

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1901

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. OLD EDWARDIANS

The first of the two annual fixtures between these old opponents was played at Kingsholm before an average gate.

Gloucester played exactly the same fifteen which opened the season in such a sensational fashion against Clifton the previous week, whilst the Old Boys had a representative side doing duty. The ground was in capital condition.

The teams took the field at 3.50 as follows : –

GLOUCESTER	Positions	OLD EDWARDIANS
G. Romans	Backs	Ravenhill
G. F. Clutterbuck	Three-quarter	Reynolds
J. Stephens	Backs	Bradfield
J. Cook	"	Nicol
C. Smith	"	Setten
R. Goddard	Half-Backs	Lovatt
G. Hall	"	Jeavons
C. Hall	Forwards	Crofts
J. Lewis	"	Andrews
A. H. Click	"	Chinn
F. Oswell	"	Goodwin
T. Spiers	"	Smith
B. L. Watkins	"	Kino
F. Westbury	"	Clare
C. F. Miller	"	Manton

Referee: Mr. F. Gill (Bristol)

THE GAME

The visitors won the toss, and C. Hall started from the Worcester-street goal. The reply went to Watkins, who punted across the field, but the referee was in the way, and a dead ball was given. A smart kick by a visiting three-quarter found touch inside the Gloucester half, where play hovered for a minute or two.

C. Hall eventually picked up in the loose, but the International held too long before passing, and little ground was gained. Mid-field play saw Bradfield prominent for the Old Boys, but Goddard, with a fine dribble, transferred play to the Edwardians' end. Here the City half-back picked up smartly, and handed to Cook, the latter yielding to Smith, who scored wide out. Romans' shot at goal, though a fine one, fell short.

On the drop-out, the Gloucester backs were prominent with some more good passing, but Smith failed to get round the opposition. Some big kicking, in which Romans and Clutterbuck were conspicuous, led to a sharp attack on the Midlanders' line. From a scrum on the quarter line the ball came out nicely from G. Hall to Goddard, who quickly gave up to Cook. The latter got off smartly, and passing at the right moment to Smith, the International crossed with his second try. The place kick failed.

Following the re-start, the Old Boys showed up with some good footwork which enabled them to reach the centre. Some brilliant combination by the home team, however, led to a hot attack on the Edwardians' line, and a forward pass at the critical moment alone prevented a score.

Some loose play by the City team enabled Manton to relieve, but Gloucester got back again with a splendid rush. A score appeared imminent, but Ravenhill managed to save by rushing the ball into touch. By wheeling a scrum the Edwardians made some headway but Goddard, with a nice punt, sent them back to the centre.

Immediately after Goddard was set going by G. Hall, but he passed too low, and Stephens knocked on. Gloucester continued on the aggressive, and the Old Boys had the utmost difficulty in keeping their lines intact. A clever bout of passing amongst the home backs looked promising, but Cook was brought down by Nicol. The ball, however, got loose, and after a series of sharp exchanges C. Hall put Westbury over with a smart try. Romans again failed to add the extra points.

Resuming Gloucester at once got on the attack again and a round of passing gave Clutterbuck a chance, but the wing man failed to take his pass. Play continued to be fought out in the visitors' 25, but the tackling of the Old Boys was sound. At length Cook, receiving from Goddard, looked likely to go through, but being hemmed in the centre took a drop for goal, which only just failed, a minor resulting. Immediately on the drop-out, a smart bit of play by G. Hall and Goddard gave the ball to Clutterbuck, who ran and punted. Following up, the City wing three-quarter again got possession, and with a strong burst crossed the line amidst applause. Romans landed a fine goal.

The Edwardians started from the centre, but apart from an occasional burst they were not seen to any special advantage. Useful footwork by Lovatt and Jeavons enabled the visitors to get to the 25 flag, where, however, G. Hall pulled them up cleverly. A kicking duel followed, ending in Romans putting G. Hall in a favourable position. The half-back ran well, but eventually yielded to Clutterbuck, who went round behind the posts. Romans goaled.

The re-start was only poorly returned by the City captain, and for the first time the Edwardians secured a footing inside the home 25. For off-side play Gloucester were penalised, and with a drop-kick, Manton (the Old Boys' captain) dropped a neat goal. Play on the resumption was fairly even, and no more scoring was effected before the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	2 goals, 3 tries
Edwardians	1 goal (p)

The Edwardians re-started, and the opening exchanges were fought out at mid-field. The City forwards, headed by C. Hall, rushed down the field at a good rate, but Ravenhill proved a stumbling block. The mistakes in handling enabled the visitors to get well beyond the centre. In quick succession Gloucester rushed the ball down to Ravenhill, but the latter cleared each time with a smart punt into touch. An exceptionally smart round of passing by the City back division caused the Old Boys some anxiety, but they managed to save their lines.

Following some scrambling play a series of transfers gave the ball to Clutterbuck who ran down the touch line. He attempted to screw kick across the ground, but the ball went over the line, and Ravenhill touched down. The drop-out was well returned, and Gloucester were soon on the attack again. Clever handling between forwards and backs took the ball to the line, and Clutterbuck, taking a pass from Lewis notched his third try. Romans added the extra points.

The re-start brought no relief to the visitors, Gloucester being continually on the aggressive. Twice some lovely passing appeared certain to end in scores, but Smith failed to take his passes. Then Cook held too long when there appeared every chance of a score. Still the City team worked hard to add to their lead, and eventually from a mark by Stephens, Romans landed a fine goal, making the total points for the season 102.

On the resumption Watkins was conspicuous with a strong run and pass to Miller, but the latter was collared from behind when making for the line. More passing by the Gloucester backs kept the Old Edwardians busily defending, but Nicol and his colleagues tackled well, special attention being paid to the right wing. In a heavy tackle Smith was laid out for a couple of minutes, but he was able to resume, and soon distinguished himself with a capital run.

The Edwardians worked out a bit after this, but clever footwork by Click beat Ravenhill, and Spiers taking a nice pass romped over near the posts. A goal resulted.

Gloucester continued to go very strong, and following good work by Goddard, C. Hall scored the eighth try from a line-out. The place kick failed.

Play continued wholly in favour of Gloucester, and the ball was seldom out of the visitors' 25. In a scramble near the line Westbury sustained a cut on the bridge of the nose, but he returned after a few minutes' absence. Before he came back, however, Miller had added another try to the home score, Romans converting.

For a brief period after the re-start the Edwardians held their own, but Cook, with a brilliant run, got right through the opposition. He was fetched back from behind, but letting the ball go Spiers picked up and scored. This time Romans did not succeed in covering the cross-bar. Almost immediately "No-side" was whistled.

RESULT :

Gloucester.....6 goals (1 m), 5 tries (44 points)
Edwardians.....1 goal (p) (3 points)