

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1908

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. LONDON WELSH

CITIZENS' SUCCESSFUL TRIP TO THE METROPOLIS

The City team paid their annual visit to the Metropolis to-day, when they met London Welsh at the Memorial Ground, West Ham. Both clubs suffered from absentees, Hudson and Gent being missing from the Gloucester ranks, whilst Harding and Maddox were unable to assist London Welsh. Dix substituted Gent as scrum half for Gloucester, and the vacant position on the wing was filled by Hubert Smith.

This was the City's first match in the New Year, and though expecting a keen game the visitors had great hopes of coming through successfully.

The trip to London was made the most of, and a capital programme was mapped out for the players' enjoyment. After the match the City team and members of the Committee were the guests of the City Member (Mr. Russell Rea, M.P.).

Teams : —

Gloucester. — F. Welshman, back; C. Smith, G. Cook, E. Hall, and H. Smith, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears, W. Johns, B. Parham, R. Craddock, D. Hollands, H. Quixley, G. Matthews, H. Collins, forwards.

London Welsh. — —. Dyke, back; W. J. Norton, G. Jones, E. Roberts, R. D. Neagle, three-quarter backs; J. H. Morgan, H. Vivian, half-backs; J. F. Williams (capt.), J. C. Jenkins, F. H. Clay, H. S. Coppock, C. T. Hawkins, L. Jones, J. S. Williams, R. Lloyd.

THE GAME

The ground was somewhat heavy, and there was but a mere handful of spectators. The early stages were devoid of incident, but the home forwards, having somewhat the better of matters, kept Gloucester defending. A bout of long kicking between Dyke and Welshman ended in Norton securing the ball after Dyke had followed up, and he ran in, but had previously gone into touch.

In the following play, after Gloucester had worked out to midfield, the visitors were driven back and had to touch down. Restarting the Gloucester three-quarters had a passing run, in which Smith and Hall were prominent. This movement broke down at Dyke, whose kicking was immense.

Then the home players had a turn, Neagle displaying exceptional dexterity. Hall led Gloucester back, and Dyke was at fault, with a bunch of forwards on the ball. The referee, however, needlessly whistled for Dyke's knock on, and a good chance for Gloucester was lost.

The Welsh retaliated, and some smart forward handling followed, and Neagle was all but through when Cook, tackling him, secured the ball and kicked to touch. By easy forward stages the Welsh goal line was reached. Welshman took a shot at goal, but this was quite ineffective.

The game was most uninteresting to watch, there being little in the way of spectacular movement that was first class, and the game veered from end to end as the result of forward movements, assisted by the kicking of the rival backs. In the course of a Gloucester rally H. Smith put in a high kick which sent the ball just under the bar and Dyke, to save from the Gloucester forwards, fisted out. From the remaining scrum the Welshmen saved.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester Nil
London Welsh Nil

Gloucester restarted, but the Welshmen responded with a dashing forward rush, which took play irresistibly past all but the Gloucester back, when C. Smith darted in, and picking up cleverly from the crowd of players returned to the centre. Thrice he and Hall were noticeable for handling bouts, which gave the last-named a good chance with only Dyke to beat, and a colleague in attendance. He held on too long, however, and was tackled.

Gloucester maintained the pressure for some time, and were eventually driven back. A long kick by Jenkins sent the ball to the visitors' back. Welshman evaded three of a horde of opponents rushing on him, but was then bowled over, and the Gloucester line was in danger. Cook temporarily relieved, but the Welshmen, led by Neagle, were soon back again. Dix snapped up from Neagle's kick, but was instantly tackled by several off-side forwards a few yards from the line, and in an exciting tussle Williams kicked across the field and gave Norton an easy run in near the corner. Dyke failed to convert.

Gloucester responded on the kick-out by playing up desperately, and for a time the home side concentrated on the defence. Gloucester's handling, however, was very faulty, and they were pulled up many times for knocks on and forward passes.

A good forward rush, in which some smart handling was seen, almost let the Welsh in again, Jenkins being pushed to touch in time. Then Gloucester took the game in hand again, and had far the best of matters for some time. Twice they apparently crossed the line, but only drops out followed.

Nothing came right for Gloucester until just before the finish, when in an attack on the Welsh line Dix dropped a fine goal. In the last minute after a great dribble C. Smith scored a try at the corner, Welshman failing.

RESULT :

Gloucester	7 points
London Welsh	3 points

REMARKS

The game was stubbornly fought out between well-matched sides, but Gloucester lacked their customary dash until their line had been crossed. Then they had far the best of matters in all except crossing.

Considering the fortune that attended the home side in securing their try, it would not have been inappropriate had that been beaten by a dropped goal. On the whole there was hardly a fraction of difference between the two sides.

GLOUCESTER A v. MORELANDS

MATCH IN A MIST

This match was played at Kingsholm on Saturday, before a fair number of spectators and in a dense fog. The following teams took the field : –

Gloucester. – E. J. Butler, back; J. Beard, C. Cook, W. Hall, and J. M. Baldwin, three-quarter backs; F. Arthur and S. B. Arthur, half-backs; A. Hawker, J. Wyburn, G. Holford, W. Bailey, G. Griffiths, W. Blackford, W. Berry, and H. Taylor, forwards.

Morelands. – D. Bretherton, back; W. H. Rodway, O. Rigby, E. Hayward, and A. Broady, three-quarter backs; S. Ewers and B. Worlock, half-backs; W. Langford (captain), H. Lockley, J. James, G. Toomey, J. Price, C. Austin, A. Sheppard, and F. Ewers, forwards. Reserve, J. Sheppard.

Moreland's kicked off and were awarded a free. Play settled in midfield for some time, and the visitors gained little from a second free. The City Seconds, however, gradually worked their way to the Dean's Walk end, and apparently made several unsuccessful rushes. After some minutes' obscureness the game came to view again in midfield, where exchange kicking and slow play followed.

Arthur made a good run, but was stopped on the line. The ball and players disappeared once more, and when observable again Gloucester were still in their opponents' half. Beard executed a gallant attempt from midway, but was thwarted when very close to success by some doubtful play. A few minutes later W. Hall scored the first try (unable to be seen from the stand), which was unconverted.

C. Cook got over next, and Butler added the extra points.

Subsequent play was only witnessed at intermittent intervals, but there was no further score before half-time.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 1 goal 1 try
Moreland's Excelsior Nil

Gloucester appeared to continue to have the advantage on resumption at the periods when the game came within the ken of those in the grand stand, but Moreland's defended well, and once or twice got near scoring. From a scrum near the goal line Baldwin added the next three points in the corner. The goal kick was not successful.

Gloucester attacked vigorously all the time, and Moreland's had a hard job to prevent successes. A free kick for the home team nearly resulted in a goal. Beard obtained and was the author of another smart movement, but his career was cut short by good tackling. This was made up for a very few seconds afterwards by Holford scoring a try. A goal followed.

Towards the close of the match sounds of playing in the Gloucester half were not infrequently heard, but it was ascertained that Moreland's did not succeed in scoring. The next try was a splendid effort by Beard, who pushed his way through from close to the goal-line. The two points were not added.

After a long run Beard also scored the last unconverted try easily behind the posts.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 2 goals 4 tries (22 points)
Moreland's Excelsior Nil

REMARKS

A great deal of the game was utterly invisible through an impenetrable grey mist, but as far as could be seen Gloucester A had most of the play, and Moreland's were well beaten at all points.

The game was rather uninteresting, and not very exciting, or of a very high class character, due in a large measure to the fog.

JC