

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1911

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v CLIFTON

WEAKENED CITY TEAM WIN WELL

With the City supplying seven players to the county, it was a very weakened side that opposed Clifton at Kingsholm, but the Gloucester reserves are pretty useful, and the team which did duty was considered quite good enough to beat the Cliftonians, who had V. Eberle away.

The following were the teams : –

Gloucester. – C. Cook, back; W. Washbourne, L. Hamblin, W. Staunton, F. Bloxsome, three-quarter backs; F. Allen, J. Hamblin, half-backs; H. Berry, F. Pegler (capt.), G Griffiths, J. Meadows, F. Yates, C. Mumford, S. Millard, F. Russell, forwards.

Clifton. – E. Briggs, back; I. Hawkins, C. M. Welsby, W. W. Huskin, E. F. Eberle, three-quarter backs; J. Wyatt, D. S. Cook, half-backs; J. A. Dommett, W. H. Bradley, R. R. Yalland, A. N. H. Churchill, F. Ellerton, H. C. Hosegood, H. G. W. Prideaux, R. Andrews, forwards.

Referee : Mr. Thomas (Bristol).

## THE GAME

Gloucester started before a small crowd, and exchange kicks left the game in the Clifton 25. The Gloucester forwards heeled nicely, but Allen's pass was a poor one and rolled wide of everybody.

Again Gloucester got the ball back, and it travelled well along the line, keen following up pressing home the advantage gained and putting Gloucester in a good attacking position. Clifton cleared well, and a good punt by Wyatt put them well in the Gloucester 25. Cook gathered from a rush, but instead of kicking out attempted to dodge clear, with the result that he was collared. He flung the ball back, but Dommett cleverly intercepted and ran in under the posts with a good try, which Briggs converted.

Following the resumption Gloucester rushed to the Clifton 25, but mistakes behind the scrum enabled the visitors to get clear, and they were quickly in the home 25 again. The forwards were packing badly, and the referee had to call them to order.

J. Hamblin broke away very smartly, but there was no one supporting him, and in attempting to swerve past Briggs he slipped, and was immediately smothered. The visitors were playing the rushing game very well, and succeeded in causing the Gloucester men a lot of trouble. Eberle put in a good return to a loose kick, and upset Cook before he could return, putting Clifton once more in a good position; but their passing was wild.

Getting the ball from a line-out, Berry broke away in characteristic style and made a lot of ground before he passed to Griffiths. The latter also made ground and transferred to Allen, who was tackled almost on the line and lost the ball. Gloucester now pressed hotly. Several scrums close to the Clifton line followed, and the visitors eventually conceded a minor. An exchange of kicks left the ball in the visitors' quarter. The Gloucester halves got the ball away, but Staunton held too long and was collared. Then Berry got away again and only a timely kick by Eberle over the dead-ball line averted a score.

The home forwards were working together much better now; but again Staunton was at fault when the ball came out, and Clifton were enabled to clear. A pretty bit of passing by Gloucester followed, but Bloxsome put his foot into touch.

From a line-out Berry received, and shaking off his man ran clear and scored a good try. L. Hamblin took the kick and missed literally by an inch.

Very soon after Berry was off again, but he could not quite clear the opposition. From the succeeding scrum the ball came out nicely to Washbourne on the wing. He ran well, and when threatened passed out to L. Hamblin, who had sprinted round on the outside, and he ran over with a capital try wide outside, which he just failed to convert.

Scrum in the Clifton half followed, and the ball came out to Bloxsome, but Wyatt pushed him into touch. Clifton rushed one scrum well, but L. Hamblin nullified this with a clever touch-finder.

Give-and-take play followed at the centre, but there was not much in it. Allen passed out wildly from the scrum, and Eberle kicked clear but the ball went into touch.

A mark taken by Cook gained very little ground. Clifton quickly gained a footing in the Gloucester 25 again, where the game was being contested at the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester .....	2 tries
Clifton .....	1 goal

Clifton restarted, and their forwards rushing up prevented a return, carrying the game into the home quarter. Gloucester, however, at once came away strongly, and L. Hamblin put in a very clever touch punt, placing Gloucester well in the visitors' 25.

Meadows, receiving from a line-out, flung out wide to his threes, but L. Hamblin was collared. Gloucester, however, had the best of succeeding scrums and attacked hotly. The referee hereabouts had a lot of trouble to get the forwards to pack, but he very rightly insisted on a proper formation.

The first time a decent scrum was formed Gloucester went right through, and Yates and Russell went over the line together, the try being apparently scored by Yates. Hamblin converted.

Immediately on the restart Meadows was prominent with a good dribble and run, and he only just missed a score by a knock-on a yard out. Gloucester, however, had not long to wait, a pretty bit of passing enabling Staunton to put Bloxsome over in the corner. The kick, though a good one, failed.

Gloucester were having most of the game, and Briggs touched down from a punt over the line. Succeeding play still favoured Gloucester. Then followed a real "snip." L. Hamblin receiving in a melee, punted up the field, the ball first touching a Cliftonian's hand as it rose. It went straight to Washbourne, who dashed off at top speed, and cleverly slipping Hawkins and Briggs he scored near the posts. Hamblin failed at the kick.

Clifton put a bit more steam into it after this, and reached the centre. A very clever opening by Wyatt gave the Clifton three-quarters' a chance, which they were not slow to accept. He got round the scrum very quickly, and passed right back over the two packs to the other side of the scrum. Welsby gathered and gave to Huskin, and the latter passed to Eberle, who ran clean away and scored a splendid try. Briggs failed.

Gloucester quickly got back to beyond the centre again. After two or three unsuccessful attempts at passing Washbourne got going, and he was very nearly through before he passed to Yates. The latter made a great attempt to reach the line, but he was upset just outside. Gloucester continued to have the best of matters, L. Hamblin showing up well in his touch-finding.

Towards the close Gloucester got well on top of the Cliftonians, and after repeated attempts J. Hamblin ran through cleverly on his own, his brother failing with the kick.

J. Hamblin was again instrumental in the next try. Receiving from a kick, he dodged magnificently through half the Clifton team, and put Meadows over under the posts. L. Hamblin converted. There was nothing further to the end.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester .... 2 goals 5 tries (25 points)  
Clifton ..... 1 goal 1 try (8 points)

#### REMARKS

In the primary stages of the game not even the keenest of the home team's supporters would have anticipated a 25–8 points' victory for Gloucester, so indifferently did they shape to begin with. But they pulled themselves together well after the interval, and towards the last ten minutes they had worn the exceedingly plucky defence of the visitors almost threadbare.

It was not a great game from a football point of view, there being so many mistakes in fielding and handling, but it was lively and keen and interesting, and the handsome margin of points is a credit to the team doing duty. The forwards, apart from their ineptitude in packing, which was very marked at times, played collectively very well indeed, and it was very encouraging to see Berry giving of his best form again.

Meadows, Griffiths, and Pegler, too, were prominent in various departments. It was at scrum half where the weakness lay, Allen being very much at fault at times, his passes being wild and badly judged. This necessarily threw a lot of extra work on J. Hamblin, and he and his brother played a splendid game together, the latter's kicking being admirable.

Both wings shone on occasion, but it was an off day for Staunton, and for Cook at back. He has not come back to form, and the first try by Clifton was the result of a silly pass. One would have thought, after Thursday's experience, he had seen enough of that.

The Cliftonians were a good, hard-working, sporting side, and in spite of the margin against them, kept pegging away doggedly to the end. E. F. Eberle was in good form, and Wyatt shone several times at stand-off half; while the forwards all worked very hard.

JC