

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1905.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. CLIFTON.

CITY WIN BY 40 POINTS.

After a month's absence Gloucester were at home to-day to Clifton.

Last season the Cliftonians surprised the City and obtained a two points' victory, but they were hardly likely to repeat the performance.

Gloucester were short of Gent and Collins, but had Stephens and Johns back in the team. Clifton suffered through the absence of Slee (full-back) and a couple of good forwards.

The teams were : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	CLIFTON.
G. Romans	Backs.	S. B. Smith
C. Smith	Three-quarter	E. F. Eberle
E. Hall	backs.	C. W. Baker
J. Harrison	"	L. W. Baker
A. Hudson	"	G. Matthews
J. Stephens	Half-Backs.	Cecil W. Baker
A. Hall	"	A. Gardiner
W. Johns (capt.)	Forwards.	A. J. Gardner
A. Hawker	"	H. Gardiner
B. Parham	"	E. Gardiner
G. Matthews	"	J. Clissold
G. Vears	"	E. E. Davies
H. Quixley	"	L. J. B. Durnford
J. Jewell	"	A. B. Yeoman
F. Pegler	"	H. Prideaux

Referee : Mr. W. A. Thomas (Gloucester).

## THE GAME.

The visitors were late in arriving, and the kick-off was delayed till 3.35. Clifton won the toss, and Johns started for the home team against a strong wind. Smith returned, and the ball went to touch just inside the home half. Some loose scrambling play followed, ending in the visitors being penalised for off-side play. Romans took the kick, but the reply was a good one, and little ground was gained.

From a kick "Whacker" Smith fielded and passed to E. Hall, and the ball was sent across to Hudson, who was stopped in time. Useful work by Johns and Stephens resulted in Gloucester gaining a footing in their opponents' half, but the marking was so close that the home players could not get an opening. Off-side play by A. Hall led to a penalty to Clifton, and touch was found near midfield. Here Stephens got the ball out to his three-quarters, but Harrison dropped his transfer.

A minute later Hudson was at fault when there was every chance of a good run down. Clifton profited by these mistakes, but Stephens, with clever play, sent them back, and operations were contested in the Clifton end. Another free fell to Clifton, and the resultant kick gained them a dozen yards or so.

From a line-out Hawker took the ball cleverly, but his pass to Stephens went to touch. From the ensuing scrum the City backs got possession, and E. Hall made a neat opening for Hudson. The latter dashed down at a good pace, but was tackled by the full-back a few yards outside. Gloucester attacked strongly from this point, and following some good work by Harrison, Hawker crossed the line, but some infringement had occurred, and the point was disallowed.

Clifton were kept busily defending, but loose play by the home team enabled the visitors to reach midfield. Further progress was made, and Romans was forced to kick to touch at his 25. Useful footwork by Clifton looked dangerous, but Romans relieved with a nice touch-finder.

Clifton continued to worry the City forwards, and for the next few minutes there was little advantage to either side. The Clifton backs, with some neat exchanges, gave the Gloucester defence some trouble, but the tackling was sound. In the home 25 the visitors' passing went wrong, and E. Hall securing he ran down and punted over Smith's head. There was a race for possession, but between several men the ball was knocked on, and Gloucester lost a fine chance.

Clifton luckily relieved, but the home team returned to the attack. Matthews started a nice dribble, and the ball was taken past the opposition when Parham kicked too hard, and a dead ball resulted. On the drop-out the home backs passed prettily, but Eberle brought Hudson down splendidly. In the loose Clifton got away with a dribble, but Smith stopped them nicely, and in turn put Gloucester in a good position. A penalty being awarded to Gloucester, Romans punted high, and a visitor fumbling Vears picked up, and passing to Pegler sent the latter over between the posts with the first try. Romans added the extra points.

Clifton resumed, and Romans only getting in a poor return play settled in the home 25. The visitors attempted passing, but it was too slow to be effective. Gloucester retaliated, and thanks to a nice bit of work by E. Hall the home team had a fine chance. A series of exchanges left the ball with Matthews, who had four players on his right with a walk in. The forward, however, went the wrong way, and being tackled lost the ball, and a certain try.

Ensuing play was keen but lacking in finish. A good kick by C. Baker gained the visitors a good slice of ground, but Harrison replied with a beautiful dodgy run, in which he beat half the team. A timely pass in the end put the Gloucester forwards in possession, and more transfers looked certain for another try. A knock-on, however, spoiled the final pass. Gloucester were now playing a strong game, and passing amongst the backs saw E. Hall feed Smith. The latter failed to take the pass, but recovered possession, and beating a couple of men cleverly, scored a neat try. The place-kick failed.

Clifton played up pluckily, but the City forwards breaking away Parham and Matthews only had S. Smith opposed to them. The ball, however, was kicked straight into his hands, and he relieved with a nice run. Ensuing play was a trifle scrambling, and the Gloucester backs spoiled a number of possible openings by faulty handling. Good work by Stephens eventually placed Gloucester well down, and from a sharp transfer Hudson burst over the line and behind the posts with a good try. Romans goaled.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 2 goals, 1 try  
Clifton ..... Nil

Clifton resumed, and play was fought out at the centre. The Gloucester backs were several times in possession, but the transfers were badly given. From a kick across the ground Hudson gathered nicely, and made off down touch. He was, however, partly collared, and his pass was given forward with an open goal. Gloucester, however, were soon on the aggressive again, and neat passing between A. Hall, Stephens, Harrison, and Hudson, saw the latter clear the opposition beautifully and score behind the posts. Romans kicked another goal.

On the drop-out Clifton, with a lucky flying kick, found touch in the Gloucester half, but Stephens quickly changed the venue. The City forwards heeling, Stephens secured and attempted to break through, but he was checked.

After this the home backs repeatedly handled, but there was something wanting in finish. Harrison eventually slipped through smartly, but his pass went along the ground. The Gloucester forwards, however, were up, and rushed the ball over, and Parham was credited with a try. The goal-kick was successful.

After this play fell off somewhat, and was of an uninteresting character. The Gloucester backs at length opened up the game, and Harrison made a sweet opening, but held too long.

Operations were wholly confined to the Clifton half, but there was something wanting in finish to the movement. Gloucester, however, kept up the pressure, and their efforts were rewarded at last, Smith scoring in the corner after a lovely bout of passing. Romans failed to convert.

The drop-out was charged down, and immediately Gloucester were swarming round their opponents' line. In some loose play Stephens fielded cleverly and handing to A. Hall, the half-back scored a capital try. Romans' kick for goal just failed.

Subsequent play was fast, in which Gloucester did a lot of good work. The tackling, however, was keen. Hawker was prominent with several strong bursts, and following one effort he passed out wide to Harrison, who ran and sent to Hudson. The latter raced hard for the line, but Eberle tackled him outside. "Whacker" Smith, who had come across, took the ball from Hudson on the ground and scored the eighth try in the corner. The place-kick was a failure.

Gloucester took matters entirely in their hands now, and Romans, in search of work, came up to the three-quarter line. The ball was given plenty of air, and the home forwards and backs indulged in numerous bouts of passing. Clifton tackled well, but further tries were added before the end by E. Hall and Parham, Romans converting the first.

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 5 goals, 5 tries (40 points)  
Clifton ..... Nil

REMARKS.

Gloucester's play in the first half left a lot to be desired, but on the change of ends there was a vast improvement. Clifton worked with energy all through, but they could not withstand the persistent attacks of the home team. Altogether their lines were crossed ten times. The score indicates the one-sided character of the game, but with a less resolute defence Clifton would have been defeated by a far heavier score.

Eberle and Claude Baker especially did heaps of tackling, and Hudson was several times brought down when he looked all over a scorer.

The Gloucester forwards packed badly at the outset, and the heeling consequently was very slovenly. As the game progressed the City men did much better, and then they obtained the ball as often as they wished. Hawker was continually prominent with strong bursts, and he more than once started the three-quarters on the move. He was well supported in the open by his colleagues, of whom Vears, Parham, Jewell, and Pegler were noticeable.

In the absence of Gent, Albert Hall worked the scrums, and on the whole he did well, getting the ball away smartly. Stephens showed that he has not suffered by his rest, and he initiated a number of clever moves.

In the three-quarter line the home players handled brilliantly at times, but in the first half a number of transfers were dropped. Harrison and E. Hall played clever football in the centre, and were continually making openings. "Whacker" Smith and Hudson were also in capital form, and put in some good runs.

Romans, who had a fairly easy time at full-back, had hard lines with several goal kicks, just missing the extra points.

Clifton were well served forward by A. J. Gardner, and Cecil Baker and Gardiner did a lot of spoiling at half.