

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1905.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

COUNTY CUP COMPETITION.

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM.

Undoubtedly the most important tie down for decision was the meeting of Gloucester and Cheltenham at Kingsholm. The teams had already met in a couple of friendly games this season, with results well known – a narrow win to either club on their respective enclosures.

In both matches the play was exceptionally keen, and the only scores were a try to Cheltenham in the first game, and a penalty goal to Gloucester in the return. With honours easy, to-day's contest resolved itself into a veritable battle of the giants for the winning points.

The respective records of the rival teams this season is flattering to Cheltenham, but the Town have not met the class of teams opposed by Gloucester. The records to date were : –

	P.	W.	L.	D.	For	Agst.
Gloucester	24	13	10	1	283	120
Cheltenham	22	16	4	2	290	75

Both Clubs strained every effort to place representative teams in the field, but unfortunately Gloucester were robbed of the services of Gent, their clever half-back, the injury sustained at Clifton the previous week preventing his playing. The vacancy was filled by A. Hall, a very useful substitute.

Cheltenham, too, suffered from absentees, Drew and Goddard being away. This necessitated the introduction of A. Fisher at half, and F. Fry at three-quarter.

The weather, though cold, was fine, and the ground was in lovely condition. Expectations of a large crowd were fully borne out, and some time before the game started the enclosure was well lined. Spectators continued to crowd in, and there was every prospect of a record attendance for a Club match.

The teams lined out as follows : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	CHELTENHAM.
G. Romans	Backs.	B. Davey
C. Smith	Three-quarter	F. Fry
E. Hall	backs.	F. H. B. Champain
J. Harrison	"	A. Marsden
A. Hudson	"	G. Cottrell
A. Hall	Half-Backs.	G. T. Unwin
J. Stephens	"	A. Fisher
W. Johns (capt.)	Forwards.	F. Jacob
A. Hawker	"	W. N. Unwin
G. Vears	"	F. Goulding
B. Parham	"	C. Cook
F. Pegler	"	C. Bennett
G. Matthews	"	G. Cossens
H. Collins	"	A. Tidmarsh
J. Jewell	"	H. Pike

Referee : Mr. A. LAWES (Bristol).

Touch Judges: Mr. F. J. HANNAN (Clifton), Mr. H. V. PAGE (Cheltenham College).

### THE GAME.

The players took the field at 3.25 to the accompaniment of hearty cheering. Gloucester won the toss, and G. Unwin kicked off from the Dean's Walk goal amidst great excitement. The ball went to Stephens, who punted to G. Unwin, who made his mark and sent to touch just inside the Gloucester half.

The first scrum was broken up quickly, and the home backs missing, Goulding kicked to Romans, who fumbled. The ball was sent on to Hudson, who picked up and punted out nicely. Davey only got in a poor return to Hawker, who punted high. The City forwards secured, and Hudson receiving re-passed to Hawker, who went for goal, but was held up a dozen yards outside. From the succeeding scrum Stephens secured and passed to A. Hall, and the ball got out to Smith, but the latter was floored immediately.

For an infringement Gloucester were penalised, and Unwin punted to Romans. The latter ran round and passed to Harrison, who forced a minor with a kick over the line. Cheltenham dropped out, but a clever punt by Harrison sent play well inside the Town 25. A useful kick relieved, but the Gloucester forwards, with a loose rush, took operations close to the visitors' line. Here the City were again penalised, and Champain found touch with a useful kick. From the throw-out Goulding received, and put in a good punt, which gained further ground for Cheltenham.

A scrum saw the visiting halves misfield, and Gloucester looked likely to clear, but Cottrell sent them back nicely. Clever work by Hudson, who eluded Fry and kicked down touch, gave Gloucester a good position. Champain changed the venue with a neat punt to mid-field, where the Gloucester backs were fed by Stephens and A. Hall. The movement, however, was checked by an interception, and Cheltenham made headway as a consequence.

A brilliant bit of footwork by the Gloucester forwards looked promising until Fisher daringly fell on the ball. Gloucester continued to have the best of the exchanges, Smith earning loud applause with a couple of grand tackles. Play was now fought out in the Cheltenham 25, where the home halves tried to open out the game, but a wild pass by Stephens lost a nice slice of ground. Several times scrums followed in the Cheltenham quarter, play being exceptionally close. At length, from a pass by Stephens, Harrison slipped through cleverly, and handed to Hudson, who went for the line at a great pace, but in cutting inside Davey he slipped and fell.

Gloucester now attacked desperately, and from a passing movement Smith had a fine chance, but Marsden floored the Gloucesterian finely just outside. Cheltenham got out of a dangerous situation by the aid of lucky kicking, and then some loose play at the centre saw Champain pick up. He was collared by Hudson, and the ball getting loose Johns dribbled through.

The defence appeared beaten, but Davey checked somewhat, only to see the Gloucester forward again secure possession and make a big effort to score. The position, however, was saved, though in the rush Collins was laid out. An examination showed that the Gloucesterian suffered with an injured shoulder, and he had to be assisted off the field.

Gloucester resumed with seven forwards – a serious handicap – but the City front held their own. Cheltenham, however, made headway by the aid of useful kicks by Champain, and mid-field was the scene of operations. Working well together the Gloucester forwards brought off a brilliant dribble right down to Davey, who saved in daring fashion near his line. Cheltenham cleared, only to see Harrison find touch with a wonderfully smart kick to touch under great difficulties.

Well inside the visitors' 25 the ball got in the open, where there was some exciting play. Fisher made off down touch neatly and kicked across, but Smith got possession, and passed to Harrison, who dodged cleverly, but was unable to find an opening.

G. Unwin was prominent in gaining relief for the Town, and Romans missing, W. Unwin came up and kicked down the field. E. Hall and Hudson, however, saved at the centre. Here play hovered for a few minutes until a wonderful kick by Romans from a penalty found touch inside the Town quarter.

Close and exciting play followed until G. Unwin got off with a clever dribble, the Town captain keeping the ball out of touch and sending to Romans. The City custodian, however, fielded neatly, and punted back well to touch.

The Gloucester forwards were heeling well, and the backs handled smartly, but an opening could not be found. Near the 25 mark Cheltenham were penalised, and Romans, with a lovely kick, landed a fine goal amidst tremendous enthusiasm.

G. Unwin re-started, Romans replying with a nice kick, which rolled to touch at mid-field. From the first scrum Cheltenham heeled, but the backs made no headway, the tackling being desperately keen. Near the centre some loose play ended in favour of Gloucester, who kicked, Matthews being to the fore. The ball went to Davey, who was upset by Hudson only two or three yards from the line.

Play was now wholly confined to the Cheltenham half, and their lines had several narrow escapes, but there was no more scoring to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester .....	1 goal (p)
Cheltenham .....	Nil

Hawker resumed for Gloucester, who were still with only fourteen men, Collins suffering with a broken collar bone. Play opened at mid-field, but the Town forwards were soon prominent with an effective rush until checked by Harrison. A long kick in the open saw Cottrell dash up the field, but he was immediately floored, and the ball getting loose Stephens, with a flying kick, gained some ground. A penalty to Gloucester enabled Romans to find touch near the Town 25, and then, with a brilliant rush, the City forwards took the ball over the line, Marsden kicking dead.

Cheltenham dropped out, but Gloucester returned to the attack, and Harrison, with a grand break through, was almost over. Cheltenham luckily relieved, but Gloucester returned with a desperate dash, the defence being almost beaten. Harrison was again prominent with clever play, but Cheltenham at length got an opening and dribbled to mid-field, where off-side spoiled a good effort.

A. Hall was hereabouts knocked out, but after receiving attention from the ambulance brigade he was able to resume. Romans, with the penalty, found touch splendidly in the Cheltenham 25, and play was continued with unabated vigour. In some loose play Parham picked up, and running strongly passed to A. Hall, who re-passed near the line, and Parham was credited with a try, this further success being hailed with great cheering. Romans failed at goal.

E. Hall replied to the drop-out, and soon Parham was conspicuous with a dash down touch and cross kick, but the ball was knocked on. The Gloucester forward, after getting possession of the leather, was upset violently by Fisher, and the game had to be suspended. The City forward appeared badly dazed, and he had to retire, thus further depleting the home ranks.

With only six forwards the City men carried the first scrum on resuming, and but for a desperate bit of tackling Gloucester would have scored again. G. Unwin brought relief to Cheltenham with a timely kick to the centre, but the Gloucester six retaliated with a lovely bit of footwork, Matthews being to the fore. Again Cheltenham were lucky to save on the verge of the line.

Parham now returned to the fray, and play was fast and furious. Cheltenham, with a passing movement, tried hard to clear, but Romans fielded Fry's kick nicely and sent to touch. Harrison did a pretty bit of work for Gloucester when severely pressed, and this was followed by individual efforts by Johns and Goulding, which were duly recognised.

A useful punt by Cottrell was well followed up, and for the first time Cheltenham got a footing in the Gloucester end. Fisher further improved matters with another kick, and Gloucester were rather severely pressed. The Town pushed the home forwards off the ball, but Romans picked up and punted out neatly. At once Cheltenham worked back, and from a pass by Fisher, Unwin put in a short burst and transfer to Marsden, who went over the line with two or three Gloucester men hanging on his back. G. Unwin kicked a goal, and this brought the teams to within a point of one another.

Gloucester re-started, and play was more furious than ever. The Cheltenham backs resorted to passing, but Gloucester intercepted and stopped it. Immediately after the visitors were off again, and Marsden cut out a fine opening. It looked all over for a score, but the tackling was deadly, and the lines were saved.

Gloucester, working strongly, carried a scrum, and the forwards swept up the field with a grand rush. The ball was taken by Davey, who dropped on it, but the Gloucester forwards again got possession, and Johns scored. Romans failed to convert.

There was only five minutes left for play, but Gloucester on the re-start played up gallantly to increase their lead. Near mid-field Stephens started a bout of passing, A. Hall and E. Hall handling in turn. The latter missed Harrison, and transferred wide to Hudson, who took the pass beautifully, and shot past Fry in grand style. Two or three Cheltonians got across to cut the wing man off, but though partly collared Hudson shook himself free, and racing hard completed a magnificent run by scoring one of the finest tries ever seen on the ground. Romans kicked a goal.

With Gloucester nine clear points ahead, the match was all over. Cheltenham resumed, but almost immediately the whistle sounded no-side.

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 2 goals (1 p), 2 tries (14 points)  
Cheltenham ..... 1 goal (5 points)