

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1906.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. LEICESTER.

NEW ZEALANDERS ASSIST GLOUCESTER.

FINE GAME BY MCGREGOR.

WEAK LEICESTER TEAM WELL BEATEN.

This important match was played at Kingsholm. Each club had two representatives playing for England, but the home team had the assistance of three New Zealanders – McGregor, Mynott, and Seeling – who have been on a visit to Gloucester.

The match was attended by both political candidates for the city, and some of their prominent supporters, and they were heartily received.

Leicester came very weak, only Braithwaite of the usual back division being available. They also came one short, and F. Pyart, captain of Gloucester A, filled the vacancy.

The sun was shining strongly when the team took the field, but the heavy rain an hour before had rendered the ground in a bad state in front of the grandstand.

The teams took the field as follows :

Gloucester. – G. Romans, back; C. Smith, E. Hall, J. Harrison, and D. McGregor, three-quarter backs; J. Stephens and H. J. Mynott, half-backs; W. Johns (captain), A. Hawker, G. Vears, G. Matthews, H. Collins, C. Seeling, B. Parham, and J. Jewell, forwards.

Leicester. – C. Elliott, back; D. Underwood, J. R. Watson, F. M. Tarr, and J. Jackson, three-quarter backs; J. Braithwaite and R. P. Swain, half-backs; R. F. Russell (captain), F. Penny, A. Goodrich, R. Hives, J. Jackson, W. George, H. B. Freer, and F. Pyart (substitute), forwards.

Referee : Mr. W. W. James.

### THE GAME.

Gloucester won the toss, and the visitors started with the sun in their faces. The return was taken by Braithwaite, who sent to touch nicely. A punt out by a Gloucester man was well followed up, and Jackson making a mis-kick, the game was taken into the Leicester half.

A bad pass out by the Gloucester halves lost considerable ground, and E. Hall slipping when about to kick, the visitors rushed to the Gloucester 25. Stephens with a clever kick made headway, but the Midlanders got back with a loose forward rush. The visitors heeled nicely from successive scrums, but the passing only went across the ground.

Then the City backs got set going, and Hall, coming outside Harrison, tried hard to break through, but he was collared from behind. From a line out Seeling secured and passed out to McGregor (who was playing centre), but the New Zealander's transfer was intercepted. Clever footwork by the visiting forwards – which was the best game on the treacherous turf – took the ball right down to Romans, who was pulled down. The ball was taken on, but Parham saved in good style.

Gloucester relieved with a good kick, and Parham following up gathered well, but Stephens missed his transfer. Gloucester progressed with useful work, and McGregor made his mark from a punt out, but Romans' shot for goal went nowhere near the mark.

A forward received and punted to McGregor, who got in a splendid touch-finder with the left foot. A splendid wheel by the Leicester forwards looked promising, but Romans fielded well and replied nicely.

Gloucester got the ball out from the next scrum, but a visiting three-quarter intercepted the pass, and had a clear field with the exception of Romans. The City custodian, however, waited for his man and brought off a grand tackle.

From the subsequent scrummage Stephens fed Mynott, and the ball came along the line to McGregor, who raced down to the full-back. A good pass to Harrison followed and the latter went over with the first try amidst cheers. Romans failed at goal.

Leicester dropped out, and play was fairly even. Gloucester tried all they knew to open out the game, but the passing was too slow. Once McGregor took a pass from Mynott in wonderful style, and there was every chance of a score, but a forward transfer was given. Play hovered in the Leicester half, and with a high punt Hawker forced a minor.

Resuming, Leicester put in some useful kicks, which took them to the home half. Ensuing play was scrambling, and chiefly forward. For an infringement at the scrum Braithwaite was penalised, and Romans found touch with a good kick. A breakaway from a line out by Johns caused some anxiety to Leicester, but off-side gave the visitors relief.

Gloucester, however, worked back close to the line, where Stephens, under difficulties, got the ball out to Mynott. McGregor, Hall, and Smith in turn handled, and the latter with a fine dash scored in the corner. The place kick by Romans failed.

Mynott replied to the drop out and play continued in the Leicester half. A lot of hard forward work followed, but the game was devoid of incident. At length the Gloucester backs showed up with some clever inter-passing, but Smith could not get clear. Soon afterwards the interval was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 2 tries  
Leicester ..... Nil

Hawker re-started, and Braithwaite made his mark from the kick. Russell punted to touch, but Harrison lined out smartly to McGregor, who kicked back, only to see Braithwaite again make his mark. This time, however, Russell's kick was charge down and went to touch. From the throw out Jewell passed to McGregor, who punted down, only to see a visitor mark again. Romans replied finely to one kick, but on another occasion he misjudged the ball, and it rolled to touch near the Gloucester 25.

A clever dribble by Mynott was heartily cheered, and then the same player, from a pass by Stephens, broke through smartly and passed to McGregor. The latter ran down in beautiful style, and timing a nice pass to Harrison, the latter raced over in a good position. Romans missed the goal.

Immediately on the drop out Gloucester rushed to their opponents' end, but a passing movement going astray, a visitor dribbled clear and past Romans. The City back had to run back and over his line, but was forced to touch down. A scrum followed five yards outside, and Watson receiving, he attempted a drop at goal, but the ball went outside. Braithwaite marked on the drop out, and with the kick Russell found touch in the home 25. Here Hall ran across the ground and transferred to McGregor, who executed a pretty run, but he was heavily floored by Jackson.

Leicester, with well-judged kicks, confined play to the home quarter, but McGregor, with a flying kick, sent to the open, where Hawker fielded. The latter returned the ball to the New Zealander, but a forward transfer was given with a certain score in view. Next Mynott and Harrison took part in some pretty combination, but again a forward pass spoiled the movement.

By strong forward play Leicester got out of a dangerous situation, and in turn set up a strong attack. Braithwaite tried hard to pierce the defence, but he was smothered.

Gloucester worked out to the 25, where Mynott picked up and passed to Hall. The latter fed McGregor, who cut out a fine opening and yielded to Smith on the centre line. The wing took his pass well, and finished up a good run by scoring a try. Romans again failed at goal.

On the re-start Braithwaite put Leicester in a good position with clever touch kicks. Play was chiefly amongst the forwards, and some very hot work was witnessed, the tackling being very deadly.

Gloucester opened out the game, but a pass was intercepted, and Leicester gained ground as a result. In some loose play Mynott picked up, and following a neat combined effort by Hall and McGregor, the latter unselfishly passed to Harrison for the latter to score in the corner. Romans landed a fine goal from the 25 flag, the ball striking the cross-bar and bouncing over.

Some fine work was put in by Gloucester in the concluding stages. Near the centre E. Hall started on a run, and by clever feinting and dodging got to the line, where he was tackled from behind and prevented from scoring.

The home team, however, was not to be denied, and near the end, after some splendid combination, Seeling scored in the left corner. Romans failed to add the extra points.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 1 goal, 5 tries (20 points)  
Leicester ..... Nil

#### REMARKS.

Considering the weak side they put in the field, Leicester made a very good fight. The Midlanders were exceptionally strong forward, and concentrating their efforts in this department they put in some really good work. The state of the ground suited the tactics adopted, although it made the play very scrambling and uninteresting at times.

Nearly all the back play witnessed during the game was done by Gloucester, and the majority of the tries scored were the result of extremely clever movements. McGregor was the hero of the match, and the New Zealander was mainly responsible for the points scored. All through he played beautiful football, and was most unselfish.

McGregor was well supported by Hall, Smith, and Harrison, and the line worked together with perfect harmony. The former had hard lines in not scoring just before the close, for the effort deserved reward. Harrison shaped well on the wing, and he and Smith shared five tries between them. At half, Mynott, at outside half, was well served by Stephens, and he initiated some nice movements.

On the other side, Braithwaite, behind the strongest pack of forwards, played a hard game, and his timely kicks to touch were a great help to his side. Swain, too, did good work. The three-quarters were a young lot, but they rarely tried an attack, preferring to play for safety.

Forward, Russell, Jackson, and Goodrich were a trio always to the fore for the visitors. They were particularly good in the loose footwork, and in the scrums they worked hard. Gloucester suffered in weight, but the men combined effectively in a number of movements. Seeling was a tower of strength, and his line-out play was very successful. Johns, Matthews, Parham, and Hawker were noticeable in the open, whilst Collins, Vears, and Jewell were always in the thick of the fight.

At full back Romans put in some excellent touch kicks, and he saved well when called upon. Elliott, too, did not do at all badly, and could not be blamed for any of the tries scored.

At the close of the game the crowd surrounded McGregor, and amidst great cheering hoisted him shoulder high and carried him to the dressing-rooms.