

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1904.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. OLD MERCHANT TAYLORS.

This annual Boxing Day fixture at Kingsholm attracted a large holiday crowd. There was only one change in the Gloucester team from the side which defeated Bristol, Hyam taking the place of E. Hall. The Taylors fielded a strong team. The players lined out at 2.50 as follows : —

Gloucester. — G. Romans, back; C. Smith, W. Hyam, J. Harrison, and A. Hudson, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent and J. Stephens, half-backs; W. Johns (capt.), B. Parham, A. Hawker, F. Pegler, G. Matthews, G. Vears, H. Collins, and J. Jewell, forwards.

Old Merchant Taylors. — C. W. Reeves, back; A. C. Tannahill, J. E. Raphael, A. B. Barrett, and F. M. Draper, three-quarter backs; C. B. Buck and F. H. Cockell, half-backs; C. Bourns, H. M. Wyatt, G. T. Hankin, E. B. Lloyd, A. A. Hanhart, G. R. B. Smith, R. E. Burnege, and M. E. Dellschaft, forwards.

Referee : Mr. R. H. Satterley (Bristol).

Gloucester won the toss, and Bourns kicked off, Pegler receiving and replying with a good punt to Cockell, off whose return Hyam marked. The kick went to touch, and the first line out took place in the Taylors' half. The visitors kicked down to Smith, who replied well, and play was taken to the Londoners' 25.

Hyam was responsible for a clever bit of work which caused the Taylors some anxiety, but some infringement occurred. Parham in the next minute was hurt, but was soon able to resume.

From the succeeding scrum Gent secured and passed to Stephens, and Hyam and Smith in turn handled. The latter punted and Hyam again secured, but was collared. Some loose play gave Gloucester an advantage, and Hudson ran down and collared Reeves in front of his goal. By forward work, and a good kick by Raphael, the Taylors reached the home end, but Stephens sent play to the centre with a clever kick to touch.

Carrying a scrum the City forwards dribbled finely, and a cross-kick looked likely to prove advantageous, but Draper dropped on the ball in the nick of time. The Taylors cleared by the aid of a useful touch-finder, and a good kick by Draper sent play to touch close on the home 25. Several scrums followed at this spot, and Raphael from a pass nearly broke through. Gloucester were in a very dangerous position in front of goal, but bad handling by the Taylors' backs lost ground, and Hawker cleared nicely.

Hyam and Smith with smart work enabled Gloucester to gain more favourable quarters, and the ball being subsequently kicked down the field there was a race for possession between Hyam and Reeves. The latter got back in time, and just saved with Hyam on top of him.

The Taylors rushed away in fine style, but Gent, picking up nicely, started his three-quarters in motion, but not much ground was gained. A moment later Gent fed Hudson on the right wing, and the latter had a fine chance. On reaching Reeves, however, he essayed a pass which went forward, and a glorious opening was lost.

Jewell was prominent hereabouts with a fine bit of work in a line-out, but play was so close that no opening was possible. Raphael, with a smart kick under difficulties punted over Romans' head, but the City custodian effected a good return to touch. Heeling by the Taylors' forwards saw Buck at fault, and Stephens dribbled away nicely. He was well supported by the forwards, and the ball being sent to the open, Hudson came along, and fielding the ball on the bounce, raced over with a fine try amidst great enthusiasm. Romans kicked a goal.

The play was fast and furious. The Gloucester forwards dribbled in grand style, and Parham picking up passed to Stephens, who was, however, unable to quite clear the opposition. Gloucester attacked hotly now, but the defence was sound.

A smart effort by Barrett enabled the Londoners to ward off the pressure, but Gloucester were not to be denied, and were soon on the attack again. From a scrum on the Taylors' 25 Hawker picked up and threw out a wide pass to Hudson, who took the ball neatly, and cutting inside a couple of opponents, ran over with another splendid try. Romans again converted.

Re-starting, the Taylors showed up strongly, and a couple of big kicks carried them well inside the home half. Mistakes by the visitors lost their position, and Gent securing from his forwards, punted down the field. Harrison and Hudson raced hard for possession, but the latter was adjudged to have knocked-on in fielding. Beautiful work by Stephens and Gent placed Gloucester in the ascendancy again, but a possible opening was lost through a mis-judged transfer.

Gloucester continued to have the better of the exchanges, and shortly before the interval the City forwards, with a grand combined burst, clean beat the Taylors' defence, and Matthews scored. Romans again converted with a magnificent kick, giving the home team a 15 points' lead.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 3 goals
Old Merchant Taylors Nil

Romans resumed, and an exchange of kicks left play in the Taylors' half. The visitors early got possession, but Tannahill was floored by Smith and his pass spoiled. Later Gent robbed Buck, and in some loose kicking the ball got into the open. Harrison fielded with practically a clear field, but he was collared from behind. The ball got loose, and Raphael securing, he put in a fine relief kick.

The ball travelled quickly to the centre, where Gent was prominent with some tricky work, but Reeves saved cleverly. However, a little later Taylor had a kick charged down, and Matthews, gathering neatly, ran down and passed to Harrison, who went over with the fourth try behind the posts. Romans failed at goal.

On the drop-out Gent got round the scrum, and, beating Buck, dribbled away on his own. He gathered cleverly on the run and looked like scoring, but was held up outside. The Taylors were hard pressed, and for palpable off-side play they were penalised on the 25 line. Romans had a shot for goal, but a fine attempt just failed.

Following the drop-out there was some smart work by Gloucester, who were beating their opponents in every department. A clever move by Gent sent the ball to Hudson who, though tackled, managed to pass to Harrison, who had come inside. A score seemed certain, but Hyam knocked on with a walk in.

The Taylors' lines had a narrow escape just afterwards, and then a passing bout gave Raphael a chance. Hudson, however, bowled over the International in grand style. The Gloucester backs retaliated with a nice bit of passing, but Hudson slipped on nearing Reeves.

A splendid individual effort by Raphael took him down to Romans, who effected a grand tackle. The effort led to the Taylors gaining a footing in the home end, and the Londoners worked hard for a score. A penalty against Gloucester was taken by Raphael, but he failed to find the goal, and Gent punted out to the 25.

Clever combination by the Gloucester third line looked promising, but Raphael knocked Smith's re-pass and the movement was checked. Then on the other wing Hudson looked likely to get clear, but he was hemmed in. Still, Gloucester worked with commendable energy, and the forwards, with a sweeping rush, were only stopped on the line. The Taylors offered a stubborn resistance, but they failed to withstand the repeated attacks, and in a scramble close in Collins was credited with a try, but Romans missed the goal.

On the drop-out the City front rank rushed right away again, and in less than a minute Parham was credited with the sixth try. Romans' kick hit the posts.

The Taylors resumed, Romans putting in a grand touch-finder in response to the drop-out. A big kick brought relief to the Londoners, but their stay in the Gloucester half was very brief. Harrison and Smith, with some neat work, gained a lot of ground, and this was followed by some pretty combination between Gent, Stephens, and Smith. The latter tried hard to clear Reeves, but was tripped by the toes and fell. Not to be put off, Gloucester worked with splendid cohesion, and following a splendid run down touch by Hudson, Hawker crossed in the corner. The place-kick failed.

The Taylors were now a thoroughly beaten team, and the Gloucester men treated the spectators to a fine display of football. Hudson brought off another beautiful run, beating half the visiting team, but was pulled down when about to pass. To the end the City team had all the game, and only missed adding to their big lead by the hardest of luck.

RESULT :

Gloucester 3 goals, 4 tries (27 points)

Old Merchant Taylors Nil

GLOUCESTER A v. OLD BOYS.

Played at Kingsholm on Monday morning, before a small attendance. The A team underwent considerable alteration, and only a dozen players fielded at the start. Two other men subsequently appeared, and later A. E. Greenhill, the old Cheltenham forward, completed the fifteen.

Play opened at mid-field, and was fairly even. The Seconds at length attacked, and Goddard burst away, but was upset by J. Romans. The Old Boys' forwards relieved, Simmonds and Sly doing good work. A neat bout of passing by the home backs looked promising, but Hughes' pass was knocked on.

The Seconds had another chance a minute later, but faulty handling spoiled the movement. The A team continued to have the best of matters, but they lacked scoring ability.

Cowman, intercepting a Gloucester pass, ran to the centre, where he was collared by Hollands. The Seconds quickly rushed back, and a score nearly resulted. From a penalty Shergold had a shot for goal, but the ball fell short, and Sly punted out of danger.

After a spell of attacking Gloucester were beaten in a loose rush, the Old Boys using their feet to advantage. Play was carried to the home 25 before the movement was effectually checked, and the Old Boys later narrowly scored[sic] Cook and Curtis, with useful work, brought relief. In a loose dribble which followed, H. Lane sent past J. Romans and over the line, and Cook racing through touched down with a try. Hughes failed at goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A 1 try
Old Boys Nil

Soon after the re-start Hubert Smith was knocked out with an injury to the knee, and had to be carried off the field. Voyce played half-back, the Seconds resuming with seven forwards.

The Old Boys, who all through had held the upper hand forward, now asserted their superiority more than ever, and a desperate rush took the ball over the line, Simmonds being credited with a try. J. Romans converted, thus giving the Old Boys a two points' lead.

Play was desperately keen on the re-start, both teams doing well and in turn pressing. Gloucester got well inside their opponents' half, where L. Vears picked up, and racing down touch beat the opposition and scored a fine try. J. Romans failed at goal.

Play to the end was in favour of the Old Boys, but there was no further scoring.

RESULT :

Old Boys 1 goal 1 try (8 points)

Gloucester A 1 try (3 points)

For to-morrow morning's match (Gloucester A v. South End) members will use ticket No. 38.

JC