

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1902

## TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. OLD EDWARDIANS

CITY TEAM PILING UP POINTS

ONLY SEVEN SHORT OF THE CENTURY

For their first match with the Old Edwardians this season at Kingsholm, Gloucester played exactly the same side which beat Clifton so decisively the previous week. The Midlanders, despite several heavy reverses from the City team, have played some hard games on the Gloucester ground, and with a full team out to-day they were expected to furnish a good game.

The weather was beautifully fine, but the attendance was only moderate when at 3.40 the rival teams entered the field as follows : —

GLOUCESTER	Positions	OLD EDWARDIANS
G. Romans	Backs.	Ravenhill
C. Smith	Three-quarter	Nicol
F. Rooke	backs.	Flewitt
G. F. Collett	"	Gebhard
L. Smith	"	Reynolds
J. Stephens	Half-Backs	Goodman
F. Keys	"	Jevons
A. H. Click	Forwards	Green
F. Goulding	"	Manton
F. Westbury	"	Goodwin
F. Oswell	"	Crofts
G. H. Smith	"	King
Bert Parham	"	Andrews
E. Essex	"	Turner
W. Johns	"	D. Smith

Referee : Mr. C. Craddock (Cheltenham)

## THE GAME

Gloucester won the toss, and the City captain elected to defend the Dean's Walk goal. The visitors started with the sun in their faces, Romans returning to Reynolds, who found touch near the Gloucester 25. Breaking away from the line-out the City forwards dribbled nicely, but they lost the ball at the centre.

Click headed a smart rush after this, and tackling his man prevented any reply. Heeling out Keys got the ball to Stephens, but after Collett had handled Lewis Smith was forced into touch. A minute later the Gloucester front rank, out of some loose play, had a fine chance of scoring, but the ball was held too long, and the Old Boys saved.

A loose kick by Nicol brought relief to his side, but Romans coming round kicked beautifully and found touch near the quarter flag. The Old Boys quickly worked out by the aid of useful kicks, but the home forwards, with a nice passing movement, looked dangerous, till a forward transfer put an end to it. A clever bit of work by Jevons, who beat the home halves, enabled that player to kick past Romans, but Lewis Smith got back and saved.

The Gloucester forwards, with a big effort, brought play to the centre, and further headway was subsequently made, but for an infringement the Edwardians got a penalty. Romans replied well, and play again settled in the visitors' half. After Parham was prominent with a sharp burst Johns and Click dribbled cleverly to Ravenhill, who failed to gather. Click picked up smartly, and with a nice pass to G. Smith sent the latter over with the first try. Romans landed a neat goal.

Restarting, play was fairly even, but Goodman at length got away from Keys, but "Whacker" Smith stopped him in fine style. Fielding a punt by Ravenhill in splendid style, Stephens returned with interest, and the Old Boys were again placed on the defensive.

The home backs had one or two chances of passing, but the tackling was very sound, and little ground was made. Taking advantage of a mistake by Rooke, the Midlanders kicked down to Romans, who put in a splendid return.

A little later the City captain put in another fine kick, and Lewis Smith following up forced Ravenhill over the line. The latter essayed a pass but it was fumbled, and Goulding being up touched down with a try. The place-kick failed.

The visitors resumed, and almost immediately Stephens showed up with a brilliant opening, but Lewis Smith failed to take the pass. Gloucester, however, were not to be denied, and a little later a combined movement nearly let Lewis Smith in. The Old Boys' defence was severely taxed just now, and they had some difficulty in keeping their lines intact. From a long throw-out Westbury secured, and after a series of passes "Whacker" Smith scored in the corner. Romans failed at goal.

Following the restart there was some clever combination by the Gloucester backs, but the defence proved just a bit too good. "Whacker" Smith and Oswald were in turn only stopped just outside, but these disappointments only served to make Gloucester redouble their efforts. Stephens failed to take two or three bad passes from Keys, and this enabled the Edwardians to get out of immediate danger. In some loose play, however, the Gloucester forwards picked up, and after Parham had worked out an opening Oswald scored easily. This time Romans goaled.

Immediately after the resumption Gloucester got on the attack, and following some pretty work in the line-out between Keys, Parham, and Westbury, the latter crossed in a good position. No goal resulted.

Play to the interval was all in favour of Gloucester, but despite some good work no more scoring was effected.

#### HALF-TIME :

Gloucester ..... 2 goals, 3 tries  
Old Edwardians ..... Nil

Click re-started, the ball bouncing into touch a dozen yards inside the Edwardians' half. The home front made headway from the line-out, Ravenhill being forced out of play. A bad pass by Oswell lost ground, and then Jevons, getting away from a scrum, came right down to Romans with several colleagues in attendance. A score seemed imminent, but the chance was thrown away badly.

Some effective footwork by the City forwards removed play to the visitors' half, where Gloucester tried hard to open out the game, but Keys was not always accurate in his passing, and Stephens was consequently handicapped. After repeated attempts, however, Stephens was set moving, and the clever half-back, with a beautiful effort, beat the opposition, and went over with as fine a try as could be wished. Romans landed a good goal, and thereby increased Gloucester's lead to 24 points.

Rooke made a poor reply to the kick-off, but Westbury broke away in fine style from a line-out, and, passing to G. Smith, the latter made a good opening, with Click on his left. He, however, passed the wrong way, and the ball was lost.

After this, Gloucester attacked strongly, Stephens doing a lot of clever work, but there were a lot of mistakes in handling. "Whacker" Smith was nearly over in the corner from a pass by Rooke, and then Collett missed a transfer with no opposition. A brilliant move by Stephens resulted in G. Smith going under the posts, but a forward transfer nullified the effort.

Gloucester continued on the aggressive, and only their own mistakes prevented several scores. Passing along the three-quarter line gave "Whacker" Smith a possible opening on the right wing, but the defence was too strong. By the aid of a touch-down the Old Edwardians gained slight relief, but Collett, with a splendid run, took play back. A punt to Romans was well returned by the Gloucester captain, who followed up and put his men on-side. There was a scramble for possession, ending in C. Smith scoring. Romans added the extra points.

The Edwardians resumed, but the Midlanders were kept wholly on the defensive. Another very fine run by Collett, from a pass from Stephens, gave Lewis Smith an opening. The latter took a difficult pass cleverly, and went over in good style, but got past the dead-ball line, and the try was disallowed, but the movement deserved a score.

On the drop-out, Gloucester were busy on the attack again, and Keys sending out a neat pass to Stephens, the latter doubled in cleverly, and yielding at the right moment to "Whacker" Smith, the wing man registered his third try. Romans converted.

Resuming, play for a couple of minutes hovered in the Gloucester end, but the visitors were soon sent back, thanks to good kicks by Romans and Collett. Some exceedingly clever footwork by the City forwards resulted in Parham scoring a smart try, but the place kick failed.

In the last five minutes Gloucester simply played with their opponents, the whole team working together splendidly.

Smart following up resulted in Westbury adding to the score, and before the end Stephens wended his way past the opposition in fine style, and crossed in a good position for Romans to land another goal, the ball striking one of the posts and bounding over. To the end the Edwardians had to defend, but nothing else was scored.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester ... 6 goals, 6 tries (48 points)  
Edwardians ..... Nil

#### REMARKS

The game furnished another runaway victory for Gloucester, the visitors being beaten at all points. As usual, the Edwardians were good forward, and they put in some effective work in this department, but as a combination they were no match for the City team.

Twelve times over the line bears ample testimony to the scoring ability of the Gloucester men, but without over-estimating the superiority of the home team the score might easily have been augmented. In the first half especially the Gloucester backs made a number of mistakes in handling, and it seemed as if the players would never settle down. With the change of ends, however, the desired improvement was happily forthcoming, and the spectators were treated to some really smart running and passing.

The one player who stood out prominently to-day was Stephens, and his remarkable display considerably enhanced his reputation. Owing to the attention paid by the opposing half-backs to Keys at the rear of the scrum, it was not always possible for the latter to pass accurately, and more than one transfer went astray. Under these circumstances Stephens' exhibition was all the more creditable. His fielding of the ball and wonderful smartness in getting away completely baffled the opposition, and several of the tries were the direct outcome of his cleverness.

Keys ably seconded his partner's efforts, and fully confirmed the favourable impressions formed last week. He allowed his opponent to get away once or twice, but otherwise there was not much to complain about.

The three-quarters were uneven at times as a combination, the passing being uncertain and the movements lacking method. Collett put in a couple of beautiful runs in the second half, and it is clear the ex-Cantab, when he sets himself going, is a dangerous man in attack. The only regret is that these brilliant efforts do not occur often enough.

On the left wing, Lewis Smith ran strongly, but did not meet with any luck. To-day it was "Whacker" Smith's turn, and the old International was sound in everything he did. His tries were smartly obtained, and the veteran Nicol found in the sturdy Gloucesterian a little more than he could manage. Rooke did fairly well, but he has yet to show his best form.

Forward, the City pack were in splendid trim. They controlled the game cleverly in the scrums, and in the open displayed [*word/words unreadable*] ...tion which would have done credit to a [*word unreadable*] division. In the loose, too, much good work was done, a distinct improvement being noticed on the form against Clifton. The whole pack worked with energy in the scrums, whilst their tackling and following up left nothing to be desired. Goulding and Oswell were especially prominent in this respect, and Parham, Click, and Westbury were to the fore in all attacking movements.

At full-back, Romans gave an almost perfect display. He never once failed to field, whilst his powerful kicks to touch and general play all round gave his side repeated assistance. We want nothing better from the City Captain.

For the Old Boys, Jevons was conspicuous at half-back, and Nicol, Flewitt, Gebhard, and Reynolds offered a strong defence to the repeated attacks made by the home team. Ravenhill, at full-back, made several fine saves, but he was not altogether reliable. The forwards worked very hard, but they were beaten by the cleverness of the City eight, especially in the open.

Gloucester only want 7 points to complete the 100 points, and with decent luck these should be obtained at Blackheath next Saturday. Gloucester will have to be at the top of their form to win, but with an improvement at three-quarter victory should reward them at the Rectory Field.