THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1906.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. CLIFTON.

WEAK CITY TEAM'S GOOD PERFORMANCE.

CLIFTONIANS WELL BEATEN.

Owing to the county match and injuries to players, Gloucester were severely handicapped for the return match with Clifton. The whole of the usual back division had to be replaced, and there were also two vacancies to be filled forward. Stroud being without a match, they kindly offered assistance, and F. Johnson and W. Pitt appeared at full back and centre three-quarter respectively. Clifton had their usual side available, and with such an unrepresentative team opposed to them were rather keen on their chances. In the absence of Johns and Smith (captain and vice-captain of the City Club) the duties of leader of the Gloucester team devolved on A. Hawker. The following were the teams:

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	CLIFTON.
F. Johnson	Backs.	P. J. Slee
H. Hughes	Three-quarter	E. F. Eberle
W. Pitt	backs.	E. W. Baker
H. Smith	"	S. B. Smith
L. Vears	"	N. H. B. Lyon
H. Ewers	Half-Backs.	Cecil Baker
A. Hall	"	Leonard Baker
-	11	T. H. Butler
A. Hawker (capt.)	Forwards.	E. G. Higham
B. Parham	11	A. J. Gardner
G. Matthews	11	E. Gardiner
F. Pegler	"	A. V. Board
J. Jewell	"	T. Miller
H. Collins	"	P. H. Thomas
J. Merchant	"	E. E. Davies
W. Holder	II .	-

Clifton started, and Gloucester returned to half-way. Following some loose play Clifton got down, but Pitt sent them back with a fine kick. Eberle, the home right wing, misfielded, and nearly let the visitors in, Hughes going into touch when only a yard outside. Gloucester were quicker at half, Ewers getting the ball out smartly. After some give and take play Gloucester got away, and after fine passing Vears scored a capital try, but failed to convert.

Clifton had a good chance, Inskip[sic] breaking through finely, but instead of going on hesitated, and then gave a bad pass to Baker. Clifton continued to have the best of matters, their forwards dribbling well. They got away in a bunch and reached the Gloucester 25. Here Johnson fielded and put in a poor kick to Eberle, who mis-fielded with the line at his mercy.

Clifton's loose rushes were very effective and gained a lot of ground. They were driven back by good kicking, and then Gloucester got going, the backs handling the wet ball in fine style. Smith fielded smartly from a kick by Eberle, and broke through the Clifton defence. When right under the posts he passed to Pitt, who crossed the line, Johnson failing to convert.

Gloucester having once got the upper hand easily kept ahead. The ball was very greasy, but the visiting backs seldom made a mistake. From a scrum in the Clifton 25 Pitt broke through, but his pass to Hughes was forward. They were not long to be denied, however, Hughes scoring a good try after quick passing. Johnson again failed to add the extra points.

Two other tries followed in quick succession, each after splendid handling. Merchant was the first to get over following a smart dribble by Ewers, and then Hughes took a pass when going at full speed and crossed in the corner. Both kicks, taken by Vears and Holder respectively, failed. This was not all the scoring in the first half, as Ewers picked up in some loose play and smartly dropped a goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE:

Gloucester 19 points Clifton Nil

Gloucester re-started, and almost scored from a dribble following the kick-off. From the first scrum Smith burst through, and when close to the line passed most unselfishly to Vears, who ran round and placed the ball under the posts. Smith's effort was a very [word unreadable] one, and was heartily recognised by the small crowd. Vears' kick was a failure.

Clifton attacked momentarily, but their passing was poor. At last Clifton showed something of the form they had displayed in the first half, the forwards dribbling well. Johnson pulled them up, but had his kick charged down by Sellman[sic], who fielded well and, running strongly, scored in a good position. Miller took the kick, but the effort, though a good one, just failed.

Both sets of forwards by this time were covered in mud. Clifton were continually having more of the game at this point, their footwork being very praiseworthy. Inskip[sic] got away with a dribble, and after beating the backs kicked hard past Johnson. There was a race for the ball. Lucas[sic], a Clifton forward, just won, but unfortunately for the home side he went into touch close to the line. Gloucester retrieved the lost ground with a dribble, and then Hughes got away on the right, getting over after a capital run, Holder failing to convert.

Smith was nearly in a moment later, but Slee, who was playing well at back, tackled him splendidly. Hughes added his fourth try, following good passing. Some of the best handling of the game was seen just after, Vears, who received the final transfer, throwing the ball into touch when tackled by Baker. Clifton attacked in the closing minutes.

RESULT:

REMARKS.

Gloucester quite deserved to win by the score recorded, for they were superior at all points to the home side. Indeed, it was only in the loose that Clifton were at all prominent. Johnson was not quite equal to Slee at back, but the visiting three-quarters were brilliant, and most unselfish, Hughes and Vears being splendidly waited on by their centres. Hall and Ewers were much smarter than Sellman[sic] and Butler. The absence of the two Bakers[sic] from Clifton were severely felt, for the substitutes did not combine at all well.

Forward, Gloucester pushed Clifton easily, and in the line-outs were also superior. At times the front rank took a prominent part in the passing movements. Vears and Parham limped before the game concluded. The defeat of Clifton was primarily due to weak tackling. Gloucester handled the greasy ball beautifully.

GLOUCESTER A v. SOUTH END.

EASY WIN FOR THE SECONDS.

For this match at Kingsholm, the Seconds had out a weak fifteen owing to several players being called upon for the First team. There was only a small attendance of spectators. Teams:

South End. – H. H. Smith, back; J. Hamblin, L. Rudge, W. Bridges, and O. Stephens, three-quarter backs; A. Goddard and F. Stroud, half-backs; H. Aston (capt.), B. Brazington, J. Wyburn, H. Bird, J. Webb, A. Millar, W. Blackford, and W. Bray, forwards.

Gloucester A. – J. Watts, back; H. Cook, F. Rust, F. Bloxsome, and F. Smith, three-quarter backs; S. Edwards and J. Goddard, half-backs; F. Pyart, T. Guy, R. Craddock, S. Hayward, T. Meadows, F. Westbury, F. Welshman, and J. Welshman, forwards.

Referee: Mr. E. W. Jordan.

The Seconds started against a strong wind, and there being no return the first scrum took place in the End half. The visitors quickly changed the venue with useful kicks, which were aided by the wind, and the A team were forced to concede three minors in quick succession.

Ensuing play was scrambling, and attempts to open out the play were not attended with any success. Picking up in the loose, Westbury put in a strong run, but he was eventually smothered. Goddard next tried to feed Cook, but the latter could not clear, and the ball getting loose South End dribbled to the home 25. Here Stroud cross-kicked in front of the Gloucester goal, but a knock-on saved the Seconds.

For off-side play by Edwards Gloucester were penalised in a good position for goal, but Rudge's kick was charged down. Faulty passing by the Seconds lost them ground, and South gained a footing in the home end. Stroud, breaking away from the scrum, transferred to Bridges, who ran clean through to Watts, when he sent out a wretched pass to Stephens.

Gloucester worked out, and Bloxsome, with a good run, got beyond the centre before being pushed to touch. Gloucester further improved their position, but the attack lacked sting. With a lucky flying kick the visitors cleared, and the Gloucester end was in turn visited. The South had the better of subsequent exchanges, and one or two chances of scoring came their way, but they were not accepted. From a penalty, however, Bridges made a good attempt at goal, the ball falling a yard short and bounding underneath the bar.

HALF-TIME SCORE : Gloucester A Nil South End Nil

South End resumed a man short, Stroud having to retire with an injury to his ribs. Gloucester at once took advantage of the wind, and with big kicks reached their opponents' quarters. Rust was early credited with a try, but Hayward failed at goal.

On the resumption Westbury initiated a pretty movement, but the wing man was sent to touch. Just afterwards Gloucester had a capital chance of increasing their score, but the opportunity was lost. The Seconds, however, continued on the aggressive, and from a pass by Goddard, F. Smith tricked the opposition cleverly and scored near the posts. Hayward converted.

South End played up pluckily after this reverse, but the Seconds soon took up the running again. From a line-out Westbury received and threw out wide to Cook, who yielded to Smith. The latter dashed down touch, and beating the End full-back scored a good try, which Hayward goaled.

Immediately on the re-start play was back in the visitors' half, and another neat effort by Smith enabled the wing to register his third try. The place-kick failed.

Play to the end favoured Gloucester, and tries were added by Cook (2), one being converted.

RESULT:

Gloucester A 3 goals, 3 tries (24 points) South End Nil

REMARKS.

The A team gave a greatly improved display in the second half, and well deserved their handsome win.

J. Goddard and Edwards did capital work at half-back, and in the three-quarter line Cook and F. Smith formed a strong right wing. The latter played smart football, and his three tries were cleverly worked for.

Watts was sound at full back, and of the forwards Westbury was particularly prominent in the open. South End were handicapped in losing Stroud, for he was the best man they had behind the scrimmage.