

# THE CITIZEN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1909

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v BRIDGWATER ALBION

SOMERSET MEN OUTCLASSED

CITY SCORE AN EASY VICTORY

There were numerous changes forward in the Gloucester team for this match at Kingsholm on Tuesday, only Vears, Pegler, and Pearce of the pack which opposed the Taylors playing.

One of the substitutes was F. Westbury, who reappeared for the City premiers after several years' absence. Bridgwater had a number of substitutes doing duty.

A heavy storm of rain fell half an hour before the match, and with the outlook doubtful the attendance was very moderate.

Gloucester. – W. Egerton; A. Hudson, W. Hall, H. Barnes, and W. J. Vance; D. R. Gent and J. Stephens; G. Vears, W. J. Pearce, F. Pegler, W. Blackford, J. Price, F. Westbury, W. Johns, and L. Norman.

Bridgwater. – T. Billings; G. Kingston, A. Mead, J. Williams, and R. Webb; J. Benjamin and H. Baker; F. Bailey, W. Woods, W. Bailey, H. Job, F. Prew, A. Prew, H. Caple, and W. Shepherd.

Referee : Mr. J. Milburn (Bristol).

## THE GAME

Bridgwater started, and play opened in the home half. Gent early opened out, and a lovely round of passing resulted in three-parts of the length of the field being covered, but the final transfer to Hall, who walked over the line, was ruled forward.

From the subsequent scrum the Gloucester backs indulged in a series of exchanges, but Vance failed to take from Barnes, and another try was lost. By the aid of loose kicking the visitors got out of danger, but Gent set his backs in motion, and Hudson, after receiving from Hall, cleared the opposition cleverly and scored a good try. Egerton kicked a goal.

The Albion re-started, but Barnes, with a nice touch-kick, sent play to the visitors' end. Johns opened out from a line, but the City backs failed at the critical moment. A visiting half-back eased the pressure, and later some loose kicking took play to the Gloucester end. Here Vance got back and gathering sprinted down touch and cross-kicked. Johns fielded on the run and got to within a couple of yards from the line, when he was upset from behind.

Gloucester missed another try a minute later, and slack play allowed the visitors to dribble more than half the length of the ground. Egerton was beaten and the ball was kicked over the line, but only a minor was given. Bridgwater, by strong forward work, pressed severely, and Gloucester had an anxious time.

Benjamin, breaking away from a scrum, got very close, but his pass a yard or so outside was knocked on. Egerton brought relief with a touch-kick, but the Somerset men returned smartly. The visitors were beating the home men for possession, but the backs could not do much with their chances. Eventually, out of some loose play near the centre, Barnes picked up and, cutting through, reached the full back. A pass to Vance saw the right winger out-distance the opposition and score behind the posts. Egerton again converted.

Bridgwater resumed, and mid-field play followed. Gent, with tricky footwork from a scrum, sent the game to the visitors' 25, and later Hall executed a pretty dribble. Off-side, however, lost the advantage.

Then Pegler forced a minor with a kick over the line. The same player a minute later obtained another minor with a drop at goal, the ball just going outside the upright.

Subsequent play was confined to the Bridgwater half, where Vance made a mark. Egerton's punt was gathered by Westbury, who passed to Hall. The latter yielded to Hudson, who slipped a couple of opponents and ran behind the posts, for Egerton to add the goal points.

On the re-start Bridgwater, taking advantage of mistakes by the home players, rushed to the Gloucester end, and Egerton conceded a minor. Rain now commenced to fall heavily, and the players found it difficult to handle the ball with accuracy.

Pegler, breaking away from a line-out, passed to Johns, and a score appeared imminent, but the Inter-national was well tackled from behind. The interval was then called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 3 goals  
Bridgwater Albion ..... Nil

Vears re-started, but the ball failing to go ten yards a scrum was ordered. In some loose play the ball was kicked to Hudson, who dashed down the left wing and put in a short punt. Again securing, he dribbled on, and the forwards continuing the movement, Vears picked up and passed to Pearce, who crossed near the posts. Egerton's shot for goal went wide of the posts.

Following the drop-out Norman shone in a loose dribble, and the ball being kicked over the line Westbury got up and apparently grounded for a try, but the referee only gave a minor.

In subsequent play Bridgwater had rather the better of the exchanges in a forward struggle. Off-side by the City let the visitors into their 25, but Gloucester soon changed the venue.

A passing movement initiated by Gent saw Hall go through nicely and, punting over the line, Hudson raced up and scored his third try. the place-kick failed.

Bridgwater, aided a good deal by off-side work which escaped the referee, visited the home end on the drop-out, and forced two minors as the result of aimless kicks over the line.

The visitors played five three-quarters, and all the men standing close up they hampered the passing of the home backs. At length Gent beat the opposition with a reverse pass and, Hall cutting out a fine opening, Hudson crossed in the corner. No goal resulted.

The drop-out was received by Gent, who punted back, the ball striking an opponent. Hall came along and, gathering on the run, went clean up the field. He eventually handed to Johns, who passed to Pegler, for the latter to yield to Pearce, who completed a fine movement by scoring a try. Egerton again missed the goal points.

Bridgwater were clearly outplayed at all points, but they played up pluckily. Play, however, was very scrambling at times, and lacking in incident. Gloucester put in one or two good bits of play, but they were checked before getting dangerous.

Johns several times broke away finely with the ball at his feet; and once he gathered on the run and made a good opening, but Pearce dropped the ball. Vance, from a loose kick, tried to get away, but he was hemmed in, and all through he hardly got a fair chance. Soon afterwards time was called.

RESULT :

Gloucester .... 3 goals 4 tries (27 points)  
Bridgwater Albion ..... Nil

## REMARKS

Compared with the Boxing Day match it was a dull sort of game. The visitors played a hard game forward, and the backs kicked well, but there was little finish. Gloucester never really extended themselves, and it was during several slack periods that Bridgwater got dangerous.

The City only completed their team on the ground; Stephens, who had been down with influenza, pluckily turned out, and Leslie Norman, of the Old Boys, coming into the side at the last moment.

JC