

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1909

## FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. STROUD

### CRUSHING REVERSE FOR THE GOTHAMITES

The City received Stroud at Kingsholm to-day, but Gloucester had more than half reserves playing owing to the county match. The absentees for this cause were Hudson, Gent, Stephens, Berry, Johns, Carleton, and Wyburn, whilst Vears was also unable to turn out owing to an injured leg and Holford owing to indisposition.

There was not a great deal of interest in the match – a striking contrast to the fixture with Cheltenham last week, where nearly a thousand City supporters journeyed to the Garden Town.

Gloucester. – W. Egerton, back; F. Smith, W. Hall, H. Barnes, W. J. Vance, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, J. Goddard, half-backs; D. Hollands, G. Griffiths, E. Millard, W. J. Pearce, F. Pegler, J. Hall, F. Welshman, W. Blackford, forwards.

Stroud. – F. Johnson, back; C. Wagstaff, W. Jones, D. Birt, W. J. Hill, three-quarter backs; Dr. Sidney Ward, B. Andrews, half-backs; R. S. Matthews, F. Westbury, S. Bayliss, A. Simmonds, J. Webb, R. Kirby, S. Gibbons, F. Field, forwards.

Referee : Rev. D. T. Jones.

## THE GAME

There was only a small attendance when Frank Smith, as senior member of the team, led the players on to the field a quarter of an hour late. Hollands started for Gloucester with the sun in their eyes, the return being a short one.

From the first scrum Andrews punted to Egerton, who put in a good reply. Dix flung out from the next scrum, but Goddard missed the pass, and Andrews dribbled clear. Egerton fumbled, and Stroud gained a nice slice of ground.

Again gaining ground Andrews kicked to Egerton, who was rushed over the line and a five yards' scrum ordered. The ball came out on the Stroud side of the scrum, but the home forwards were too quick and carried the game out of the danger zone.

The Stroud forwards, however, with a determined rush carried the game into the Gloucester 25. Here again a mistake between Dix and Goddard gave Andrews a chance, but he lost the ball over the line – hard lines.

Stroud were not to be denied, however, and rushing the next scrum the ball was taken over by the bunch in the corner, and Bayliss credited with a try. The kick at goal was a poor affair.

A Stroud man cut through again prettily on the re-start, but he was absolutely unsupported. The home 25, however, was still the scene of operations until a brilliant run and kick by Hall and a strong follow up by Vance gave Johnson a lot of trouble. He punted to Hall, who kicked high and put his men on-side, but the forwards overran the ball with a clear field.

Stroud were penalised for not playing the ball, and Egerton took the kick, but the ball struck the upright and Stroud kicked out. From the next scrum, in Stroud's 25, Dix opened out, and a clever pass from Barnes gave Vance a chance on the wing. He tricked Johnson cleverly and scored a good try far out, which Egerton goaled with a splendid kick.

An exchange of kicks followed the kick off, and left Egerton with the advantage. Dix opened out again, but Hall muddled but recovered. By then, however, F. Smith was too well watched to get away.

Gradually Gloucester worked down to the Stroud quarter, and a tricky bit of work by Dix nearly put Goddard in, but he was just held up. Then Hall was conspicuous with a short burst, but he was well collared, and a neat opening by Dix was frustrated by keen tackling. Then F. Smith had a beautiful chance, but he held too long and was collared, but the ball getting loose Hall picked up and dived over under the posts for Egerton to goal.

From the kick off play settled for a moment in the home 25, but Hall, taking a pass beautifully on the run, cut right through and passed to Smith; the latter re-passed inside, but Andrews intercepted and ran clear – a lucky escape.

Penalised for off-side, Stroud were on the defensive again, but the forwards worked out of danger. Their relief was short-lived, however, and only a timely kick over the dead ball line prevented the Gloucester forwards scoring again. The Gothamites were having an anxious time of it now, but Andrews, snapping up one of Dix's passes, broke away nicely, his advantage, however, being nullified by a kick by Barnes, and play settled at the centre, where a stoppage ensued owing to an injury to Millard, who had to leave the field, apparently suffering from a kick in the mouth.

Vance, receiving from a kick by Johnson, hesitated badly, but even then he made good ground, but Johnson tackled him and Stroud cleared. Another stoppage occurred, Johnson requiring attention, and he also had to go off the field with an injured collar-bone. Millard here returned, Gloucester pressing hard. Dr. Ward obtained temporary relief with a punt out, but Gloucester were quickly back again, and Griffiths receiving from the line-out sent out to Hall, who passed to Barnes, the latter going over nicely. Great was their chagrin when they found the touch-flag still up and no points allowed after such a pretty bit of play.

#### HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester .....	2 goals
Stroud .....	1 try

The resumption saw play open in the Gloucester half, where Dix was at fault in holding too long. Hollands, with a good kick, however, gave Gloucester a footing in the visitors' territory, the Stroud forwards working out to neutral ground. An exchange of kicks ended in Simmonds, who was deputising Johnson, letting the ball roll to touch. From a scramble after the line out, Barnes obtained possession, and whipping out a wide pass to Vance he gave the wing man a nice opening. He profited by it, splendidly racing round the opposition in flying style and scoring a brilliant try under the posts. Egerton goaled.

Immediately after Hall was instrumental in setting Smith going, and with an electric sprint the little wing man beat Hill pointless and scored another grand try near the posts. Egerton failed.

Heartened by these successes in quick succession, the Gloucester men played up strongly. A free to Stroud brought little relief, but Westbury shone with a break away. Hall, Pearce, and Griffiths put in a bit of pretty passing, but Vance failed to take his pass when going at full speed. Then Stroud, with a good rush, found relief once more, and the home forwards getting in front of a kick from a mark lost more ground.

Johnson, who had now returned, put in a good touch finder, and Stroud kept the game in the home half. The Gloucester forwards were a bit over-anxious, and mistakes in handling were frequent. Then Westbury again broke away on his own, but the recipient of his pass was collared.

Stroud, however, had now gained a good position close to the home line, and hesitation on the part of Egerton nearly let them over. From the succeeding scrum Dr. Ward, taking the ball from a kick at short range, dropped over the line with a try. The kick failed.

Stroud were now having a good deal more of the game, but the Gloucester forwards got going again, and only a plucky save by Johnson stopped a score. Dix opened out from the next scrum, and Barnes, beating his man beautifully, gave to Smith, who scored a neat try. The kick failed.

Johnson put in a good line, and play was centred. The ball came out again to Smith on the wing, but he could not get clear. The Gloucester forwards, working very hard, got well up into Stroud's 25, but the visitors rushed out and once more centred the game. A free to Gloucester, in spite of a good return by Johnson gained some ground, and Griffiths, gathering from a wild kick by an opponent, got over the line with the sixth try. No goal resulted.

A good forward rush by Gloucester reached the Stroud 25, but a good punt brought the necessary relief. Gloucester, however, were quickly back again, and smart work by Dix, Smith, and Hall saw the latter dodge over with a pretty try. Hall was fouled by a Stroudite over the line, and the referee, exercising his prerogative, ordered the kick to be taken from straight in front of the goal, Egerton easily landing the extra points.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester ...	4 goals	3 tries	(29 points)
Stroud .....		2 tries	(6 points)

#### REMARKS

Stroud were very lucky to have struck Gloucester on an off day with a practically scratch team, for with full strength at home one trembles to think of the formidable state of the score sheet. However, 29 points to 6 is quite substantial enough to give general satisfaction to players and supporters of Gloucester alike, and the team can safely be said to have deserved every one of the points gained. The forwards were a trifle disorganised, but they made up in zeal what they lacked in cohesion, and were on the whole too good for the Gothamite front rank.

Griffiths, Pegler, Pearce, and Hollands were perhaps the pick, but there was not much to choose. Dix and Goddard started none too well, but as the game progressed they fell in with each other well, and repeated openings were the result.

At three-quarter, Gloucester held a big margin of advantage in pace and cleverness, Vance and Smith being quite too much for the opposition, while Hall and Barnes performed brilliantly at times, the former using every possible opportunity to advantage. Egerton did not kick so well as usual, but was safe.

For Stroud, Johnson, despite his injury, played a plucky game, and Andrews worked exceedingly hard at the base of the scrum. Bayliss, Field, and Matthews were always in the thick of it in the forwards, while Westbury brought off one or two characteristic bursts, to the delight and sometimes to the amusement of the crowd.

#### GLOUCESTER A v GORDON LEAGUE

Played at Hempsted. The A team had to call largely on the locals to replace men appearing for the premier team at Kingsholm against Stroud.

The opening exchanges were marked by a series of penalties, from one of which Hancock landed a fine goal from near the touch-line for the Seconds. Later on both sides settled down and Gloucester indulged in some good passing, in which Baldwin and Stephens were prominent, but could not beat the sound defence of the League.

#### HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A .....	1 goal (p)
Gordon League .....	Nil

Gloucester started pressing at the commencement of the second half, and as the result of a pretty bit of passing, initiated by Lane, Washbourn ran over with an unconverted try for the Seconds.

Although Gloucester tried hard to add to their score the defence prevailed. For Gloucester, Hancock played a fine defensive game at back, and Lane was prominent among a good pack of forwards.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 1 goal (p), 1 try (6 pts.)  
Gordon League ..... Nil

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