

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1913

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. STROUD

THE GOTHAMITES WELL BEATEN

Owing to the heavy calls of the County and injuries to A. Hall and A. Cook, Gloucester only had five of the regular First team operating at Stroud to-day. The reserve wing (T. Powell) was also kept out of the side owing to the sad death of his mother. Stroud's victory over Weston last week gave the Gothamites encouragement, and against the weak side sent over by the City the home team were expected to make a close fight.

Gloucester. – C. Cook; A. Hudson, S. Sysum, W. Wilks, and F. Bloxsome; W. Wotton and T. Burns; C. Mumford, W. Dovey, J. F. Lawson, J. Meadows, W. Parham, A. H. Williams, L. Smith, and J. Lewis.

Stroud. – G. Bingham; J. Cratchley, G. Tyler (capt.), W. Jones, and C. Smith; A. Watts and A. Humphries; Lionel Smith, F. Westbury, V. E. P. Smith, Field, R. Kirby, P. King, P. Ramsay, and A. Willsher.

THE GAME

It was fitting that the match of the season should be favoured with a record crowd, and the pavilion was fairly well filled. The weather was delightful, and from the applause accorded the teams when they took the field promptly at 3.30 it was evident that the visitors' supporters were by no means in the minority.

Gloucester kicked off down the slope, and Tyler, for Stroud, was early prominent with a fine run and kick. Westbury next got possession and threw out to the wing, but the ball went to touch. The pace was fast, and Stroud, playing vigorously, forced the game into the visitors' half, where Lionel Smith was conspicuous in a breakaway, which however, was smartly stopped.

Two frees fell to Stroud in quick succession, but neither profited anything. Then ensued some very exciting play. Stroud misfielded, and Gloucester kicked down the ground. Bingham, who ran back, picked up in front of goal and shot in the direction of touch. Hudson, standing near, fielded and had a snip, getting over far out. Cook failed at goal.

This early success was loudly applauded by the visitors' supporters, and the game was resumed with considerable vigour. Bingham and Hudson shone in the kicking department, and later Stroud rushed to the visitors' line, where they were finely held up. Gloucester relieved with a free kick, and then Bloxham cleverly got through to the centre, where he was splendidly collared. Gloucester exerted themselves well, and got to the home line, but the defence was keen, and almost immediately the All Whites rushed away finely to the other end, where Bloxham sent the oval to touch. Gloucester's forwards got the ball, and some fine passing was shown by the backs, Hudson running in with a very useful try from half-way. Cook converted, and Gloucester were 8 points to the good in the first quarter of an hour.

Stroud re-started from the centre and fought pluckily, but Gloucester's greater experience told, Cook eventually finding touch in the Stroud half with a magnificent kick. Following some hard tackling work at the centre, Gloucester worked down to Stroud's 25, but they were eventually sent back, V. Smith being prominent in the movement. Cook was collared in possession, and for a minute or so things looked promising from Stroud's point of view. Gloucester, however, tackled with deadly effect, and eventually got relief with a free.

Stroud's front rank heeled, and the ball was sent to Jones, who with a clear field except Cook kicked to touch instead of going on, Humphries being well placed for a pass. Ramsay took a shot at goal, a minor resulting.

Gloucester dropped out, and shortly the forwards were conspicuous with excellent passing, but Dovey held on, and a possible chance was lost. Westbury finely found touch in the Gloucester half, but just prior to this Cratchley, Stroud's left wing, was injured in a tackle by Meadows, and after attention he had to be carried off the field. Willsher was brought out of the pack, but despite this handicap Stroud held on nicely.

Then Stroud were fined, and Cook kicked down to Bingham, who splendidly found touch. With the ball in the open, Gloucester attacked hotly, and were rewarded with a free in a fairly favourable position; but Cook's kick was charged down, and Tyler picking up shot to touch. A Gloucesterian took an unsuccessful drop for goal, and Stroud dropped out.

A minute or two later Bingham had a kick charged down, but happily for Stroud nothing resulted. Here Cratchley returned, but before he could rejoin his colleagues Sysum had scored a lovely try as the result of fine passing by the backs. Cook failed at goal, and the resumption was marked by some strong forward work by Stroud, and the interval arrived.

#### HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester ..... 1 goal 2 ties  
Stroud ..... Nil

Stroud restarted down the slope, and attacked from the outset, Cook saving in fine style. Gloucester rushed to the centre; mistakes in fielding by the Stroud men gave the Gloucesterians a footing in the home half. The All Whites, however, smothered their opponents' endeavours to open out, and themselves gradually got down. Tyler broke through prettily and passed to C. Smith, but the whistle had gone. Stroud were awarded a free, and Cratchley made a fine attempt to cover the bar, the ball going outside.

In ensuing play Watts took the ball in the line-out, and passing cleverly to Humphries, the latter went over amidst tremendous cheering. Bingham failed at goal.

The game was restarted amid great excitement, Stroud playing up well and giving their opponents plenty to do. Eventually Gloucester opened out, Hudson taking the ball beautifully, but he was immediately pounced upon by two or three, and the Gothamites getting possession in the loose, rushed to Cook, who had no chance to return. Hereabouts play was particularly exciting, the footwork on both sides being very smart. The ball went up and down the ground, and the crowd yelled themselves hoarse.

Gloucester again got the upper hand, and Stroud had to defend hard, the visitors trying all they could to get through. Stroud infringed, and Hudson took a drop, but only a minor resulted. Stroud dropped out, Cook returning splendidly to touch. The Gloucesterians opened up grandly in their own half, and a fine run by Wilks gave Hudson a lovely try in the corner. Cook was unable to convert.

It was now getting dark, and players could not be distinguished very well. Gloucester were having the best of matters, their backs doing finely, and following a good run by Hudson, Bloxsome crossed with a good try, Cook making a capital but unsuccessful attempt to add the extra points.

Stroud dropped out, but they got little relief, the Gloucester backs being much too good for them. Stroud defended well, and made one or two excursions into their opponents' quarters, but they were quickly repulsed.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 1 goal 4 tries (17 points)  
Stroud ..... 1 try (3 points)

## REMARKS

The pace was fast, and the game interesting throughout, thrills being numerous, and at times the excitement amongst the great crowd – the largest seen at Fromehall Park for a long time – was intense. The score can hardly be said to exaggerate one bit the relative merits of the rivals on the day's play, because behind the scrummage Gloucester were individually and collectively (particularly at three-quarter) the better class, and some very attractive passing was witnessed.

Forward, there was little or nothing to choose between the teams, Stroud's display, both in the tight and in the loose, being worthy of all praise. The talent there was good, and with a little more experience the eight should be able to hold more than their own with most packs they will be called upon to meet in the future. There did not appear to be a shirker amongst them.

Stroud also manifested great improvement in tackling, and sometimes this was of a very deadly character on both sides. Cook was in great form at full-back for Gloucester, and his vis-à-vis played well, though his kicking was nothing like as good as the Gloucesterian's.

Hudson, Wilkes, and Bloxham were the best of the visitors' three-quarters; whilst G. Tyler was the most conspicuous for Stroud.

Gloucester's halves did not impress one with their abilities. Humphries and Watts worked hard for Stroud, the former being the best of the four.

Gloucester were best served forward by Lawson, Meadows, Dovey, and Parham. On the Stroud side Lionel Smith, Westbury, King, and Ramsey were, perhaps, the pick of a good lot.

The newly-formed Stroud Military Band, under Bandmaster S. J. C. Smith, attended the match, and gave great pleasure with their admirably played selections.

## GLOUCESTER A v. SOUTH END

### CITY SECONDS' SUCCESS

These teams met at Kingsholm in fine weather, before a small crowd. The Seconds' side, owing to the calls of the premier fifteen, was greatly disorganised, and included representatives of several local clubs.

The opening stages were very scrappy indeed, play being chiefly confined to the forwards. Later the three-quarters of both sides had one or two chances, but there was a lot of fumbling. The Seconds obtained the first try after a neat bit of work. F. Hayward, who was playing at outside half, received from a scrum, and running well he set his threequarters in motion. The ball travelled right across the line to Brooks, who sprinted hard, but in trying to beat the back he was hauled down from behind. Meadows, however, gathered and had an easy run in. The goal-kick failed.

Subsequently Hayward landed a penalty goal from near the touch-line. Play was very keen, and one or two players were temporarily laid out, while Hayward had to leave the field. Goatman was responsible for Gloucester's next try. He intercepted a pass, and cutting straight through beat the back, grounding near the posts. Dean missed the easy kick.

Later South End indulged in a couple of nice bursts, being pulled up only just in time.

#### HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A .....	1 goal (p) 2 tries
South End .....	Nil

The second half opened with South End on the aggressive, but then Gloucester, taking up the attack, Collins went through nicely, and giving the "dummy" to a couple of men, passed low down to Brooks, who, gathering neatly, went over. Dean added the extra points.

The Seconds continued to do the greater part of the pressing, but they could not add to their score. Millington was once prominent with a lovely run, but he failed to let the ball go when tackled – a failing that was noticeable right through the game.

South End indulged in one or two bursts before the end, and narrowly failed to score from a penalty. The play was very uninteresting, and infringements frequent. There were one or two combined movements, however, which relieved the monotony somewhat, and showed that the Gloucester backs with a little more practice together might make a good line.

For the Seconds Millington, Meadows, Collins, Brooks, and Goatman, amongst the backs, and Webb and Nixon amongst the forwards, were the pick.

RESULT :

Gloucester ... 2 goals (1p) 2 tries (14 points)  
South End ..... Nil