

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1905.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. CLIFTON.

THE RETURN GAME.

CLIFTONIANS AGAIN BEATEN EASILY.

A fortnight ago Gloucester easily triumphed over Clifton by 40 points to nil, and though the scoring was likely to be kept down somewhat to-day, the City team fully anticipated a fairly easy win.

Gordon Vears was absent from the pack, otherwise Gloucester were well represented.

The teams were : —

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

## THE GAME.

Gloucester won the toss, and Clifton started against a strong wind and before a small attendance. The City team early pressed. A free kick to Clifton gained relief, and then Romans had a kick charged down by A. Gardiner at midfield, and the home team gained a footing in the Gloucester end.

The venue was quickly changed to the centre, where the Clifton forwards showed up with some capital footwork. Gent made headway with a neat punt, but ensuing play was very scrambling, the high wind completely upsetting all attempts at passing.

The Clifton forwards were packing well, but the backs were not able to do much. Charging down a kick by Slee, Johns picked up and started a bout of passing, but Hudson failed to take the final transfer. Immediately after Gent set Stephens going, and after Harrison, Hall, and Smith had handled, the latter re-passed to Hudson, who scored neatly. Romans failed at goal.

Resuming, Gloucester at once commenced to press, and after Harrison had just failed to break through, Hudson crossed again in the corner. The place-kick failed.

Clifton dropped out, but Gloucester were soon on the aggressive, Hudson being nearly through again. The City forwards, carrying a scrum, dribbled right down to Slee, who fumbled, and his lines narrowly escaped. Claude Baker pluckily ran out and punted to touch.

Ensuing play was fought out in the Clifton 25, where the home defence was severely tried. Mistakes by the Gloucester backs allowed Clifton breathing space, and subsequent operations were more even. Clifton, taking advantage of the erratic wind, worked into the visitors' end, where Claude Baker brought off a strong run to Romans, who pulled him down. Gloucester got out through Hudson, but the Clifton forwards rushed back, and forced a couple of minors.

Gloucester played up strongly after this, and Hudson made a fine run until tackled by Claude Baker. Matthews intercepted a Gloucester pass, and after a run three parts the length of the ground, scored, and a goal resulted.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 2 tries  
Clifton ..... 1 goal

Johns re-started for Gloucester, and opening play was contested in the Clifton half. Clifton twice kicked down to Romans, who replied grandly each time. Then, from passing started by Gent, the Gloucester backs passed and re-passed in pretty style, Romans taking part, but Clifton managed to save. Directly afterwards, however, Hudson raced over in the corner from a pass by Harrison, Romans failing at goal.

Following the drop out the City backs were again put in possession, and Smith scored a neat try by jumping Slee. Romans kicked a fine goal.

There was an exchange of kicks on the resumption, which ended in Clifton gaining a position on the Gloucester 25. From this point Gloucester came away with beautiful passing, forwards and backs handling, but Parham was stopped by Slee. Clifton luckily relieved, and for a few minutes play hovered in the Gloucester half.

The visitors changed the venue by the aid of a penalty, and midfield was the scene of operations. Gloucester several times tried to open out the game, but though some capital passing was witnessed, the defence was not penetrated. In checking a rush by Clifton, Gent strained the muscles of his thigh, and had to retire. Parham came out [to] half-back but, though handicapped, Gloucester continued to have the better of the exchanges. Clifton, however, worked pluckily, and the forwards next took the ball down to Romans and over the line, where Durnford was credited with a try. The place kick failed.

Gloucester showed up with some good work after this reverse, but the Clifton backs, who stood very much off-side, frequently stopped passing movements.

Hudson made a couple of strong dashes down touch which looked promising, but he was checked in time. A combined movement on the other wing, however, bore fruit, Smith scoring cleverly. Romans added the extra points with a good kick.

Soon afterwards time was called.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 19 points  
Clifton ..... 8 points

#### REMARKS.

Gloucester took matters leisurely, or they might have put on a much larger score. The wind considerably upset back play, but Gloucester persevered with these tactics, and managed to cross their opponents' lines on five occasions.

Clifton, as usual, played a resolute game, but with ordinary conditions they would have been overwhelmed.

Forward, Gloucester heeled cleverly at times, but there were periods of slackness which Clifton were not slow to take advantage of. Romans kicked with good judgment, but he ought to have stopped Matthews when the latter scored.

Gent and Stephens were far too smart for the opposing half-backs, the former being very clever. His injury is likely to stop him playing next week.

All the Gloucester three-quarters did well, and at times they combined nicely. If there was any fault it was lack of judgment in giving transfers.

## GLOUCESTER A v. LYDNEY A.

### THE VISITORS WELL BEATEN.

These teams met at Kingsholm before a fair attendance. The visitors came with the reputation of being the smartest second team in the county, and a hard game was anticipated.

The teams were : –

Gloucester A. – J. Watts, back; H. Hughes, H. Cook, H. Smith, and L. Vears, three-quarter backs; A. Hall and H. Ewers, half-backs; F. Pyart, H. Taylor, H. Wixey, A. White, R. Craddock, T. Meadows, S. Annandale, and C. Voyce, forwards.

Lydney A. – R. Sterry, back; T. Probert, F. Hughes, W. Ellaway, and L. J. Powell, three-quarter backs; C. Hayden and H. Charles, half-backs; T. Collins (captain), G. Charles, B. Nelmes, W. Wilcox, E. Thorne, R. J. Watkins, H. Thomas, and T. Bayliss, forwards.

Lydney won the toss, and started with the wind and sun behind them. Gloucester kicked off and prevented a return, nearly rushing the ball over the line. Lydney, however, cleared to the centre, but were again sent back by a smart run by Hubert Smith, who passed to Hughes. The latter failed to gather the ball, but Smith, being well up, carried on the movement. He was collared, however, and then the opposite wing had a turn at attack. They were beaten off, and by the aid of the wind and some good forward work Lydney pressed hard. A hot attack was kept up on the home citadel, and eventually Probert dodged over right in the corner. The kick failed.

On re-starting Hall broke away brilliantly from a scrum, and gained a lot of ground. Powell, however, nullified this with a capital run and touch kick, and Lydney pressed again. A forward rush and a kick by Ewers brought relief. Watts found touch well with a free kick, and play was hotly contested in neutral territory.

The passing on both sides [was] weak. Watts was twice called upon but he kicked safely to touch on each occasion. Gloucester got the ball repeatedly in the scrum, but they could not get it away, and the centre was for a long time the scene of play, until Lydney forced a minor with a long kick.

The wind was helping the visitors to a considerable extent, and they again pressed, but a pretty passing movement initiated by Ewers, and carried on by Hall and Cook, took the ball right to the other end. Hughes was the last to receive, but on being tackled he let the ball go, and it went to touch.

Hall started another clever movement. He dribbled clear of the full-back, and the Gloucester forwards being well up, rushed the ball over in a bunch, and Craddock was credited with a try in the corner. Vears took the kick, and landed a magnificent goal from a difficult angle against the wind.

This two-points' advantage made Gloucester play up harder than ever, but Lydney, too, were very keen, and the home defence was kept busy. Lydney were awarded a free, but the would-be kicker missed the ball amidst loud laughter.

With a good punt, Lydney kept up the pressure, but the home defence was safe, and the forwards brought relief with a good rush, in which Wixey was the shining light. Cook broke away prettily from the line-out, but failed to get past Sterry. Lydney at once replied with a nice open movement in which several players took part, and it ended in Wilcox being allowed to run in under the posts. Ellaway goaled.

Gloucester went off at a great pace on the re-start, and gained a footing in the Lydney 25, and they were there at half-time.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Lydney A ..... 1 goal, 1 try  
Gloucester A ..... 1 goal

Recognising the power of the wind behind them, the Gloucester men on the re-start kicked at every opportunity, and that this was the correct policy was shown by the fact that they were pressing within three minutes of the interval.

Lydney were penalised, and the kick drove them farther back. Gloucester had their reward very soon, a splendid bit of passing letting Cook in. Ewers started the movement by passing to Hall. The latter cut thorough prettily, passed to Vears, who put Cook in. Vears added the extra points with another grand kick.

The Lydney forwards asserted themselves, but Vears broke through and took the ball practically through the whole team, being only robbed of a well-deserved try in the last two yards by the full back falling in front of him.

Gloucester kept up a hot attack now, Lydney being unable to get far out of their own quarter. The visitors were eventually awarded a free, which brought some relief. Cook, however, started another bout of passing, but only a touch-down resulted.

The Lydney forwards made a great effort and reached the centre, but Gloucester quickly worked back, and the visitors were penned hard on their own line. Their forwards cleared again, but Wixey getting possession from a line-out, ran through unopposed. Vears failed this time.

After a spell of play at the centre, which was of a somewhat scrambling nature, the Gloucester forwards, with a determined rush reached the Lydney 25 again. By good work in the scrums and lines out they reached the Lydney line, and after a series of very near shaves, Craddock struggled over far out. Vears' kick was carried wide.

The Lydney men worked very hard on the drop-out, but they could not keep the Gloucester men out of their 25. In reply to a free, Hall put in a lovely kick, finding touch within a foot of the corner flag.

Lydney broke away, but Vears, with a well-judged kick sent them back, and Wixey and Hall were nearly over, within half a minute. Just before the call of time, Powell made a sensational run for Lydney from one end of the ground to the other, but Hughes came across at top-speed and bowled him over into touch a yard out.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 2 goals 2 tries (16 points)

Lydney A ..... 1 goal 1 try (8 points)

REMARKS.

It was a hotly-contested game, in which no quarter was given on either side, but the home team were distinctly the better fifteen, and thoroughly deserved their victory.

The rival forwards were very nearly evenly matched, but Gloucester got the ball more frequently, and, in the second half, the home outsiders' passing quite puzzled the Lydney men. It was very good passing, and it was certainly in this department that the game was won.

The home forwards all played a capital game, Wixey, Craddock, Pyart and Taylor showing up well. Ewens and Hall had the whip-hand of Hayden and Charles. They showed good combination, and opened up the game splendidly.

All the three-quarters were sound, Vears being particularly prominent with his kicking. Watts seems to improve match by match, and gave a practically faultless display. When the time comes the Committee need look no farther for a successor to George Romans.