

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1905.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. BEDFORD.

REMARKABLE SCORING AT KINGSHOLM.

BEDFORD OUTCLASSED.

The first meeting of these teams took place at Kingsholm, but owing to the early kick-off the attendance was below the average.

Gloucester were short of Johns (captain) and Gent, both of whom were resting. Gent was wired for to go to Leicester to play with Braithwaite (his colleague for the New Zealand match next week) but the City half-back could not accept the invitation.

The following were the teams : —

Gloucester. — G. Romans, back; C. Smith (capt.), E. Hall, J. Harrison, and A. Hudson, three-quarter backs; J. Stephens and A. E. Wood, half-backs; A. Hawker, B. Parham, G. Matthews, G. Vears, J. Jewell, H. Collins, J. Merchant, and W. Holder, forwards.

Bedford. — G. U. A. Read, back; H. Dobb, J. Howson, A. Grossman, and F. Jones (substitute), three-quarter backs; T. Sawyer and H. N. Hemsley, half-backs; A. L. Rogers, A. V. Manton, W. Kirkby, J. Longland, S. D. Kitchener, W. Huckle, C. E. Nicholls, H. Wells, and J. Stromach, forwards.

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

## THE GAME.

The visitors came one short, and F. "Jones" (Gloucester) was pressed into service at three-quarter. Previous to the match the City team which won the county cup last season, was photographed in their new blazers by Mr. H. E. Jones, Northgate-street.

The kick-off was a quarter of an hour late. Bedford started, and play opened at the centre. The visitors heeled from the first scrum, and Sawyer broke through, but his pass was not taken. Scrambling play followed, ending in Wood making his mark, but his kick was returned to touch.

Heeling by the City forwards saw some handling by the backs, but the transfer to Smith was too high, and he knocked on. Bedford several times beat the home forwards for possession, but the backs made little headway. Picking up in the loose, Hawker dodged several opponents cleverly, but he held too long and was tackled.

Subsequent play was of a scrappy nature, and a visitor gave Gloucester a good slice of ground by punting towards his own goal. In mid-field Wood kicked back to Read, who mis-fielded altogether, and Parham, racing up, secured possession and ran behind the posts. Romans goaled.

Bedford re-started, the ball going to Romans, who ran across the ground and passed to Harrison. The latter slipped through beautifully, and feinting reached the full-back, where he handed to Vears. The latter re-passed, and a score appeared imminent, but Bedford just saved. Immediately after, however, the City backs got set going, and a lovely run by Hall sent Smith over in the corner. Romans failed at goal.

Resuming, Gloucester immediately got on the attack, and Wood, cutting out a fine opening, Hall ran over with a clever try, the place-kick failing. Bedford re-started, but Gloucester were irresistible, and following a pretty combined movement, forwards and backs participating, Hall scored again. Romans converted, giving Gloucester 15 points in about ten minutes.

Hawker received the kick-off, and beating a couple of forwards ran down touch and punted to Dobb, who made his mark. His kick, however, only gained a few yards. Working together with perfect harmony, Gloucester ran away with their opponents, and only a knock-on in fielding lost Wood a try.

Bedford, taking advantage of a loose pass by Stephens, dribbled to Romans, where the movement was checked. Gloucester immediately became aggressive again, and after a strong run by Hudson, Parham scored the fifth try. Romans added the extra points with a lovely kick.

Though so badly outplayed, Bedford pluckily resumed, and thanks chiefly to good play by Sawyer, they forced Gloucester to touch down with kicks over the line. After the second drop-out Stephens and Wood opened up the game, and a perfect round of passing left the ball with Hudson, who easily beat the opposition and scored near the posts. Another goal resulted.

On the re-start Bedford were again sorely pressed, but Hudson could not keep out of touch. A lucky kick brought Bedford out of danger, and in the home 25 Wood was slightly hurt. Gloucester quickly changed the venue of play with a strong forward burst, and later Smith distinguished himself with a splendid effort.

Read, getting a kick charged down, Matthews dribbled over the line, but an opponent kicked dead. Another score, however, was soon forthcoming, Harrison dodging through nicely and planting the ball near the posts. Romans converted.

Gloucester continued to press to the interval, but failed to add to their score.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 5 goals, 2 tries  
Bedford ..... Nil

Gloucester re-started, and at once assumed the aggressive. Parham robbed an opponent of possession, and nearly burst clear, finally sending out a wide pass, but the ball was knocked on. A big punt by Romans sent the ball to Read on his line, but he pluckily kicked out to the 25. Here the Gloucester backs got the ball and Stephens, Hall, and Harrison passed and re-passed cleverly, but a score was missed on the line.

Play was confined to the Bedford 25. After a good dash Hudson was only stopped on the line, a touch-down resulting. Ensuing play was scrambling, Gloucester lacking the finish displayed in the first half.

The visitors got down as a result of a good run by Grossman, but Romans sent them back with some fine kicking. Then a bout of passing gave Hudson a chance, but Read brought the wing man down. Gloucester were nearly over on the left, after some clever exchanges, and then the ball came right across to the other wing, where Hudson scored easily. Romans failed at goal.

The City ought to have added to their score immediately on the re-start, but they fumbled on the line. Mistakes allowed Bedford to clear, and Grossman beat Romans, but was collared from behind. Slackness on the part of the home team was very palpable just now, and Bedford took the fullest advantage. Near mid-field the visiting halves initiated a bout of passing, and Dobb going hard for the line just crossed in the corner amidst encouraging applause, which was renewed when Read converted with a grand kick.

This reverse nettled Gloucester, who resumed with great dash. Jones was prominent for Bedford, but held too long, and lost possession. Jewell picked up, and passing to Hudson, the latter scored. Romans' kick for goal struck the top of one of the posts, and rebounded over the cross-bar.

Bedford re-started, but Gloucester were going well again, and after Hudson had just failed to cross again, Smith notched a smart try on the opposite wing, running round behind the post. Romans landed a goal.

To the end Gloucester maintained the upper hand, and further tries were added by Hudson and Hall, Romans converting one.

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 8 goals, 4 tries (52 points)

Bedford ..... 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS.

Despite the one-sided character of the game it was a remarkable exhibition. In the first half Gloucester gave an almost perfect display, and the visitors were nonplussed by the brilliant combination of the City backs. After the change of ends Gloucester, content with their big lead, took matters very leisurely, and at times the players grew absolutely careless.

Bedford profited by the mistakes made, but no one begrudged the visitors their one solitary try. In the Bedford ranks were two or three good individual men, but the team lacked the pace, cleverness, and resource of the Gloucester players.

Sawyer, at half, did a lot of good work, and "Jones" and Dobb at three-quarter also distinguished themselves. Read, at full-back, too, tackled finely at times, bringing Hudson down on several occasions when the latter appeared all over a scorer. The forwards tried their hardest to stem the tide of disaster, and heeled a fair number of times, but the tackling generally was feeble.

Gloucester have seldom given a more sparkling display, and the team is evidently settling down. Wood resumed his position at half, and until he was slightly damaged he showed grand form. Stephens was wonderfully active at the scrum, and the pair combined effectively. At three-quarter some brilliant work was accomplished by Smith, Hall, Harrison, and Hudson. The centres were in their happiest mood, and they made openings innumerable for the wing men. Hudson and Smith brought off a number of dashing runs to the delight of the crowd, and altogether the wing men were credited with half the tries scored.

The City forwards were exceptionally smart in the open, Hawker and Parham initiating some capital movements. Matthews and Merchant were also to the fore, and Holder created a favourable impression. Romans, who was frequently up amongst the three-quarters, kicked a good length, and his fielding was very safe.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO GENT.

Previous to the match, Mr. A. J. Barnes, speaking to the members in the grand stand, said many of them had observed with great satisfaction that another City player had been selected to play for England. They felt that Gent richly deserved the compliment, and that his selection was not only an honour to himself but that it also added lustre to the Gloucester Club generally. They offered Gent their hearty congratulations, though at the same time they might be permitted to express regret that the Committee appointed to choose the team did not also honour Hudson, especially as the Press, almost without exception, spoke of him "as the best three-quarter" playing in the trial game.

Mr. Barnes said he was sure the members were proud of their Gloucester players generally, and were glad to know their merits were recognised by those outside. He took the opportunity of proposing that "our hearty congratulations be offered Mr. Gent, and that we hope, if playing in this match does not carry an English cap, that he will again be selected for the next match England plays." Councillor C. Granville Clutterbuck seconded, and the motion was carried, with applause.

#### GLOUCESTER A v. OLD BOYS.

##### OLD BOYS' FIRST DEFEAT.

The meeting of these keen opponents attracted a good crowd to Hempsted. The Old Boys started, and soon got well into the City's territory, but the ball was soon removed to the other end of the field, Gloucester spoiling a good chance by a forward pass. Soon after, however, H. Smith scored for them, but Welshman failed to convert.

The City continued to have the best of play, and another try was added by A. Hall, the goal kick again failing.

By a good rush the Old Boys removed play to the other end of the field, but the pressure on their lines was soon renewed, and H. Smith scored again, Hayward adding the goal points.

Two more tries came in quick succession, Bray and Ewers scoring, Hayward converting one.

After half-time, the Old Boys, who had wind and rain behind them, pressed hard, and Sidney Lane succeeded in getting in between the posts, J. Romans converting.

The collaring now became more vigorous than polite, each team doing its utmost. After a considerable spell of fierce play Hughes touched down for the City, and soon after the whistle sounded the finale.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 2 goals, 4 tries (22 points)  
Old Boys ..... 1 goal (5 points)