

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1910

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM

The second meeting of these local rivals at Kingsholm attracted a good crowd. In the first match, at Cheltenham, the City won easily, and there was confidence in the home camp that this result would be repeated to-day.

Gloucester fielded short of Wyburn and Griffiths, on the injured list, whilst Cheltenham had Godding, Fisher and Harrison away.

Three Old Cheltonians, in Pym, Beauchamp and Pocock, however, appeared.

The visitors were late in arriving, and it was 2.55 before the teams took the field. A drizzling rain was then falling, and the outlook was unpleasant.

Teams : –

Gloucester. – W. Egerton, back; A. Hudson (capt.), W. Hall, H. Barnes, W. J. Vance, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears, W. Johns, H. Berry, D. Hollands, W. J. Pearce, G. Holford, F. Pegler, W. Nelmes, forwards.

Cheltenham. – B. Davy, back; H. Hughes, H. Wixey, L. W. Hayward (capt.), D. Sullivan, three-quarter backs; J. A. Pym, G. Bowstead, half-backs; G. Cossens, L. G. Pocock, T. Clarke, A. F. Waite, C. Bennett, W. J. Beauchamp, W. H. Williams, F. Vick, forwards.

Referee : Mr. Sewell (Leicester).

THE GAME

Gloucester won the toss, and Beauchamp kicked off for Cheltenham, Egerton replying with a fine touch-finder to the centre. From the first scrum Gloucester heeled, but Gent's pass went wide of Stephens. The former, however, recovered, and punted to touch.

From the ensuing line-out Gloucester started a round of passing but Hudson knocked on from Hall, and nothing resulted. Mid-field play followed until Gent started passing from a scrum. The ball was handled smartly, but Vance missed from Barnes with a fine chance.

The City forwards broke away with a splendid rush, but Davy checked them in daring fashion. Next the City opened out, and the ball came across to Hudson, who re-passed to Hall, but Davy upset the latter nicely. Cheltenham made headway with a useful dribble, and the centre was again the scene of operations.

A well-judged pass from Stephens to Hudson saw the International race down to Davy and punt, but he failed to regain possession with a walk-in. Cheltenham were hotly pressed, and from another passing movement Barnes ran in easily and behind the posts, Egerton goaling.

Cheltenham resumed, the ball going out of play. Gloucester, however, accepted, and from the ensuing scrum Gent was penalised for off-side. With the kick Davy found touch well inside the Gloucester half. Stephens was prominent in changing the venue, but a loose rush by the Town forwards returned play to the home end. Hall punted out, and a spell of even play ensued.

Off-side by Pym caused Cheltenham to be penalised, and Egerton punted high. The Gloucester forwards were well up, but a knock-on occurred with a possible opening. Rain now descended heavily, making the conditions difficult for the players. Cheltenham twice kicked down to Egerton, but the City custodian returned splendidly.

A splendid passing bout saw all the Gloucester backs take part, with the exception of Vance, but Hall failed to take a rather low re-pass from Hudson. Good work by Hayward gained some 20 yards for Cheltenham and play hovered near the centre. Bowstead, with a useful kick, sent to the home 25, but Cheltenham lost the ground through weak passing, and a loose kick by Hayward.

Gloucester came away with a smart effort, and from a cross-kick Hudson sent past Davy. Wixey got back and saved and Cheltenham were called upon to defend. Gloucester lost a possible opening through failure to handle, and Hayward, taking advantage of the mistake, picked up and kicked to the centre.

Gloucester quickly got going again, and from passing Vance had a dash on the right, but he was thrown to touch. From a long line-out the Gloucester forwards opened out, and Barnes obtained a fine opening, but held on too long and eventually gave a bad pass. Gent, however, gathered, and ducking under the arms of an opponent slipped over the line cleverly amidst cheers. Egerton added the extra points.

On the restart, Gloucester were soon on the attack again, and from a cross-kick by Holford, Hall gathered and went down the centre of the field. A pass followed to Pearce, who handed to Berry, for the latter to romp home near the posts. Egerton again goaled.

Beauchamp resumed, Barnes replying to Hughes, who knocked on. Pym was penalised for an infringement, and Egerton punting high enabled the forwards to get under the ball. They, however, lost it, and Cheltenham kicked to Barnes, who raced away and fed Vance. The wing man made off at full speed, but could not keep clear of the touch-line.

Cheltenham got out of their 25 by the aid of a penalty, but Barnes sent them back with a lovely touch-finder. Off-side by the City, however, lost the position, and Cheltenham got to mid-field. The Town were now playing Cossens outside the scrum, but with seven forwards the visitors had rather the better of the heeling.

Their backs, however, kicked with poor judgment, sending several times straight to Egerton, who generally returned with interest. Ensuing play was lacking in interest, but Cheltenham held up pluckily.

Gloucester tried passing, but Hall, though making a game effort, failed to get through. From well inside their own 25 Cheltenham got the ball out, and following good runs by Hayward and Wixey, the Town reached the Gloucester half before being stopped. The interval was then called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	3 goals
Cheltenham	Nil

Vears restarted, but a knock-on occurring a scrum was ordered. Gent got the ball away to Stephens, who fed Hudson, but the latter's re-pass was not taken. In some loose footwork Barnes gained possession and punted across to Hughes, and he was allowed to run clear away to Egerton. He then passed to Williams, who re-passed forward, a fine opening being lost, though the Gloucester men were to blame for standing still and allowing Hughes to get clear.

Immediately after Cheltenham forced a minor from a kick over the line. Ensuing play was very scrambling, and mistakes were numerous. Cheltenham were holding their own very well, and Davy, following up a kick, charged down Gent's return and recovered. In swerving past Egerton the Town custodian slipped and fell, and lost an almost certain try.

Gloucester cleared from a dangerous position with a good rush, but Davy brought off another fine piece of saving work.

Cheltenham returned to the attack with vigour, but combination behind was lacking. Knocks-on on both sides, too, were of frequent occurrence, and play was generally very scrappy.

At length the Gloucester backs got moving, Vance receiving from Barnes and dashing off down touch. Davy, however, effected a splendid tackle. Immediately after Stephens cut out a smart opening, and passing to Barnes, the latter sent to Vance, who dashed over in the corner and got the ball down safely, though tackled by Davy. Egerton's shot for goal, a splendid attempt, fell short. Davy was injured in tackling Vance, and he had to receive attention on the touch-line.

Cheltenham resumed with fourteen men, Hughes going full back. Gloucester at once assumed the aggressive, and following some loose forward work the ball got across to Hudson, who gathered nicely on the run and went over with a strong burst. The kick at goal failed.

With a lead of 21 points Gloucester were in a happy position. Davy now returned amidst applause. Holford was conspicuous with a good effort from a line-out, but Cheltenham, with some loose work, gained a footing in the home half. Bowstead further improved the position with a useful touch-kick, but play was not allowed to stay long in this quarter.

Cheltenham once or twice tried passing, but the extra man outside spoiled things for attack. From inside the Gloucester quarter the home men broke away finely, but a forward pass was ruled with a try in view. Stephens, with a pretty effort, put Gloucester on the attack again, but his pass was taken by an opponent.

Cheltenham rushed to the City half, but Gloucester came right away with neat passing. Then from a line-out there was a cross-kick over the line, and Holford was credited with a soft try near the posts. Egerton converted.

On the resumption Cheltenham forced a minor from a shot at goal from a penalty, and soon afterwards the visitors were awarded another penalty close to the Gloucester line. Beauchamp had another kick for goal, but the ball fell short and was taken by Pegler, who came through and passed to Hollands. The latter, however, was well collared in the nick of time.

In the last five minutes play was confined to the Cheltenham half. Hudson missed a possible opening through over-running the half, whilst Vance, a little later, lost a certain try, losing the ball a couple of yards from the line.

Cheltenham worked out to the centre, where Johns, picking up in the loose, threw out to Barnes. The latter dodged an opponent and passed to Vance, who with a really fine effort cleared Davy and scored the seventh try of the match. Egerton goaled with a splendid kick. Soon afterwards the end arrived.

RESULT :

Gloucester ... 5 goals, 2 tries (31 points)
Cheltenham Nil

REMARKS

Gloucester dearly love piling on points against their near neighbours, and the Town to-day caught it pretty hot. Except forward, where Cheltenham put up a praiseworthy contest, the visitors were altogether outclassed. The City by no means gave an ideal display, for there were many mistakes in handling, but the combination was much too strong for Cheltenham.

In the front the Town were content to play seven men, Cossens being brought out to three-quarter to help check the City's attacking movements. In defence the move came in useful, but it counteracted when Cheltenham got the ball out, for with the players almost on top of one another there was no room to manœuvre. One or two possible opening were spoiled in the second half owing to this handicap.

Hayward and Davy stood out as the most useful men for Cheltenham, and in defence these two players did a lot of work. Davy especially came out of a trying ordeal very successfully, and but for his game efforts his side would have suffered a far heavier defeat.

Hughes did one or two smart things, but the other players forming the back division were not over-prominent.

In the forwards, Williams was easily the best man in the pack, with Pocock, Bennett and Beauchamp useful colleagues.

Gloucester at times showed tip-top form all round, but occasionally the movements broke down in disappointing fashion.

The forwards were a dashing lot, Johns being frequently in evidence. Holford and Berry were very conspicuous in out-of-touch play, and Pearce and Hollands several times came under notice.

In the scrums the home pack did not have matters all their own way, even when operating against seven of their opponents.

At half, Gent and Stephens were very efficient in combination, and the latter made some clever openings in the course of the game. The three-quarters were sound, and some of the passing was extremely good. The keen marking of the Town upset the passing at times, but both Hall and Barnes got through very nicely occasionally.

On the wings, Hudson and Vance were both seen to advantage. The International did not have the best of luck, the ball bouncing awkwardly once or twice when he had practically a clear field.

Vance scored the best try of the match – his final effort. He had Davy well beaten this time, and the Gloucesterian showed that with anything like a decent chance he takes a lot of stopping.

Egerton gave a finished display at full back for Gloucester, his fielding and kicking alike being excellent.

In the two matches with Cheltenham this season, Gloucester have obtained 55 points to nil. To-day's decisive victory was a capital send-off for the New Year for the City.

GLOUCESTER A v. TREDWORTH

This match was played at Hatherley Park, Tredworth holding a ground record. Tredworth started, and immediately pressed, and after about five minutes' play Hatton went over after a splendid forward rush, Staunton kicking a fine goal.

After this reverse the Seconds played up better, and Washbourn went over, after a nice run down the wing. Tredworth again got going, and only some splendid defensive work by Hancock prevented a score.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Tredworth 1 goal

Gloucester A 1 try

Gloucester A re-started, and quickly came into their opponents' half, through some good play by Baldwin. The Tredworth forwards again came away with a rush, but were penalised, and Gloucester found relief from a nice kick by Hancock. E. Rudge, intercepting a pass, ran through and scored in a favourable position for Tredworth, but the kick failed.

Tredworth pressed repeatedly, and Rudge nearly went through again, Hancock then bring relief with a nice kick. At this point Goddard was hurt, and unable to resume.

The Tredworth forwards were playing splendidly, but Baldwin and Washbourn both brought timely relief. Hayes was then hurt, and the Seconds had to resume with 13 men. Just on the call of time Allen, running round, passed to Staunton, who ran over, no goal resulting.

RESULT :

Tredworth 1 goal 2 tries (11 points)

Gloucester A 1 try (3 points)