

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1912

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. STROUD.

WEAK CITY TEAM AT FROMEHALL.

GOTHAMITES WELL BEATEN.

With the calls of the county and the "doctor" Gloucester took a weak side (on paper) to play the Gothamites on their own pitch, but the Stroud men have been playing so indifferently this season that the City entertained no fears as to the result of the game.

GLOUCESTER.	POSITIONS.	STROUD.
C. Cook	Backs.	A. Bingham
E. Bowen	Three-Quarter	J. F. Lawson
Alec Lewis	Backs	W. Jones
W. Wilks	"	G. Tyler (capt.)
F. Webb	"	G. Scott
W. Dix	Half-Backs	J. Cratchley
W. Hall	"	A. Durn
G. Halford (capt.)	Forwards	L. Dudbridge
S. Millard	"	F. Westbury
W. Dovey	"	J. Wathern
A. Saunders	"	R. Kirby
J. Meadows	"	H. Farmiloe
A. Cook	"	F. Wheeler
C. Mumford	"	Lionel Smith
F. Yates	"	V. E. F. Smith

THE GAME.

The ground was in splendid condition and reflected the greatest credit on Mr. Joe Holder, the groundsman, an old player. There was a fair-sized crowd present when the players took the field at 3.12.

Wathern started for Stroud down the slope, and almost immediately the Gothamites were awarded a free for "legs up." Good exchange kicking followed, Cook getting the best of it. Shortly Stroud got away, but Hall with a clever kick recovered the ground. The Gothamites secured from the next scrum and Scott punted nicely, the ball going to touch. Gloucester exerted themselves in the tight, and their backs handled twice in quick succession, but the passing broke down in each case.

Hereabouts play became very exciting. Lawson miskicked, and a Gloucesterian threw out. Jones smartly fielded in the loose, and sent to the Gloucester half. Here Hall showed his prettiness and got away beautifully. Bowen, who received, was, however, promptly collared, and the Gothamites showing good form, carried the next scrum, and burst away to Cook, who could only just turn to touch. Shortly the Gloucester backs got possession, and following a grand run by Bowen, Alec Lewis scored a fine try, Cook failing at goal.

Hardly three minutes had elapsed before Bowen got over in the corner. Cook made a fine effort to augment, but the ball went outside. Two tries were thus registered in ten minutes.

Gloucester were often in possession, their forwards being too clever for the homesters, Hall being a big thorn in their side. The game continued in the Stroud half, the homesters occasionally breaking away, but they were not allowed much rope. Eventually Wheeler, with a good kick, transferred play to Gloucester territory, Jones succeeding in further improving Stroud's position with a good running kick. Stroud got off-side and Cook recovered the ground with a fine punt to touch.

The Gothamites got back with short kicks, and for some time they had more of the game, but they could not make any impression on the defence, and eventually Gloucester forced play to the centre, where Dix passed out finely to Hall, who cut through and handed to Wilkes. That player passed out to Webb, who cleverly beat the opposition and scored a lovely try. Cook took a kick at goal, but again was unsuccessful.

In the ensuing play Gloucester were seen to great advantage, and, but for some good tackling, the Citizens must have scored another try. In a minute or two Dix slipped over from a scrum on the goal line, and grounded the ball near the posts. Cook took the kick, but the ball went outside.

Stroud dropped out, and reached the centre, where the forwards on both sides were prominent with good play, Westbury, Wathern, and Lionel Smith shining for the homesters. Hall burst away, but Tyler grandly upset him, and shortly Bingham shone in finely stopping a dangerous movement.

Hall essayed a drop goal, but the ball went wide, and Stroud dropped out. Almost immediately the Gothamites were again in difficulties, Webb nearly scoring. This roused Stroud, who broke away on a grand loose movement from their own half, and took the ball over the line amid loud cheers, Lewis getting back just in time to avert a score.

Gotham again attacked but Webb saved, and the interval arrived.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 4 tries
Stroud Nil

Halford re-started, and the ball going over the line Bingham conceded a minor. Following the drop-out, Gloucester were fined for infringing at the scrum, and in the exchange kicking which ensued, Jones twice made his mark, but Stroud did not obtain much relief.

Shortly, however, the forwards rushed to the centre, but over-ran the ball and a Gloucestrian punted back. Cratchley picked up well in the loose, and being surrounded shot to touch. Webb was well placed and attempted to intercept, just touching it in its flight.

Later Cook was collared, and next Lawson was conspicuous with a fine touch-finder. Stroud used their feet exceedingly well and steered the oval over the line, Cook just touching down in time.

Stroud were shaping exceedingly well hereabouts, and gave Gloucester plenty to go on with, whilst great excitement prevailed amongst the crowd. Cook was tested two or three times in quick succession, but he was not to be beaten, and he finally relieved. Jones was conspicuous in a fine tackle of Bowen, and then Gloucester, finely following up a kick, scored through Halford. This time Hall was entrusted with a shot at goal, but he too was unsuccessful.

Stroud dropped out, Gloucester shining in the ensuing play for some time. Stroud woke up and dashed away to the other end, Westbury initiating a loose movement from the line up; but Cook beautifully picked up and shot to touch. Gloucester opened out, but the final transfer to Webb was not taken. The visitors had gained well-earned relief, and shortly a punt over Bingham's head looked ominous; but Bingham got back and effected a capital save.

In the next minute Stroud, led by Westbury, broke away, and Cook was beaten, but Lewis ran back, and picking up well, threw out to Cook – a risky proceeding which, happily for Gloucester, came off, the full-back eluding the opposition and finding touch with a great effort.

Gloucester forced the Gothamites back to their own half, the visitors having much the better of the game, and Hall running over grandly from a pass by Dix, who goaled the try.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal 5 tries (20 points)
Stroud Nil

REMARKS.

It was a very interesting match throughout, play being fast and open, and the tackling being keen for the most part; but Stroud did not deserve to lose by so many points. They had several good chances, and had there been a little more finish to their general play they must have scored two or three tries.

There is, of course, no doubt on the day that the best team won, Stroud being fairly and squarely beaten in all departments save forward. Here the homesters did excellently, in the loose especially, and showing that it was a case of "Jack's as good as his master."

As far as the players were concerned, Stroud were well served in the front rank by Westbury. Dudbridge, Wathern, and Kirby, with the others very close up. Tyler was the best half, and Jones the pick of the threes, Scott coming next. Bingham made no very serious mistake at full-back.

For Gloucester, Halford, Yates, and Millard were the pick of a fine pack, whilst Hall and Dix were a tower of strength at half. Bowen and Lewis shone most at three-quarter. Cook was A1.

GLOUCESTER A v. TREDWORTH.

HONOURS EASY.

Before a small attendance at Kingsholm Ground. The game was poor, slack, and dull for the first half. Tredworth were penalised, Hayward took the kick, but the ball was charged down. Gloucester were the first to score through Hughes. Hayward failed to convert.

Before the interval Tredworth equalised, Price scoring the try, which was unconverted.

The half-time score was one try each.

There was no scoring in the second half, though Tredworth obtained a penalty kick. L. Rudge took the kick, but the ball hit the upright.

In this half the game was more lively, and there were several strong but unsuccessful attacks by both sides.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 1 try (3 points)

Tredworth 1 try (3 points)

JC