

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1912

RUGBY.

GLOUCESTER v. STROUD.

A PROLIFIC SECOND HALF.

The recent encounter between these old and keen rivals at Stroud saw Gloucester with a depleted team, and unfortunately on Saturday at Kingsholm they had little better. England, the South, and the County had helped themselves pretty liberally to the City players, and naturally the consequent rearrangement behind the scrum caused some anxiety. On the other hand, however, the home captain made a very welcome re-appearance after his injury against Clifton. There were further changes in the Stroud team, Hyam and Wathern deputising for Humphries and Norman Angell. A slight rain was falling when the game commenced, and there was only a small gate. The teams were : —

GLOUCESTER.	POSITIONS.	STROUD.
C. Cook	Backs.	A. Bingham
A. Hudson (capt.)	Three-Quarter	J. F. Lawson
E. Bowen	Backs	W. Jones
G. D. Bottomley	"	G. Scott
F. Webb	"	R. Butcher
W. Dix	Half-Backs	G. Tyler (capt.)
W. Wilkes	"	G. Hyam
G. Halford	Forwards	L. Dudbridge
S. Millard	"	F. Westbury
W. Dovey	"	R. Kirby
A. Saunders	"	H. Farmiloe
J. Meadows	"	J. Wathern
H. Berry	"	A. Gyde
A. Cook	"	V. E. P. Smith
W. Rudman	"	A. Durn

Referee : Mr. G. Hancock (Bristol).

THE GAME.

There was no return to Stroud's kick-off, and the opening scrum was in the home half, but a mark by Halford saw Gloucester reach the centre, where play remained for some time. Bottomley threw out wide to Hudson on the wing, but the pass was adjudged forward, and Stroud rushed into the home territory. An exchange of kicks left Cook with the advantage, and the centre was once more the venue.

Stroud heeled well, but the visiting halves had great difficulty in getting rid of the ball. A minute later, however, Stroud opened out, but the passing broke down. A penalty to Gloucester saw Cook find touch nicely, but territorially the game was still in the Gothamites' favour. A nice passing movement by Gloucester looked promising, but a knock-on spoilt matters. The Gloucesterians came away with a nice burst, but a forward pass stopped it.

Then the Stroud halves opened out well, but the home tackling was keen, and the movement did not get far. Bottomley went away nicely, but he was unsupported, and Stroud easily saved. Stroud got off-side at the scrum, but only a small advantage accrued to the 'Cestrians who, however, in spite of a penalty against them, got into the Stroud 25. Bingham marked in the face of difficulties, and the visitors cleared.

A bad pass by Hyam looked like letting Stroud down, but Bingham got in a lucky flying kick and saved the situation. Ragged packing in the scrum caused some delay, and Stroud were awarded a penalty. The Stroud forwards went off with a determined rush, but Cook saved smartly, and then the visitors opened out, but Butcher was quickly floored.

Dix passed out prettily, and the home third line got well in motion, Bowen cutting through nicely, but Bottomley was collared and threw forward, the movement being arrested at the centre. Off-side by Stroud gave Gloucester a penalty, but Lawson put in a capital return.

Millard, picking up in the loose, set Wilkes, Bottomley and Bowen in motion, but the last pass went astray. A minute later more passing by the home backs gained ground, but the wing man was too near touch to take any advantage. Gloucester were now pressing, and a nice open movement looked likely for a score by Hudson, but the pass – a wide one – was adjudged forward. Stroud cleared with a good rush.

Then the home forwards went away with a lovely dash, Dovey and Cook showing up prominently, and Gloucester reached Stroud's 25 again, where Dix was penalised at the scrum. The 'Cestrians, however, maintained their attack, but bad passing on the right wing lost any possible chance of getting through. The same thing occurred a minute later after Wilkes and Dix, Hudson and Bowen, had made a nice opening.

Gloucester now pressed strongly, and the ball going over the line Dix apparently scored a perfectly fair try, but the referee ruled otherwise, and a touchdown was given. Stroud were thus enabled to clear. Cook punted across, but Lawson replied cleverly. Gloucester, however, went away again with a nice open movement, in which Wilkes and Hudson shone, but the last pass went astray.

A wide pass out to Hudson set the captain going, and Millard carried on the good work, but could not get through. Then Cook very nearly dropped a goal. Halford found touch well up, and Gloucester were attacking at the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester Nil
Stroud Nil

Restarting, the Gloucester forwards got possession well in the scrum, but they were unable to get far. They nevertheless managed to maintain a footing in the Stroud 25, and from a high kick Wilkes had a "cinch," but he failed to gather the ball. Gloucester had now established a firm footing in the Stroud 25, but they experienced a bit of hard luck, Halford injuring his knee again and having to be carried off.

Hudson made a circuitous run in an attempt to get through, but he hesitated and eventually succumbed to numbers. Gloucester were now pressing hard, and Cook was instrumental in keeping them well up with a clever touch-finder. The ball came out of the next scrum at Wilkes' feet, and he dodged over and notched a corner try. Cook landed a fine goal from the touch-line amid applause.

A fine passing bout followed by Gloucester, but Bowen was forced into touch. A minute later, however, Webb gathering cleverly in the loose, beat the opposition beautifully and scored a capital try. Cook failed at the comparatively easy place.

A long kick over the line caused Stroud to touch down, and a minute later a wild punt sent the ball straight to Hudson who, dodging well, ran in under the posts. Cook easily goaled.

Centre play followed for some time until Lawson got clear away. He was, however, hauled down by A. Cook. The run, however, had given Stroud a position in the home 25, but they were very soon forced back to the centre again. A free to Gloucester for off-side by Hyam was well returned, the ball going into the safe hands of Cook, however, and he found touch well up.

Bowen got going just after, but was pulled down by Lawson. The Gloucester forwards rushed well, and the Stroud 25 was again the scene of operations. In a loose rush Dix picked up and dived over with a try, to which Cook added the extra points with a kick which literally swung round in the air.

Gloucester then set up a terrific attack on the Stroud line, but Hudson hesitated again and Lawson cleared cleverly. A Stroud forward was badly winded and had to come off, and Gloucester were away again at top speed, Hudson being finally pulled down. Not to be denied, Gloucester kept up the attack, and Webb, from a pass by Bottomley, dodged well and scored near the posts, for Cook to goal again.

Gloucester continued to have the best of matters, Cook tricking the opposition neatly and finding touch well in the Stroud 25. Hudson sold his man the "dummy" beautifully, but Bowen just failed to take his pass with only about five yards to go. Keeping up the pressure, Dix, although tackled, shook himself free and scored in the corner. Cook's kick, although a good one, just failed to do the needful.

Gloucester continued to have all the best of matters, but in the growing darkness it was very difficult to see what was going on on the far side. Webb picked up very cleverly from a bad pass, and running strongly for the line got over with a splendid try. Cook put in a fine kick again, but it fell just short.

Gloucester were right on top now, and in a loose rush, in which Wilkes was prominent, Bottomley went over in the corner. Cook's kick struck the upright.

Gloucester were attacking to the end.

RESULT :

Gloucester ... 4 goals, 4 tries (32 points)
Stroud Nil

REMARKS.

It was not a game calling for much comment, the first half being dull as ditch water and quite uninteresting to watch. However, on the change of ends came a change of play, and Gloucester practically overran the Gothamites, scoring 32 points in as many minutes. The Stroud men were demoralised. The injury to Halford was most unlucky, as he has been in fine form in his last matches, and after the game I regret to say the knee was very bad. Wathern, the Stroud forward, who was injured, quickly recovered.

Of the players little need be said individually. Cook, although suffering from a bad cold, played a good game, and Hudson, without in any way letting himself out to the full extent, showed he is quite sound again.

Webb ran strongly and created quite a favourable impression; while Wilkes' display was much ahead of his last appearance. Dix was in characteristic form, and the forwards all worked with a will.

Bowen, who played on the wing for most of the game, had a tough nut to crack in J. F. Lawson, but he gave nothing away. Bingham played a very sound game for Stroud at back, and the veteran Westbury was in the picture a good deal in front.

Scorers : Webb (3), Dix (2), Wilkes, Hudson, and Bottomley. C. Cook 4 goals.

Next week : Clifton away.

JC