblin held too long.

Stephens opened out again, and set Hamblin and Elliott going, but the latter could not shake off the attentions of Welsby, and was floored. The ball very quickly came across the other wing, and Hall giving Smith possession, the latter made off at top speed. He ran round V. Eberle, and dodging Briggs cleverly, scored a smart try. There was no goal.

Clifton then returned to the attack, and obtained a footing in the Gloucester quarter. Again the ball came out to V. Eberle on the wing, and he sprinted finely for the coveted mark, but was grassed just on the line, and a scrum was ordered. The other wing then had a turn, and it was a very near thing when Welsby was pushed into touch.

A pretty bit of inter-passing between Craddock and Smith gained a lot of ground, and Smith kicked to Briggs. The latter was slow in gathering, and Craddock and Holford dashing up charged his kick down, and Craddock dribbled and scored a rather soft try. Welshman failed at the kick.

Stephens was responsible for a try the next minute. He dodged through a host of opponents, gave to Parham, and the latter put Wyburn in under the posts. Welshman goaled.

Just after the whistle went for

HALF-TIME :  
Gloucester ..... 1 goal 2 tries  
Clifton ..... Nil

Vears restarted – with a bandaged wrist, by the bye – and Gloucester at once reached Clifton's 25. Footwork enabled Clifton to clear, but Gloucester were quickly back, and Elliott went off on the left wing at a nice pace. He passed inside, and Holford and Wyburn both handled, the latter sending out wide to Hall, but his pass to Smith was intercepted, and Clifton cleared again.

Elliott again got going, but he passed wildly. Gloucester, however, worked up well, and the ball came out to Smith. He muffed his pass, however, with a fine opening before him. Gloucester had their reward a moment later when Stephens sent out a wide pass to Elliott, who ran in with a good try. Welshman added the extra points.

The Gloucester forwards came away well, but Clifton saved with a flying kick into touch. Hawker gathered the ball well from a kick by E. F. Eberle, and sending out sharply and wide to Elliott on the wing, the latter beat his man nicely and notched another try. Welshman missed the goal by inches only.

Gloucester were now having very much the better of the game, feeling the advantage of the wind, and Hall was very nearly in. Smith then crossed on the other wing, but was called back for a forward transfer.

Then Clifton broke away clear, and a fine open movement by Witchell, Weir, and Welsby ended in the former running right through and scoring under the posts. There was no goal from the easy place.

Clifton were now keeping Gloucester out a good deal better, and the centre was the venue for some time. Gent and Stephens opened out, but Hall was collared in attempting to cut through. Clifton then got down to the Gloucester quarter again, but V. Eberle was bored into touch. Stephens got the ball away, but his pass was ruled forward.

Then Elliott put in a fine kick, but Briggs fielded magnificently and sent right back to the Gloucester 25. The ball came out to Welsby from Weir, and he got over far out. Briggs failed at the kick.

F. Smith missed his pass again when he had a nice chance. Then Elliott got going, but his pass inside was not accepted. The Gloucester forwards, with Wyburn in the van, carried the game into the Clifton 25, where, however, the visitors were awarded a free. Smith was given the ball again, and he made a gallant effort to get through, being flung into touch just outside. Elliott had an opening again, but he failed to catch the bouncing ball.

From almost on the Gloucester line, the Clifton forwards put in a fine rush and centred play. From the ensuing scrum the ball was sent out smartly to Victor Eberle, who got the best of Welshman and scored a clever corner try. A good kick by Briggs just fell short. Even play followed to the end.

RESULT :

Gloucester .... 2 goals, 3 tries (19 points)  
Clifton ..... 3 tries (9 points)

## REMARKS

An extraordinary feature of the game, which otherwise did not rise above the common place, was the fact that Clifton scored three times to Gloucesters' twice in the second half, in spite of the fact that nearly all the moiety Clifton were busy defending.

The visitors' points were all the result of brief flashes of good play or temporary lapses on the part of the City defence. Gloucester were clearly ten points the superior team on the whole match, but they let several lovely chances go begging, especially in the second half, when with the wind behind them they attacked pretty continuously. Elliott made a successful re-appearance, and scored a couple of tries, but some of his passes were very erratic.

Taken collectively the team played a good even game, without any individual brilliance calling for special comment. Victor Eberle played capitally for Clifton – indeed, all their outsides played well, and in spite of at one time looking a well-beaten team the visitors played a good sporting game, and were triers all the way.

JC