

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1909

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. LONDON HOSPITAL

CITY FORTUNATE TO DRAW

Gloucester were weakly represented for this match at Kingsholm, the absentees including Johns, G. Vears, Hollands, Griffiths, and F. Smith.

The Hospital fielded a powerful team, Roux for Lindsay at half-back being the only change.

The weather was very cold, and this, combined with the early kick-off, had an appreciable effect on the attendance.

The teams lined out as follows : –

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; J. Beard, W. Hall, T. Elliott, A. Pegler, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, J. Stephens, half-backs; J. Hall, H. Berry, B. Parham, G. Holford, J. Wyburn, J. Nelmes, R. Craddock, H. Aston, forwards.

Hospital. – F. B. Batchelor, back; A. C. Palmer, T. P. Lloyd, A. A. Adams, D. J. Macpherson, three-quarter backs; P. Roux, A. S. Heale, half-backs; J. M. Mehaffey, W. D. Kennedy, E. McEwan, P. L. Foote, W. C. Hodges, S. R. Harrison, R. Thompson, forwards.

Referee : Mr. A. J. Lawes (Bristol).

THE GAME

The ground was in capital condition for a fast game. Parham kicked off for Gloucester, and opening play was fought out at the centre. The City heeled from the first three scrums, but knocks on or forward passes prevented any ground being made.

A kick through by a visitor went to Welshman, who, however, found touch nicely. From the ensuing scrum Gent opened out and the ball came right across to Beard, who was finely tackled by Palmer. Wild passing by Elliott lost the City ground, but it was recovered smartly, and Batchelor was called upon. The visiting custodian, however, was very safe and relieved cleverly. In some loose play J. Hall fielded and passed to Parham, who punted down the field. Following up Hall again secured and burst over the line, but he was ruled to have stepped into touch.

The Hospital were now hotly pressed, but the City's attack was found wanting. Elliott made a strong effort to cross, but he was bored to touch. Then for off-side play the Medics were penalised, and Welshman opened the scoring with a lovely goal.

Resuming, scrambling play was witnessed at midfield, the passing on both sides being very indiscriminate. The Hospital, taking advantage of a poor kick, went very close, but Welshman brought relief with a well-judged kick. The Hospital, however, returned to the attack, and some neat handling saw Macpherson tackled just outside. Parham, with a useful bit of footwork, brought Gloucester out to the 25, and then faulty back play by the visitors allowed the City to make further headway.

Subsequent play was very scrappy and devoid of interest. Pegler, with a flying kick and follow up led to Gloucester taking up a good position, and in some loose play a forward crossed, but touch-in-goal was given.

Resuming, the Londoners showed up with a passing bout, and Palmer with a strong run and cross-kick put his side in a favourable position. The ball was eventually kicked over the line, but Hall gathered and conceded a minor.

On the drop-out the Hospital had the better of the play, but the passing was very erratic, and one or two good chances of scoring were thrown away. Fielding a kick by Elliott, Palmer raced for the line, but only bounced the ball down and the try was not allowed.

Gloucester, who were playing very slovenly, were at once placed on the defence on the re-start. Clever passing by the Londoners looked all over for a score, but Gent tackled Palmer beautifully. There was little improvement in subsequent play, the City being all at sea so to speak. A lucky flying kick enabled Gloucester to reach midfield, but Heale at once punted back to Welshman. The latter, however, took the ball beautifully and returned with interest. Gloucester had the better of subsequent play, but nothing was done in the way of scoring.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 goal (p)
Hospital Nil

The Hospital restarted, and the visitors at once gained a footing in the home 25. The London backs were immediately given possession, and Macpherson, on the right, was well placed for a score, but Elliott stopped him, and though a couple of passes followed Gloucester kept their lines intact.

Stephens and Pegler, with useful kicks, relieved for Gloucester, and centre play followed. Berry was conspicuous with a fine dribble, in which he got the ball past Batchelor. Holford made a big effort to gather, but he was robbed by Batchelor, who ran out and punted clear. Gloucester replied with a passing bout, but Pegler was not fast enough to elude the opposition. In some loose play the ball was eventually driven over the line, and a touchdown resulted.

On the restart Wyburn and Gent distinguished themselves with some smart tackling, but Gloucester could not get set going. A kick down the field went to Welshman who, partially tackled, lost the ball. The Hospital had an open goal, and the ball going over the line Palmer dashed up and scored near the posts – a gift try. The same player unaccountably missed the goal.

Resuming, Gloucester were outplayed and the City were sorely pressed. The Hospital gave the ball plenty of air, but there was no judgment used in the passing. However, from one smart move Heale ran almost to the line, when he yielded to Lloyd, who scored behind the posts. Palmer took the goal kick, but some misunderstanding ensued between him and the placer, and the ball being put on the ground, a Gloucester forward rushed up and kicked it.

The restart brought no relief to the City who were simply out of the hunt. The Hospital had all the play, and only luck saved the home lines on two or three occasions. Gloucester heeled in their own 25, but Elliott's pass was intercepted by Palmer, who slipped Welshman and scored easily. The place-kick failed.

The Hospital now had a six points lead, but the nearly added to their score immediately on the resumption. Gloucester did make a bit of a spurt which took them to midfield, but they were at once beaten back.

A fine round of passing gave Palmer possession, but the sprinter this time failed to get round, and his pass inside was intercepted. The Hospital forwards and backs were veritably all over the City men, and the way the visitors ran through the opposition at times made the defence look very feeble.

At length Gloucester woke up, and Aston with a punt sent to Batchelor, who failed to gather. The City forwards were well up, and taking the ball on dribbled to the line, where Berry picked up and scored near the posts. Welshman added the goal points.

Encouraged by this success the City played up better, but near the centre Heale secured and kicked to Welshman. The latter's reply was splendidly charged down by T. Harrison, who had no difficulty in scoring a try. Palmer again failed with the goal kick.

The game now looked practically settled but there were still a few minutes to play. Recognising the position Gloucester made a great effort in the closing stages. A big forward burst tested the Hospital defence, but Batchelor managed to save.

From a scrum a dozen yards out the City forwards heeled, and the ball came out from Gent to Stephens. The latter threw to W. Hall but the centre missed, and the ball rolled to Pegler, who picked up and with his left foot dropped a neat goal amidst cheers.

Almost immediately the whistle went for "no side," and Gloucester luckily saved the match.

RESULT :

Gloucester	3 goals (1d 1p)	1 try (12 pts.)
Hospital		4 tries (12 pts.)

REMARKS

Gloucester must be counted one of the luckiest teams imaginable in saving to-day's game. During practically the whole of the second half the City were hopelessly out of it, and the form shown was disappointing in the extreme.

Both in the front and outside the Hospital were greatly superior, and the City were fortunate indeed in only having four tries chalked up against them. Time and again the Londoners made an exhibition of the defence, and feebler tackling on the part of the homesters has not been seen for a long time. The weakened ranks no doubt accounted in a measure for the poor display, but the reserves introduced were not altogether responsible. The whole side, with few exceptions, was off colour.

Welshman, at full-back, kicked a much better length and found touch this afternoon, but the City custodian practically gave away two tries. Batchelor, on the other side, performed creditably, but it was evident the old Oxonian was not used to the position, and he took a number of risks.

The Hospital were a long time in settling down. In the opening stages they shaped very moderately, and the play generally was of a poor standard. With the change of ends, however, the Londoners showed vast improvement, and were continually on the attack. The forwards were a dashing lot in the loose, and they indulged in numerous bouts of passing. In the scrums, too, they beat the City eight for the most part. Gloucester were best represented by Berry, Holford, and Wyburn, though Aston, Nelmes, and Craddock were hard workers, the latter going down fearlessly to the rushes of the opposing side.

At half-back Roux and Heale had more of the ball than the Gloucester pair, and were therefore more distinguished. Heale was very sharp off the mark, and he possessed pace and trickiness. At three-quarter, the City line were very moderate indeed, and never shaped well either in combination or individually. Elliott tried one or two bursts, but he generally ended up by passing wildly.

The Hospital line showed capital form at times, and they were too fast altogether for the home men. Palmer and Macpherson, on the wings, were often dangerous, though the latter showed weakness in finishing. Lloyd and Adams were strong in the centre, and kicked well.

GLOUCESTER A v. ST. MARK'S

VICTORY FOR THE SECONDS

Played at Walham. In the first half, which was hotly fought out, Harry Smith and Hubert Smith each scored unconverted tries for the A team. The latter's effort was rather doubtful in the matter of following upon what looked like a forward pass.

The hot pace was kept up after the breather, and the ball travelled from end to end of the field in non-compromising fashion. At length a mark goal was neatly landed for the visitors by C. Cook. Towards the end the pace slackened, and the game became uninteresting.

Gloucester hardly merited their 9 point lead, but their success was largely due to the magnificent efforts of C. Cook at full-back, who completely outshone his elder brother Dave at the other end of the ground. His long kicks were great, and he found touch with remarkable accuracy.

The visiting three-quarters were the better lot, and occasionally some good passing was seen, Barnes especially playing a good game. Day and Holder were the pick of the St. Mark's four. In the packs matters were fairly even, White and Westbury at times being prominent for the Saints.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 1 goal (m), 2 tries (9 pts.)
St. Mark's Nil