

# THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1908

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. STROUD

COUNTY LEAGUE MATCH

WEAK TEAMS IN THE FIELD

CITY EASY WINNERS

Comparatively little interest was taken in this match at Stroud on Thursday, which was the City's first engagement in the County League Competition.

Gloucester only placed a weak team in the field, the absentees including Hudson, Gent, Neale, Elliott, F. Smith, Johns, and Vears. In the absence of the captain, vice-captain, and ex-captain, J. Stephens had charge of the City team.

Stroud were also very weak, eight or nine players crying off. The vacancies were filled by men from Stroud Athletic, Randwick, and Cainscross.

Teams : –

Gloucester. – F. Welshman; J. M. Baldwin, J. Stephens (captain), W. Hall, and A. Pegler; W. Dix and A. Hall; B. Parham, G. Holford, G. Griffiths, R. Craddock, A. Hawker, F. Pegler, J. Wyburn, and "Jones."

Stroud. – F. Johnson; W. Chambers, E. Bingle, E. J. Butler, and F. Hill; W. Harrington and B. Andrews; F. Westbury, E. Wheatley, J. Wathern, S. Bayliss, G. Denley (captain), J. Rawlings, H. Mills, and another.

There was only a poor attendance. Both teams arrived to time, and were ready to start, but the appointed referee (Mr. H. Smith, Bristol) failed to put in an appearance. Eventually, by agreement, Mr. J. T. Curtis (the Stroud secretary) took the whistle.

Hawker started for Gloucester, Stroud having the advantage of the slope. The opening stages were in favour of Gloucester, whose forwards dominated the scrums. The visitors had a penalty early on. Welshman, however, shot wide, and Johnson touched down. Shortly afterwards the official referee arrived and took charge.

Rawlings centred the game with a fine kick to touch. Both sides were slow in getting to work, but eventually the brothers Hall, and Baldwin joined in a free movement on the left, which nearly resulted in a score. Then Stephens threw to Pegler, but the transfer was forward, and the score was lost. Butler got possession in the loose and found touch well inside the Gloucester half, where another Stroud player kicked foolishly into the arms of Welshman.

Dix was penalised for not putting the ball in straight, and Gloucester were forced to the corner. The Gloucester forwards dribbled away nicely to the centre, and following an exchange of kicks between the rival backs, Stroud broke away, but were stopped by Baldwin. Gloucester heeled, and their backs worked again to the Stroud end, where the visiting forwards indulged in a dangerous loose rush. Stroud defended well, but Pegler nearly crossed on the right. Welshman had another penalty for off-side, but he again failed with the kick.

Wathern was conspicuous for Stroud at the centre, but little headway was made, and then W. Hall broke through nicely. Baldwin was upset, however, and Andrews sent Gloucester down with a splendid punt to touch. Stroud wheeled well and gained a few yards, but lost control. Then the homesters lost a lot of ground by off-side in following up. Stroud got down close with a fine loose rush, in which Westbury, Andrews, and Rawlings were prominent. The defence was splendid.

Hereabouts Stroud were having the best of matters. W. Hall marking well under difficulties, there was a turn of the tide, and Pegler lost a certain try by a knock-on. Stroud rushed to the other end and Andrews was applauded for stiff work, whilst Johnson got the better of his rival in some exchange kicking. Gloucester got the ball out, and the brothers Hall handling nicely, Baldwin scored in a favourable position. Welshman failed at goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester .....1 try  
Stroud ..... Nil

Wheatley restarted, but a bad mistake by the homesters on the right nearly let Gloucester in. Dix broke away from the scrum and passed to Parham in front of the posts, but the veteran was upset splendidly. This did not matter, however, for Albert Hall covered the cross bar with a neat dropped goal, and Gloucester held the comfortable lead of seven points.

Stroud got clean away with an excellent rush, but Welshman fielded grandly and found touch at the centre. Stroud were being let down on the right, and later, but for one or two forward transfers, Gloucester must have scored. A. Hall on one occasion had very hard lines.

Welshman splendidly stopped a rush in his own half, and W. Hall made a fine attempt to get through, being hauled down just outside. Pegler atoned for previous errors by a fine burst and a try under the posts. Welshman failed at goal.

Westbury and Andrews were prominent in subsequent play for Stroud, and Welshman was upset on his own 25-line. Gloucester, however, still had the advantage in scrum matters, and Baldwin, feinting to pass, went away beautifully. He kicked, and put Hall on-side, and the latter scored a fine try behind the posts, Welshman converting.

Stroud were now well beaten, and Dix, to whom Stephens had passed the ball trickily, beat Johnson and scored behind the posts, Welshman adding the goal points.

The Gothamites were absolutely outplayed forward, and the defence was woefully weak, which was no more than one expected, seeing that the backs included four inexperienced players. W. Hall added the fifth try, but Welshman could not improve the point. Baldwin was the next to score, Welshman goaling.

For Stroud, Andrews, Westbury, and Wheatley broke away, the latter scoring near the posts, Johnson converting.

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 4 goals (1d), 3 tries (28 points)  
Stroud ..... 1 goal (5 points)