

THE CITIZEN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1911

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v OLD MERCHANT TAYLORS

FINE GAME ON HEAVY GROUND

DEFEAT OF THE CITY

The Old Merchant Taylors paid their annual visit to Kingsholm on Boxing Day, in unfavourable weather.

Gloucester made two changes from the team which drew with the Watsonians, W. Hall (who was making a welcome re-appearance) taking the place of Gent, and N. Hayes superseding Millard, forward.

The Taylors, who scored a great win over the Harlequins on Saturday, were strongly represented.

Rain, which had fallen incessantly since 11 o'clock, rendered the ground very sloppy in places, and considerably affected the attendance.

The teams turned out ten minutes late as follows : —

Gloucester: C. Cook; A. Hudson (captain), S. C. Cook, L. Hamblin, and W. Washbourne; W. Hall and J. Hamblin; G. Vears, W. Johns, H. Berry, N. Hayes, S. Smart, G. Holford, F. Pegler, and J. Meadows.

Old Merchant Taylors: G. Sanders; J. G. Will, E. N. Fuller, A. J. H. Roe, and C. T. O'Callaghan; J. S. Ryan and W. I. Cheesman; G. Huskisson, A. F. Botham, H.A. Crouch, L. R. Howard, P. D. Strang, S. H. Stroud, F. G. Tollworthy, and G. L. M. Warne.

Referee : Mr. J. Southby (Bristol).

THE GAME

The Taylors kicked off, and the ball going to Berry, the latter punted to Will, who sent to touch at the home 25. Getting the ball from the first scrum Fuller cut through, and there was a glorious chance, but Roe's pass to Callaghan was forward – a lucky escape for the City.

Gloucester were severely pressed, but the forwards relieved with a useful rush. A flying kick, however, sent the ball over the line, and Hall conceded a minor.

Play on the restart settled in the home 25, and the Gloucester defence was kept busy, thanks to judicious kicking by Fuller and Roe. Johns led a sharp rush of the home forwards, but they were checked, and the Taylors well maintained their position in the home territory. Off-side by Washbourne, who took a cross-kick by Hudson, gave the visitors a free, and Cheesman found touch well.

Inside the Gloucester 25, the Taylors initiated a passing movement from the loose, but the final pass went forward. The visitors, with a forward dribble, looked dangerous until checked by C. Cook, and then Hudson, receiving from Hall, punted down the field. Washbourne raced up and forced Sanders to kick straight to touch. A combined burst by the City front was well stopped, but Hall put Gloucester further down, Sanders making a clever mark under pressure.

A penalty to the Taylors enabled the Londoners to clear, and a smart kick by Ryan brought play to the centre. Loose forward work followed, Gloucester doing well with several strong bursts. Sanders, however, was very safe at full-back.

The City continued to do well in the loose, but O'Callaghan picking up in the open brought off a fine run and pass, but the next transfer went behind Will. The Cantab, however, ran round and got in a capital kick to touch.

From the subsequent scrum Hamblin got the ball away to Hall, who punted across. Hudson dashed up and kicked to near the line, where he floored Sanders. The Taylors' custodian, however, recovered wonderfully and cleared his lines amidst the plaudits of the crowd.

Near the home 25 the Londoners were penalised, and L. Hamblin taking a shot for goal only just failed in his attempt, a minor resulting. Following the drop-out, Hall tried to break through, but was pulled down.

Then Johns distinguished himself with a dashing burst, and though finally robbed of the ball again secured possession and made further ground. Gloucester confined operations to the visitors' half, but at length Roe got away, and feeding Will the latter put on full pace. S. C. Cook got very close to the Cantab, but he failed to make the tackle, and Will, beating C. Cook, finished a very fine run by scoring behind the posts. Cheesman added the goal points.

Gloucester re-started, and early the home backs put in a round of passing. Hudson kicked down the field, and Sanders fumbling, the ball went to the line. Washbourne ran up, but Cheesman gathered, and though the Gloucester man attempted a trip, for which he was "marked" by the crowd, the Oxonian cleared well. The Taylors made progress from this point, and Sanders was loudly cheered for a remarkable clearance after being half tackled by L. Hamblin. His kick, however, went over the line, and Gloucester conceded a minor.

The Taylors attacked on the resumption, and Gloucester were hard pressed. Hall brought relief with a nice punt to touch, and Pegler from a line-out sent down well. Sanders, however, effected a capital save under difficulties. From another line-out Hayes secured and dashed away, but was collared from behind.

Gloucester made a desperate but unsuccessful attempt to cross in a rush, and then a possible opening on the right was lost through S. Cook failing to take a pass from L. Hamblin. Gloucester had the better of subsequent play, but could not score.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Taylors 1 goal
Gloucester Nil

Holford resumed, and opening play was contested at the centre. Gloucester heeled from the first scrum, but S. Cook, who was given possession by Hudson, fell to a smothering tackle by Fuller. The City, however, were away again, Hall taking some difficult passes from Hamblin in beautiful style. Will failing to field on the left, Washbourne dribbled on, and was supported by his forwards. Sanders, however, dived for the ball and saved.

Fuller, with a nice dribble, changed the venue, and midfield was the scene of operations. Gloucester were heeling well, but the backs could not do much, the tackling being very deadly, whilst a forward pass stopped Washbourne when there was a possibility of an opening.

The Taylors, with dashing footwork, got beyond the centre line, where Hall opened out. S. Cook cut through nicely and fed Hudson, but the captain knocked on. Gloucester still kept the game open, and there was a lovely bout of passing, with Washbourne sailing home. The whistle, however, went for a forward transfer.

The Taylors were next off, but S. Cook got across and floored Will in fine style. Gloucester, with dashing work, gained the upper hand again, and but for Sanders' heroic defence the City must have scored. The Taylors cleared with forward rushes, and ensuing play was fast and exciting. By the aid of a penalty Gloucester gained a footing in their opponents' end, but there was a slight delay at this point owing to Sanders being winded.

Resuming, Vears broke away from a line-out, and passed to Berry, but the next transfer was forward. Gloucester kept up the pressure, but relief came to the visitors through Cook forcing a minor with an attempt to drop goal. The City, however, were quickly back again, and the Taylors were very lucky in saving right on the line.

The Taylors were penalised for off-side from the next scrum, and L. Hamblin had a shot at goal from an easy position. The ball hit the upright and then fell on the cross-bar, finally rebounding into the field of play, the Taylors relieving amidst great excitement.

Gloucester maintained a hot attack, and several times got to the line, but the desired score did not come. With a mighty effort the Taylors gained much-needed relief, but it was only temporary. A timely punt to touch by Hudson again put Gloucester on the attack, and from a scrum Hall made a bold bid to cross, being pushed to touch a few yards outside. The same player made a smart opening the next minute, Washbourne being pushed to touch in goal.

In the last five minutes Gloucester played up desperately to save the game, but their efforts were unrewarded. Right on the end Callaghan, from a cross-kick by C. Cook, took the ball in his own 25 and made a grand run, beating man after man, but he was finally forced to pass, and a great effort was unproductive.

RESULT :

Taylors 1 goal (5 points)
Gloucester Nil

REMARKS

A remarkably good game considering the heavy ground. Whilst congratulating the Taylors on breaking a long list of defeats, the Old Boys must be considered fortunate on gaining winning points, for territorially Gloucester had heaps the better of the play.

In the second half especially the City continually attacked, but the three-quarters failed to penetrate the sound defence of the visitors. The City forwards held the whip practically throughout, and after the change of ends they had a virtual monopoly of the ball in the scrums. The Taylors were good in the loose.

J. Hamblin, in a new position at the scrum, was rather slow in getting the ball away, but W. Hall made light of this handicap, the way he took all sorts of passes being remarkable. Hall's long absence from the field has not impaired his abilities in the slightest, and his all round work was one of the features of the game.

At three-quarter, Stanley Cook was seen to most advantage, and in the closing stages he made a very fine attempt to score. Hudson did not get much to do in attack, but worked whole-heartedly. L. Hamblin was not up to his usual form, and Washbourne was not seen to any particular advantage. C. Cook was good at full-back, but Sanders, with more to do, did finer work in the position for the Taylors.

For the Londoners, Cheesman at half-back, was capital at the scrum, and all the three-quarters were smart. Will showed his pace when he scored, but he ought to have been stopped. Fuller was a rare smotherer at centre, and it was his grand tackling that continually broke up the home attacks in the last twenty minutes. Callaghan displayed real cleverness with the few opportunities he had, and his run at the end deserved reward.

For the Abertillery match Gloucester will be the same as opposed the Taylors with the exception of S. Millard for Vears, who is lame.

The collection for the Ambulance amounted to £5 3s. 2d.