

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1903

## TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. OLD EDWARDIANS

THE CITY TEAM AT BIRMINGHAM

DOUBLE-FIGURE VICTORY FOR THE CITIZENS

For this match at Birmingham, the Gloucester team underwent considerable alteration from the side defeated by Clifton. Experiments were made in every department, but chief interest centred in Hudson's trial at centre three-quarter. A. Hawker re-joined the City forward ranks, and a new player in H. Taylor, of the West End, was given a place in the pack. Stephens figured at half-back with Morgan, and other changes were the introduction of Pugh at back in place of Vears, who went up to the three-quarter line. The Edwardians fielded a fairly good side, but despite Gloucester's poor form the previous week the Old Boys had little hope of emulating Clifton's performance.

The teams were : —

GLOUCESTER	Positions	OLD EDWARDIANS
F. Pugh	Backs.	T. H. Ravenhill
C. Smith	Three-quarter	Setten
R. J. Goss	Backs.	E. L. B. Ravenhill
A. Hudson	"	Gebhard
L. Vears	"	Jeavons
L. F. Morgan	Half-Backs	Goodman
J. Stephens	"	Somerville
B. Parham	Forwards	V. Smith
F. Goulding	"	Souter
A. Hawker	"	Crofts
F. Westbury	"	Andrew
A. Purton	"	Wallis
W. Johns	"	Johnson
G. Vears	"	Reynolds
H. Taylor	"	Alabaster

## THE GAME

For some unexplained reason Gough did not put in an appearance, and Gordon Vears turned out. Gloucester lost the toss, and Parham started the game with a short kick, and prevented a return. The home forwards put in a good rush, and Jeavons further improved matters with a useful punt to beyond the Gloucester 25. Westbury led the Gloucester pack in a loose rush which was not stopped till the centre was reached. Then, in a scramble, Morgan picked up and passed to Goss, who yielded to Smith, but the pass was adjudged forward.

Ensuing play was scrambling, but eventually the Old Boys gained the advantage, and the Gloucester line was hotly assailed. Neat passing looked promising for a score, but Hawker and Smith saved. L. Vears was mainly responsible for changing the venue, and Hawker starting a bout of passing. Goss, Smith, and Hudson handled smartly, but the latter was forced to touch.

After this Gloucester had a possible opening, but the handling was at fault, and the Edwardians cleared to centre. Here some keen work was witnessed, the home forwards working hard in the scrums. Gloucester had a glorious chance from a cross-kick by Goss, but the referee ruled the forwards off-side.

Then the Edwardians came right away with a grand burst, and took the ball to near the Gloucester line. From a kick Hawker punted out, and L. Vears racing up took the ball on the bounce and finished up a fine run, three parts the length of the field, by scoring in a good position. Pugh added the extra points.

Resuming, the Edwardians had rather the better of the exchanges, until pretty combination between Hudson, Vears, and Stephens gave Gloucester a good position. The home forwards worked clear, but clever back play by the City team nearly brought about another score, Ravenhill saving under the posts.

A little later Gloucester ought to have had two certain tries, but the chances were thrown away. Then Goss was injured and had to retire, Purton coming out to three-quarters to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 1 goal  
Old Edwardians ..... Nil

Goss was able to resume when the Edwardians started the second half, though he changed places with Smith. The Gloucester forwards heeled well, and the backs handled smartly, but Goss was not able to do much.

A finely judged punt by Ravenhill gained considerable ground for the Old Boys, who played up with great energy. Faulty fielding by Stephens enabled the home team to get dangerous, and later they pressed severely. Gloucester, however, saved by touching down. Useful kicks by Vears and Pugh enabled Gloucester to assume the attack, but there was no finish to the movements behind the scrum. Eventually Morgan, Stephens, Smith, and Goss passed neatly. The latter put in a cross-kick under the goal, and putting his men on side Purton scored an easy try. Pugh converted.

Subsequent play was waged at a furious pace, the Old Boys doing splendidly forward, especially in loose footwork. Gloucester, however, asserted superiority, and but for ill-luck might have added a couple more tries at least.

In the last five minutes Gloucester had all the game, but though getting very near on several occasions they failed to beat the defence. Hudson made two or three smart dashes, and once Goss had an opening, but the pass to him went along the ground. Gloucester, however, did not relax their efforts, and just before the finish Stephens slipped over with a clever try, Pugh failing at goal.

Immediately after the drop-out the Edwardians returned to the attack, and following a pretty round of passing Gebhard scored in the corner. Smith failed.

Resuming, operations were contested near the centre for some few minutes, both sides working with vigour. Gloucester lost ground in loose play, but Vears with a clever touch kick placed them in a better position. A strong burst by Wallis gave the Old Boys a nice opening, but V. Smith knocked on badly.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 2 goals, 1 try (13 points)

Edwardians ..... 1 try (3 points)

#### REMARKS

The Gloucester team showed an improvement, though the display at times was very ragged. The forwards were opposed to a vigorous set, who worked desperately hard, but lacked cleverness. The Gloucester eight heeled better, but in the loose a lot of good work was spoiled by over-anxiety. Goulding, Purton, Hawker, and Parham were always noticeable, and Taylor and Vears were triers all through.

At half-back, Morgan worked the scrums successfully, and he and Stephens gave the three-quarters numerous chances, but they were not turned to the best advantage. The passing was smart on occasions, but there were a number of mistakes, and the handling was too slow to be effective. Hudson shaped in promising fashion at centre, and L. Vears on the left wing showed dash and pluck. His try was a capital effort. "Whacker" Smith was prominent in some sound tackling, and he tried hard several times to effect a score. Goss was shaping better until injured, but he pluckily kept on the field, and one try accrued as the result of a smart movement on his part. Pugh played a really useful game, and kicked well.

Ravenhill was also in good form for the Edwardians. Gebhard and Jeavons at three-quarter were nippy and tackled splendidly, though they were repeatedly standing off-side to break up the passing of the Gloucester backs. The forwards were a heavy pack, and worked untiringly to the end.

## GLOUCESTER A. v. GORDON LEAGUE

### SIX POINTS WIN FOR THE SECONDS

Matches between the Seconds and the Gordon League are generally productive of keen and good games, but with the side doing duty for the home team on this occasion anything might be expected.

It seems a great pity that the Second team cannot procure a fifteen that will turn out for them with some regularity. The present policy of chopping and changing about with scratch sides does the reputation of the Club no good, and certainly does not encourage the spectators to attend, or the young players, to whom we look for the future representatives of the City, to endeavour to get into the team, which in former years was a much sought for honour.

The teams were : –

Gloucester A : A. H. Romans, back; C. Coldrick, G. Foulkes, T. Curtis, and H. Cook, three-quarter backs; J. Romans and F. Rooke, half-backs; H. Harris, T. Spiers, R. Sly, H. Aston, J. Webb, W. Tozer, and E. Essex, forwards.

Gordon League : J. Griffiths, back; E. Keys, L. Rudge, E. Mustoe, and F. Carr, three-quarter backs; W. Hollands (capt.) and H. Smith, half-backs; F. Boulton, B. Guy, B. Pilkington, E. Merchant, T. Simmonds, J. Hollands, T. Clutterbuck, and W. Jones, forwards.

The League started with the sun in their eyes, and the kick was well returned. The Seconds' forwards heeled well, and Romans fed Rooke, but the movement was soon checked.

However, after a brief spell at the centre, the Seconds again worked into the League 25, but a good kick by Griffiths brought relief, and this being supplemented by some good forward work by the visitors the venue of the game was changed to the other end.

The League halves a moment later had a beautiful opening, but they muddled badly and lost ground. Twice in quick succession the Gloucester forwards heeled nicely, and the ball was passed out quickly, but in each instance Coldrick spoilt a possible chance by holding too long and trying to get through himself. H. Romans put in a fine kick to touch, but clever footwork by the League forwards carried the game into neutral territory again.

The League forwards were showing the better form in the loose and in the scrums, and they gained a lot of ground with a fine break through, reaching the home quarter. Gloucester gained relief by a free, and Griffiths returning into the middle of the field Foulkes appeared to have a splendid opening. He was tackled, however, and passed to Curtis on the wing. The latter punted, but the ball went over the line, and only a minor accrued.

Gloucester were awarded a free for off-side by the League halves, and Howard Romans landed a good goal from beyond the 25 yards' mark. Rudge received a cut over the eye just before the penalty, and was carried off the field.

Nettled by the success of the seconds the League played up strongly, but good passing by Foulkes and Curtis gained a lot of ground, and a minute later Foulkes put Gloucester in a favourable position by a lovely touch punt. Rudge returned to the game.

Coldrick received and punted up to Griffiths, who was collared in possession, and the League had an anxious time for a moment, but the forwards worked out. J. Romans hesitated badly in getting the ball away, and lost a good opportunity.

Romans passed out smartly a moment later to Foulkes, who in turn handed to Coldrick, the latter running straight for the touch line and never gaining an inch of ground; consequently Cook, on the wing, had no chance. Gloucester continued to have the best of the exchanges, and kept up the pressure, but the back play was not of the best, and there was no further score to half-time.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 1 penalty goal  
League ..... Nil

On resuming, Gloucester were quickly penalised for off-side, and play was fought out at the centre for some time. The League were twice penalised for off-side play by the halves, but the game did not get far from the centre. Eventually, however, Keys and Smith dribbled away beautifully on the right wing, and it looked odds on a score, but something went wrong at the crucial point, and the next moment the ball went over the dead-ball line.

A telling forward rush, with Harris in the van, brought relief, and the game was taken right to the other end of the ground, where Gloucester worked hard for a score. The League halves were again penalised for off-side, but Romans just failed. Coldrick tried a little "gallery" play on his own in front of the grand-stand, but he lost ground, and a moment later he had a clear run in, but he bungled his pass shockingly. Cook narrowly missed a drop-goal, and Gloucester were quickly on the attack again, some very hot work ensuing in the bottom corner.

Howard Romans kept up the pressure with a good punt and follow-up, and in a thick melée in front of the goal Keys was laid out, but was able to resume. A minute later the ball came out nicely to Rooke, and he put Foulkes over with a good try. Romans' kick at goal was a very poor effort.

Gloucester, who were playing better together now, were quickly on the attack again, and forced the League back on their line. Griffiths carried over and a scrum five yards out was ordered, from which the League got clear away and cleared their lines. The League halves were once more penalised for off-side, but the kick was well returned, and the League got in the home 25. They were quickly beaten off, however, and Rooke broke away beautifully from a scrum. His pass was knocked on, however, and a minute later Foulkes lost a possible chance by passing wildly to Curtis.

The home three-quarters had another chance a moment later, but Coldrick, as usual, held too long, and ran Cook almost into touch before he thought of letting the ball go. Cook had a drop for goal from a mark, but failed to negotiate the bar, and shortly after no-side was called with Gloucester pressing.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 1 goal (p), 1 try (6 points)  
Gordon League ..... Nil

REMARKS

With a six points' victory standing to their credit, it seems hardly right to find fault with the Second team, but really they should have scored at least three times more.

Coldrick was the weak spot in the attack, and time after time he would not pass until he had run his wing man on to the touch-line. This, of course, gave Cook no chance at all, even when he got the ball passed to him.

On the other wing Curtis and Foulkes had a better understanding, but the latter had Rooke to thank for his try. Rooke at half was a little out of his element, but he and Romans were too good for the other pair, who did their best to spoil the game by off-side tactics.

Howard Romans' kicking was excellent, with the exception of the miserable attempt at goal. Of the forwards, H. Harris, Spiers, Sly, and Essex were most prominent.