

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1909

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM

CHELTENHAM OUTCLASSED

DECISIVE VICTORY FOR THE CITIZENS

For the first of the three games this season between the City and the Town Clubs representative teams fielded, the only absentee of note being Beck from the Cheltenham ranks.

A considerable amount of interest centred in the contest, and a big crowd assembled on the Cheltenham Athletic Ground, the company including several hundreds from Gloucester.

Perfect weather conditions prevailed, and the ground was in capital condition.

The teams lined out as follows : –

Gloucester. – W. Egerton, back; F. Smith, W. Hall, A. Hudson (capt.), W. J. Vance, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears, H. Berry, G. Holford, D. Hollands, G. Griffiths, J. Wyburn, W. J. Pearce, Lieut. Carleton, forwards.

Cheltenham. – B. Davy, back; H. Hughes, F. Welshman, L. W. Hayward (capt.), H. Mather, three-quarter backs; A. Fisher, F. H. B. Champain, half-backs; G. Cossens, W. H. Williams, C. Bennett, H. Wixey, T. Clarke, F. Vick, C. Godding, A. F. Waite, forwards.

Referee : Mr. J. H. Miles (Leicester).

THE GAME

Cossens kicked off for Cheltenham, and the return being partly charged down the Town gained a footing in the Gloucester 25. A sharp rush by the home forwards took them close, and the City were called upon to defend. Gloucester relieved slightly, but Cheltenham returned, and Wixey gathering, he made a strong dash, but was upset by Hudson.

Berry, from a line-out close in dashed away in fine style and passed, and a kick took Gloucester to midfield. Here Champain failed to take a kick by Egerton, but Davy luckily got the ball to touch. A nice movement by the Gloucester backs saw Vance race down touch and cross-kick, but Davy marked cleverly in the face of opposition.

The kick out brought Cheltenham to the centre, where both teams tried to open out without success. Close scrummaging followed, Cheltenham getting the better of some loose work. A pass from Fisher to Mather enabled the latter to run down and kick across, but Hudson secured and punted out of danger. Clever feeding of the visiting backs by Gent enabled the City backs to do some good passing, but the defence was sound. Fisher's shoulder at this point gave him some trouble, but he pluckily resumed.

Gloucester got close by the aid of Hudson, and Smith marking from a throw out Egerton had a shot for goal, but a fine kick just fell short. Champain, with a neat effort, gained a nice slice of ground, but the City quickly changed the venue. Gent, picking up from Fisher, passed, and the ball got out to Vance, who brought off a fine run. The Gloucesterian tried hard to beat Davy, but the Cheltonian just got him by the leg.

Gloucester were now attacking strongly, but keenness spoilt the back movement. Cheltenham had a narrow escape on the right wing, and Hall, with a clever effort, was nearly through. Hayward intercepting a pass brought relief, and Fisher with a touch-finder sent to the Gloucester 25.

From this point the City came right away. Berry got possession and looked likely to get clear, but a knock-on ensued. A penalty for off-side against Fisher gave Egerton a chance for a goal, but the kick again fell short.

Hayward ran out and found touch beyond the centre. Here the Gloucester backs indulged in some neat exchanges, but Smith was bored to touch by Welshman.

From the line-out the Gloucester forwards went away, Pearce being prominent. The ball was taken right to the line, where in a scramble Hollands was credited with a try. Egerton added the extra points.

Resuming, some fast forward play was witnessed. Carrying a scrum the Town pack rushed in fine style and crossed the line, but Hall managed to touch down in the nick of time. The drop-out was well returned by Champain, and for the next few minutes play was confined to the Gloucester half.

Stephens, missing a pass from Gent, recovered and sent to Hudson, but the City captain was floored immediately. Matters looked dangerous for the City, but the situation was saved.

Gloucester broke away with a passing run and Hall punted finely, but a City forward knocked on in fielding with a splendid opening. Neat combination between Fisher, Champain, and Hayward put Cheltenham on the attack, and a fine forward rush took them over the line, where Egerton kicked dead.

Ensuing play was hotly contested, the tackling being exceptionally keen. Smart play by Cheltenham took the home team to the left corner, where Gloucester apparently had a narrow escape. The City soon relieved, Gent being to the fore, and even play followed to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 goal
Cheltenham	Nil

Vears re-started, and following an exchange of kicks play opened near midfield. From the first line-out a Gloucester forward secured and threw out a pass, but Hayward snapped up the ball, only to be pulled down from behind. Egerton staved off a dashing burst of the Town forwards, but off-side gave the home team a penalty. Champain dropped for goal, but failed in his attempt, and Hudson punted out.

Following some loose play, Gent opened out beautifully, and Smith receiving from Hall, the Gloucester winger raced down touch and cleared Davy, but was collared on the line by Champain. The ball, however, got loose, and Hudson securing scored in a favourable position. Egerton kicked a neat goal.

Gloucester played up grandly on the restart, but lost two or three fine chances through knocking on. Welshman made a feeble effort when he had a good opening. The City forwards continued to heel well, and Gent and Stephens did their part splendidly, but the passing went wrong with the defence beaten. Cheltenham played up pluckily but were having all the worst of the game. The City backs at length brought off a perfect bit of combination, but Smith just fell to a good tackle by Davy three yards out.

Gloucester confined operations to their opponents' half, and the forwards, with some fine work, severely tested the defence. From a long kick by Egerton, Davy received under his posts, but he ran out and punted to touch. Well inside the Town half Gent got the ball out, and Stephens judged a nice pass to Hudson. Hall and Smith handled, and the latter, with a fine sprint, scored a lovely try. Egerton had hard lines in his shot for goal.

Cheltenham made a brief visit to the City end on the re-start. Here Fisher opened out, but Hayward fumbled his pass, and Hall snapping it up, raced clear away with Smith in attendance. Only Davy was in front, and a transfer to the wing man gave Smith another try, Egerton converting.

Gloucester were now easily on top, and the City pressed home their advantage. A penalty was given to the visitors, and Egerton punted high to allow his forwards to get under the ball. Welshman misjudged the ball, which was taken on the bounce by Berry. Several transfers followed, ending in Carleton scoring near the posts. The place kick failed.

Cheltenham resumed, but were at once placed on the defensive. Hudson made a couple of good runs, but was stopped in time, whilst Hall was tackled just outside. The City, however, were not to be denied, and after a splendid round of passing Hudson added to Gloucester's score after a dashing run. Egerton missed the goal kick from near touch by inches. Play to the end favoured Gloucester, who were returned decisive winners.

RESULT :

Gloucester 3 goals 3 tries (24 points)
Cheltenham Nil

REMARKS

The City's pronounced triumph was in every way deserved, for there was clearly only one team in it in the second half. Previous to the interval the Town, by strenuous forward work, made a good fight, and more than once the Gloucester lines had a narrow escape. Still the City ought to have crossed over with a bigger lead than five points, for they had several nice chances of scoring. The backs, however, could not get the machinery to work with the necessary finish, and knocks on and forward passes spoiled several splendid openings.

If Cheltenham thought they had a possible chance at half-time, it was quickly shaken, for immediately the City got to work in a manner that indicated danger to their opponents. The visiting forwards took the game well in hand, and heeling smartly, Gent and Stephens opened out play in the most delightful way. Shaping more confidently, the Gloucester three-quarters gave of their best, and with the Cheltenham defence crumbling up, the City piled up points very rapidly.

Altogether the Town's line was crossed on five occasions in the second half, but these scores did not represent the immense advantage held by the visitors. Cheltenham, in a few words, were clearly outclassed by a far superior combination in every department, and the end came with the side defeated at home by the biggest score put on against them for many years. It was a crushing blow to the hopes and anticipations of Cheltenham, whose supporters, before the match, were sanguine they would make a close fight.

Gloucester's play in the early stages did not command satisfaction, but the team fully made amends later on. The forwards were up against a pack who put in some fine work in the loose, but in all the finer points they were beaten. The Gloucester men were well together, heeled splendidly, and were fast and clever in the open. There were occasions when off-side and faulty handling lost openings, but with the game contested with so much spirit the mistakes perhaps were excusable.

Berry again greatly distinguished himself in all phases of play, and other players who caught the eye were Carleton, Hollands, Wyburn, and Pearce. Still the others all put in some grand work at times, and as a whole they performed up to their best standard. Cheltenham were best represented by Bennett, Wixey, and Williams. The men apparently spent themselves in the first half, for after the change of ends they never really troubled their opponents.

At half-back, Gent and Stephens combined beautifully, and to their cleverness and resource the City owed not a little for their decisive victory. Gent got the ball away under almost any difficulty, and Stephens took all sorts of transfers with the utmost precision. The veteran also showed capital judgment in timing his transfers, and he went on his own more than usual with every success. Fisher played a very useful game for Cheltenham despite an injured shoulder, but Champain was practically a passenger, and it is evident, on to-day's showing, the Oxonian's football days are past.

The Gloucester three-quarters proved altogether too good for the opposing quartette. As already noted, there were failures in handling in the first half, and in this respect Hudson was off colour. A wonderful improvement, however, was effected after the change of ends, when some brilliant exchanges were indulged in.

Frank Smith and Hall crossed over to the left wing for this match, and the pair got a show which has not previously been their lot in any previous match this season.

Hall played an exceedingly pretty game, letting the ball go at the right moment and displaying no small amount of cuteness in deceiving the opposition. Smith, on his part, co-operated splendidly, and he made several fine runs, from two of which he scored.

Hudson was not quite his old self, but in the latter stages he came out strongly, and his last try from a dash 25 yards out, was one of the old sort. Vance shaped really well, and he should certainly be a fixture. He took his passes well, and made full use of his pace.

For Cheltenham, nothing in the way of combination was shown. Hayward did a lot of hard work in the centre, but Welshman was very moderate. Hughes was the better of the two wings, Mather being often out of position.

Davy, despite the heavy score against him, was in good form at full-back for the Town, and Egerton was very little inferior.

GLOUCESTER A v GLOUCESTER OLD BOYS

OLD BOYS HEAVILY BEATEN

The rivalry between these teams is always keen, and it was disappointing that there was only a small attendance at Kingsholm, the match at Cheltenham naturally attracting the majority.

The teams were : –

Gloucester A. – H. Hancock; J. M. Baldwin, J. Hamblin, L. Hamblin, and W. Washbourn; W. Dix and J. Goddard; F. Pegler, F. Welshman, J. Price, J. Lane, W. Blackford, W. Nelmes, S. Millard, and H. Daniells.

Old Boys. – A. T. Neale; C. Barnes, T. Gange, J. H. Webb, and B. Roach; P. Rodway and R. Langford; S. D. Lane (capt.), L. Norman, A. Knight, W. Ramstedt, P. Simmonds, F. Quixley, F. Priday, and H. A'Bear.

Referee : Mr. E. W. Jordan.

Play opened at the centre, but was of a scrambling nature, the opening exchanges being very scrappy. Hancock was early called upon, but he put in a fine return to the centre, and from here the City Seconds gradually forced ahead and gained a footing in the Old Boys' 25. A free to the Seconds saw Hancock take the kick, but although the direction was good, there was not quite enough force behind it, and the ball struck the bar and rebounded into play, the Old Boys' forwards kicking out clear.

The City were in their turn penalised, but a good forward rush nullified any advantage accruing from the kick. In some scrambling play Goddard tried a drop for goal, but it failed. Then Dix and J. Hamblin opened out a bit, but just when things looked promising a forward transfer spoiled the show.

The Seconds were well in the Old Boys' quarter, but Baldwin and Goddard mulling in turn gave the visitors a chance, and they rushed the game to the centre. The Seconds were quickly back, and the forwards heeling nicely Dix opened out, but Goddard missed the pass. The homesters tried passing, but Baldwin was well marked and could not get through. A free to Gloucester was given on the 25 line, but Hancock just missed with a very good kick.

The Old Boys then centred play, and with a good rush caused Hancock considerable trouble, the home custodian just fielding in time. The succeeding exchanges left the Old Boys with the advantage, but they failed to profit by a mark, and the Seconds quickly seizing an opening transferred operations to the Old Boys' quarter. The Boys had a very nasty time of it for about two minutes and in spite of a desperate defence a quick pass from Dix to Goddard enabled the latter to cross with a smart try. The kick failed.

The Seconds had not long to wait for their second success, for as the result of a neat bit of passing L. Hamblin ran round with a nice try under the posts, Hancock adding the extra points.

The Seconds were having quite the best of matters now, and a pretty round of passing left Baldwin with the ball. He beat Gange prettily and scored a good try behind the posts. Hancock again did the needful.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	2 goals, 1 try
Old Boys	Nil

Early in the second half the Seconds heeled nicely, and Dix, whipping the ball out wide to Hamblin, the latter passed to Washbourn, who beat his man cleverly and ran over. The kick failed.

A wild pass by Rodway nearly let the Old Boys down, but they just cleared. The Seconds continued to have the best of matters, and after some more pretty passing Baldwin ran over in the corner. No goal resulted.

Immediately on the restart Baldwin got going again, but he was bored into touch. The Seconds were not long to be delayed, however, and after keeping up a hot attack another pretty bit of passing gave J. Hamblin the sixth try. The place-kick was again far out, and failed.

The Old Boys were kept pretty busy defending, but eventually Lane brought relief, but his kick was well returned by Hancock.

The Seconds continued to have matters pretty well their own way, and against a less stubborn defence they would undoubtedly have run up a lot of points. As it was Dix, working the old trick of pushing his way through the back of the scrum, succeeded in getting over with another try, which also went unconverted.

Gloucester maintained the pressure consistently, and Blackford was the next to add to the score, Hancock majorising with a kick which struck the post and bounded over.

A minute later the ball was sent out to Baldwin, and he scored in the corner, the kick failing.

The Old Boys were defending to the end.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ...	3 goals, 6 tries (33 points)
Old Boys	Nil

REMARKS

Gloucester were too much for the Old Boys all through and at all points, but although they were beaten – and more particularly in the second half – the visitors never lost pluck and defended gamely to the end.

It was the best game the Seconds have played this season, the forwards particularly distinguishing themselves by controlling the ball practically throughout.