

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1909

## FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CLIFTON

CITY WIN COMFORTABLY

This return match was played at Kingsholm. As on the occasion of the first fixture (easily won by the City by 23 points to 5), Gloucester were again weakly represented. Hudson Gent, Stephens, Berry, Carleton, Wyburn, and Griffiths were all away at Camborne, and Johns was absent through an injured arm.

Clifton had several changes, Victor Eberle, who had gone down as reserve for the county, being the most prominent absentee.

Rain in the morning was followed by snow and fog, and the attendance was the poorest on record for a First match, less than 100 people being on the ground at the time of starting. On the sixpenny side there were nine persons, including the policemen.

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

Gloucester. – W. Egerton, back; J. M. Baldwin, F. Smith, H. Barnes, W. J. Vance, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, W. Hall, half-backs; G. Vears, D. Hollands, G. Holford, W. Nelmes, J. Hall, W. Blackford, F. Pegler, F. Welshman, forwards.

Clifton. – E. Briggs, back; E. Eberle, A. B. Sellman, C. Slee, K. Fisher, three-quarter backs; R. Witchell, C. M. Welsby, half-backs; A. J. Gardner, P. L. Ealand, H. D. W. Prideaux, C. Hosegood, L. Page, J. A. Brown, J. H. Savory, J. Dommett, forwards.

Referee : Rev. D. T. Jones.

## THE GAME

Vears started for Gloucester, and opening play was contested in the Clifton half. The surface of the ground was covered with snow, and early mistakes indicated that considerable difficulty would be experienced in holding the ball.

Gloucester lost ground by attempting to pass, but a forward rush took the ball to the line, where Holford was robbed of a try by Briggs kicking dead.

The drop-out was well returned, and Clifton were soon forced on the defensive. From a loose forward burst the ball got across to the right wing, where Hall failed to gather with a good opening.

Gloucester forced another minor from a kick over the line, but on the drop-out Clifton worked to the centre. Here Briggs punted down the field, but Baldwin secured, and after a short run kicked. The City men being put on-side there was a certain try, but Dix knocked on a few yards from the line.

An interception by a Cliftonian relieved for the visitors, and a long kick took the ball past Egerton. Vance got back and saved, and Egerton later kicked out of danger. Clifton tried passing, but it broke down, and Hall getting possession he punted to Briggs, whose kick was charged down by Vance. Clifton, however, saved.

Rushing tactics by the City forwards took the home team well down, but from a short kick by Smith, Eberle gathered and got in a fine run until well tackled by Egerton. Ensuing play was very scrambling, correct back play being entirely at a discount owing to the conditions.

The Gloucester forwards, led by Vears, got in several fine rushes, but Briggs stopped them well each time. The City once became dangerous, but Clifton relieved with a passing run, the final transfer going to touch.

Subsequent play was of the kick and rush order, the attempts to handle the ball being ludicrous.

The referee allowed many infringements to pass unchecked, and once Clifton profited to such an extent that they nearly scored. Just before the interval Clifton forced a minor from a fruitless drop at goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... Nil  
Clifton ..... Nil

Clifton restarted, but with the ground churned up the game was a bigger farce than ever. Gloucester tried to open out, but Smith passed wretchedly to Vance. Clifton changed the venue with a forward burst, and Egerton failing to pick up the ball the visitors narrowly missed scoring, a minor resulting.

Clifton continued to have the better of the exchanges, and the backs handling smartly Gloucester only just saved. The visitors still kept up the pressure, but the City playing up strongly reached the centre. Here Dix fed Barnes, who sent to Baldwin. The latter ran and punted over Briggs' head, and following up was about to drop on the ball when Eberle kicked the leather from under him.

Clifton dropped out, but Gloucester returned to the attack, and following neat play by Barnes, Vance raced over and behind the posts. Egerton failed at goal.

On the restart, Gloucester quickly rushed matters, and Barnes made a lovely opening, but the ball slipped from his hands. Clifton were hard pressed, and from a line-out Welshman secured and passed to Hall, who scored near the posts. The kick at goal hit the upright.

Gloucester now had [3 or 4 words unreadable] in hand, and but for the slippery state of the ball several more scores would have been recorded.

Clifton played up pluckily, and with a loose rush they visited the home end. The City, however, were soon on the move again, and Vance, receiving from Smith in his own half, ran brilliantly, clearing all opposition and planting the ball behind the posts. It was a grand effort and deservedly applauded. Egerton this time landed a goal, and Gloucester led by eleven points.

The resumption saw Gloucester still in the ascendant, the forwards doing good work and the backs handling with far more proficiency. Taking advantage of a misfield by Briggs, Holford made the best use of an opening, galloping home easily with the fourth try. Egerton added the goal points.

Soon after the re-start there was a lovely bout of passing by the City backs, ending in another fine run by Vance and the fifth try, which Egerton converted.

Clifton were now completely outplayed, but they stuck pluckily to their task. Baldwin had a fine chance, but was pulled down by Briggs in his attempt to run round the full-back. Before the end, however, Baldwin added to the score, the place kick failing.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester .... 3 goals, 3 tries (24 points)  
Clifton ..... Nil

#### REMARKS

The conditions were altogether against correct football, but Gloucester gave a capital display in the last twenty minutes. Up to this point it was anybody's game, but once the City scored there was no holding the home players.

The feature of the match was the fine running of Vance, two of his tries being perfect gems. Barnes and Hall also did good service behind for the City, and of the forwards Vears, Holford, Nelmes, and Welshman were the most prominent.

Egerton played soundly at full back, the few mistakes he made being quite excusable.

For Clifton, Eberle and Sellman at three-quarter did a lot of useful work, and the forwards were a hard-working body.

### GLOUCESTER A v. MONMOUTH

The heavy call made on the Reserves by the premiers disorganised the A team and it was really a scratch local side that made the journey to Monmouth.

In the opening stages Monmouth showed superiority behind the pack, but failed to score. The homesters were pressing, when the Gloucester forwards came away with a fine dribble. The Monmouth backs were beaten, and Washbourne following up, dribbled over with a fine try, which Joe Hamblin converted.

#### HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A ..... 1 goal  
Monmouth ..... Nil

In the second half Monmouth tried desperately hard to get on terms, but just failed. J. Pembridge dropped a fine goal for Monmouth, and an exciting game ended in a win for Gloucester by one point.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 1 goal (5 points)  
Monmouth ..... 1 goal (d) (4 points)