

# THE CITIZEN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1905.

## TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

### GLoucester v. OLD MERCHANT TAYLORS.

This annual Boxing Day fixture attracted a large holiday crowd to Kingsholm on Tuesday afternoon. Gloucester played Dunn (late of Weston) and Merchant for Pegler and Collins. The visitors were well represented, the teams being as follows : –

Gloucester. – G. Romans, back; C. Smith, E. Hall, J. Harrison, and A. Hudson, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent and J. Stephens, half-backs; W. Johns (capt.), B. Parham, A. Hawker, G. Matthews, G. Vears, F. Merchant, J. Jewell, and F. W. Dunn, forwards.

Old Merchant Taylors. – C. W. Reeves, back; A. O. Keysman, J. E. Raphael, A. B. Barrett, and R. A. Lepingwell, three-quarter backs; H. E. Crawford and C. J. Sherwin, half-backs; C. Bourne, G. T. Hankin, S. S. Nevill, A. A. Hanhart, M. E. Dellschaft, E. B. Lloyd, G. R. B. Smith, and A. Tannahill, forwards.

Referee : Mr. Rogers (Midland Counties).

## THE GAME.

The Taylors started, and there being no return the game opened in the home 25. The visitors, from a kick over the line, early forced a minor. Gloucester dropped out, but some players got in front of the ball, and a scrum was ordered on the 25 line. The City forwards heeled, and Gent, Stephens, and Harrison passed beautifully. The centre feinted to transfer to Hudson, who was heavily floored by Raphael, and temporarily laid out. He was, however, able to resume.

Gent and Stephens immediately showed up with some clever play, but off-side spoiled the movement. By the aid of the penalty the Taylors got well down, and, the home backs fumbling, the visitors went close to the line. Some exciting work followed, and Gloucester had a narrow escape. Eventually the City team had to kick dead to save.

The drop-out was well followed up, and Matthews collared and pushed Keysman to touch on the centre line. Here Stephens with a clever punt found touch on the Taylors' 25. Raphael was instrumental in changing the venue with a big punt, and Romans had to run back to gather. Being closely pressed he went round behind his goal and punted out to touch.

There was more loose play by the home backs, and a very lucky clearance by Romans just saved the situation. The Taylors, by strong forward work, got very close again, and Gloucester experienced a very anxious time. On one occasion the visitors actually took the ball over, but a scrum was ordered five yards outside.

Wheeling well the home pack got away, but Sherwin fielded, and passing to Lepingwell, who tried to break through, but was collared. Gloucester gained a few yards, and then by a splendid passing movement the ball got out to Smith. The latter cross kicked, but a Gloucester player was adjudged off-side, and a penalty was awarded the Taylors. At this point Hudson went off the field, and G. Vears came out to three-quarter.

Resuming, Gloucester rushed down, Dunn using his feet cleverly. The Taylors, however, checked in time. By dint of good forward work the Londoners got out of their 25, but a clever touch-kick by Harrison sent them back. Gent got the ball away nicely the next minute, and Harrison ran and punted, but Keysman stopped a sharp attack. A lucky flying kick by Raphael relieved the Taylors, but Gloucester returned to the attack, and, following some brilliant exchanges between the forwards, Matthews scored a good try, which Romans converted.

The Taylors resumed, and an exchange of kicks saw the visitors gain some 20 yards. Gloucester came away nicely, E. Hall dribbling through cleverly and stopping an opponent. A visitor picked up and passed, but the Gloucester forwards came along with some brilliant footwork. The defence was well beaten, and Harrison gathering he passed to Hudson, who dashed over with a fine try. Romans' shot for goal – a fine one – just failed. Gent replied beautifully to the drop-out, and clever combination between the Gloucester halves was very nearly successful. Eventually the visitors had to touch down.

Resuming, Gloucester again displayed lovely passing, and Hudson made a big attempt to score, but Reeves brought him down, though in effecting the tackle he was winded. Continuing, some fast and exciting play was witnessed, Hawker being prominent with a brilliant single-handed dribble which took him to his opponents' 25. Here Gent fed Stephens in clever style, and the outside half put in a short punt, and following up was only just robbed in the nick of time.

The Taylors were hard pressed for a few minutes but they offered a stubborn defence. Raphael was mainly the cause of the visitors gaining relief, but Gloucester through Harrison, put the home team on the attack again. Then from the scrum Gent started his backs going, and Hall serving Smith at the right moment, the latter crossed in the corner. Romans added the extra points.

On the re-start the Taylors showed up with some beautiful passing and inter-passing which only just failed. Not to be denied the visitors continued on the aggressive, and Crawford scored a good try, Johns tackling altogether too high. The same player converted.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 2 goals 1 try  
Taylors ..... 1 goal

Hawker re-started, and there being no response play opened in the Taylors' half. Gloucester early heeled, but Raphael smothered Vears directly he received and no ground was gained.

A well-judged punt by Raphael placed the Taylors in a good position but Gloucester quickly worked out. A splendid kick by Hall sent the ball to Reeves, who was slow in fielding, and Harrison brought him down well inside the Taylors' 25. Gloucester went very close after this, and Reeves, again being at fault, nearly gave his side away.

A scrum followed five yards outside, but the Taylors carried it, and dribbled clear. Gent marked in wonderful style, and Raphael missing Romans' kick Gloucester were under their opponents' posts. A visitor kicked out, and Hall marked in a favourable position, but Romans could not land a goal.

The Taylors, following up the drop-out, stopped Harrison getting in a reply, and Sherwin, with a run down touch, reached the Gloucester 25 before being checked. Here Gent broke away from a scrum in grand style, and with the Gloucester three-quarters in position there was every chance of a score. The ball went through several pairs of hands, but Hawker spoiled it, and the opportunity was lost. A visitor was here noticed on the ground, and after attention from the ambulance men he had to be carried off.

Resuming, the Gloucester backs were immediately served by Gent, and Stephens sending out wide to Hall, the latter gathered and secured a nice opening. He, however, tried to cut inside the full back and was collared from behind. The ball was out again immediately after, and brilliant passing and a grand run by Hudson gave the latter a splendid try behind the posts. Romans converted, making the points 18 to 5.

Stephens replied to the kick-off, and later Hall gave Gloucester a good slice of ground with a lovely touch-finder. The Taylors worked out, but Gloucester maintained their advantage and continued to worry their opponents. A passing bout looked promising, but Hudson was bored too near touch to do any good. From the throw-out Hawker gathered neatly, and being unmarked he went over under the posts. Romans kicked his fourth goal.

The game continued fast and delightfully open, the Gloucester backs handling in smart fashion. After Hudson had just failed to cross, the ball came nicely to E. Hall, who with a clever effort scored, and Romans converted.

Though so badly beaten the Taylors re-started pluckily, and some neat passing gave Gloucester trouble. The movement was checked on the 25 line, where play stayed for a few minutes. Barrett, who had returned to the field, left again at the request of the referee, for it was evident he was very groggy, and unfit to play.

A minute later the Gloucester backs brought off another marvellous bout of passing, and Hudson dashing down touch beat the full back and scored his third try, which Romans again converted.

Some clever work on the part of the Gloucester forwards was witnessed on the re-start, and Hall, with a tricky run, nearly put his side over again. Hudson had now gone off, so the teams were level with 14 men each. A big punt by Raphael took play to the Gloucester end, but the City immediately worked out, and following some good forward play by Johns and Hall, Smith crossed easily. Romans' shot at goal just missed.

Play to the end was well contested, but there was no more scoring.

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 6 goals 2 tries (36 points)  
Taylors ..... 1 goal (5 points)

GLOUCESTER A v. OLD BOYS.

EASY WIN FOR THE SECONDS.

Played at Kingsholm on Tuesday morning before a moderate attendance. Opening play was even until a loose forward rush by the Old Boys forced Gloucester to concede a minor.

On the drop-out the game settled at the centre, where the Old Boys heeled nicely. The passing, however, was too slow to be effective. A dash by the Old Boys' left wing looked promising, but Watts brought off a good tackle. Gloucester relieved with good kicking, and a capital forward rush brought play to mid-field, where one of the Old Boys sustained an injury to his ankle and had to retire.

On resuming the A team took up the attack, but Sly defended well, and brought off a good clearance kick. Mistakes by the home backs enabled the Old Boys to reach the Gloucester half, but off-side spoiled a good opening. Gloucester came away nicely, and near the centre A. Hall broke away and passed to Goddard, who returned cleverly for the half to score behind the posts. Hayward converted.

Following the restart J. Goddard robbed the opposing halves of possession, and with a timely pass to H. Smith the latter ran over behind the posts. Another goal resulted.

The Old Boys restarted, and for a time they held their own, the forwards doing good work. From near the centre J. Goddard got the ball out to Hall, and C. Goddard receiving, the centre cut through smartly and scored. Hayward failed at goal.

Gloucester continued to have all the game on the resumption, but play was a trifle scrambling. Eventually from a throw-out near the line Hayward was credited with the fourth try, the same player adding the extra points.

Lane resumed, and aided by Cowman the Old Boys made a spirited attack, but they were stopped just outside. The visitors had a couple of decent chances but the play of the backs was sadly deficient in finish. A. Hall gained relief for Gloucester with useful footwork, and forced another minor, a performance they repeated shortly afterwards. The Old Boys had the better of the exchanges to the interval but failed to score.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester A ..... 3 goals, 1 try  
Old Boys ..... Nil

The Old Boys restarted, and Holder at once led the Seconds in a strong forward burst, but for some infringement the home team were penalised. J. Romans put in a nice kick, but from the subsequent scrum the Gloucester backs combined in a good passing bout, which broke down on the left wing.

Immediately after the Seconds were again in possession, and after C. Goddard had worked out a nice opening, H. Smith swerved past Sly and ran round behind the posts. Hayward kicked his fourth goal.

Gloucester continued to go strongly, but C. Goddard missed a pass when there was a splendid chance. The Seconds' left wing, after a short dash, cross-kicked prettily, but the opening was not utilised. Then on the right wing Hughes raced for the line, and apparently crossed, but the referee ruled he was tackled outside.

Gloucester still hovered in their opponents' 25, and C. Goddard was sent off by A. Hall. He, however, was well tackled, and in falling he put his shoulder out, and had to leave the field. Holder came out at three-quarter, and in less than a couple of minutes H. Smith, from a neat pass, ran through and, beating Sly, scored again. Hayward again added the extra points.

Following the kick-off the Old Boys rushed to the Gloucester line, but they were held in check. Then from a drop at goal by J. Romans Watts touched down. The Old Boys did some useful work after this, and Romans had hard lines with another drop at goal.

Play continued in favour of the Old Boys, but Watts was smart at full back, and he twice broke away in capital style and started passing. One movement resulted in the game being transferred to the other end, a faulty transfer spoiling the chance of a score. Holder was prominent with a strong run, and Hughes also did good work, the result of which placed the Old Boys' lines in danger. A minor saved the situation, and the play was taken to the other end, where Romans sent the ball dead with a fruitless drop at goal.

On the drop-out Holder took advantage of a mistake by an opponent and ran to Sly, but his pass to Hughes was adjudged forward with a certain try in view. Gloucester missed a couple of easy scores after this before the end.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 5 goals, 1 try (28 points)

Old Boys ..... Nil

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