

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1910

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. STROUD

WEAK CITY TEAM AT FROMEHALL

GLOUCESTER WIN BY TEN POINTS

The return match between these clubs was played at Fromehall. Gloucester were very weak, for besides Hudson, Berry, Gent and Johns (engaged in the International trial), other absentees included Vance, Vears, Griffiths, and Wyburn.

Stroud were short of S. Bayliss (forward), but otherwise fielded their best available side.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – W. Egerton, back; W. Washbourne, W. Hall, H. Barnes, J. M. Baldwin, three-quarter backs; S. Stephens, J. Stephens, half-backs; D. Hollands, G. Holford, W. J. Pearce, F. Pegler, W. Nelmes, W. Blackford, J. Price, H. Daniells, forwards.

Stroud. – F. Johnson, back; R. Milton, Bert Gawne, W. Jones, F. Hill, three-quarter backs; Dr. S. Ward, B. Andrews, half-backs; E. Wheatley, G. Smith, J. Wathern, S. Gibbons, H. James, C. Wagstaff, F. Field, R. Kirby, forwards.

THE GAME

The attendance was capital, and prior to the start the Stroud Town Band played selections of music. The visitors were warmly received as they took the field, and a similar compliment was extended to the Gothamites.

Gloucester won the toss, and Mr. C. P. Allen, M.P., who had a great reception, kicked off in capital fashion, but Stroud got off-side with the reply and were penalised. Andrews secured from the scrum and shot down the ground prettily to Egerton, who returned nicely. Andrews tackled Stephens at the scrum, but the latter managed to get the ball away to his backs, but the passing broke down at Barnes.

Stroud forced a minor and Gloucester kicked out to Johnson, who made his mark and found touch beautifully. There was some good kicking and fielding at the centre, and eventually Stroud, with powerful kicking, compelled Egerton to concede another minor. Stroud came again, but J. Stephens kicked out cleverly. The homesters got to the visitors' 25 line, where Gloucester were fined for an infringement at the scrum. Gloucester again conceded another minor as the result of a big kick. Following the drop-out, Andrews mullied at the centre, and the Gloucester forwards dribbled away to the home 25.

Some exciting play followed, in the course of which Hall broke away cleverly after Gawne had tried hard to get the ball. His pass, however, was intercepted, and Stroud relieved the pressure. Shortly Gloucester got the ball from the scrum, and some lovely passing by the backs resulted in Barnes transferring to Baldwin, for that player to score in the corner. Egerton failed at goal.

Following the drop-out Andrews broke away nicely at the centre and kicked past Egerton. There was an exciting race for possession, and Stephens won well. He, however, was collared on the line, but from the ensuing scrum he broke away well and found touch.

The home front got down close, but Gloucester heeled, and pretty passing by Barnes and Baldwin eased the pressure, the latter player, however, being splendidly upset by Dr. Ward, who was always in the thick of the fight. Egerton was hard pressed subsequently, but his fielding and kicking were all that could be desired, and the game was contested at the centre for the next few minutes.

Johnson was next tried, and he, too, was safe, though his kick, taken under difficulties, was not a very good one. Both sides took a turn at loose forward work with little or no advantage to either, though Gloucester were now having the better of the game on the whole, the forwards heeling capitally and the backs handling with neatness and despatch.

A long kick by Andrews, who was indefatigable in his efforts, placed Gloucester on the defensive, and following a kick by Egerton, Jones had a chance to send a colleague in, but he passed badly and a good opportunity was lost. Stroud continued to have the best of the argument, but were well checked by Hall. Andrews opened out for Stroud, and they looked to have a chance, but Gawne's transfer to Jones fell short. The latter got the ball, however, and kicked, and Gloucester were sorely pressed for a short time.

The home backs got going and Hill made a gallant attempt to cross, but he knocked down the corner flag and a touch-in-goal was given. The play was continued with renewed vigour, Gloucester being on top. Twice their backs gave an entertaining display, but both Baldwin and Washbourne were tackled finely, Johnson's tackle of the latter player being magnificent.

Gloucester attacked hotly, and Stroud just as keenly defended, and the excitement was intense. Hall and Washbourne joined in another good attempt to beat the defence, but failed. Then the Stroud forwards took advantage of a bad pass by one of the Gloucester halves and rushed to the centre, where Stephens cleverly dashed away. He, however, found Johnson too good for him.

Gloucester heeled and again gave a good passing exhibition, Baldwin, who was playing splendidly, being well collared by Milton just in time. The interval arrived with Gloucester still on the attack.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 try
Stroud	Nil

Mr. Arthur Clifford, the Conservative candidate, who was very cordially cheered, started the second half, the opening phases of which favoured Gloucester. Stroud were awarded a free and got to the centre, where the tackling on both sides was uncommonly smart.

Next the two full backs came into prominence with good kicking. Johnson pluckily ran out on one occasion, but his kick was charged down, and there was an anxious moment, as Hollands took the ball. He, however, was quickly upset, and the ball getting loose Andrews, Wheatley, and Ward rushed away. Later Gloucester attacked hotly, and Hill was pushed into touch by Baldwin, who had changed over. Andrews put in a clever kick, and for a time play ruled in the Gloucester half, Stroud standing up to their opponents in a very plucky style.

Dr. Ward made a mis-kick, and this gave the Gloucesterians a footing in the home half. Baldwin was splendidly upset by Gibbons and Stroud got a free for some infringement in the open. This, however, did not avail them much, for Gloucester's forwards were fine. Heeling well, they gave their backs a capital opportunity. Hall created a fine opening, but Barnes knocked on and the home team came away to safer quarters, only, however, to see the Gloucester backs again in possession. C. Smith spoilt the passing and the ball went to touch.

In the ensuing play Hall cleverly got away from the grip of two men and shot to touch in the Stroud half. Hereabouts the tackling was exceedingly keen, and play travelled rapidly up and down the field with no material advantage to either side, Stroud finding themselves in a tight corner more than once, but they were experts in getting out.

Dr. Ward distinguished himself at the centre in fielding a fine kick from Egerton, who had made his mark, and even play followed for some time, but the display was hardly as good as that given in the first half. Eventually the Gloucester backs shone in a beautiful movement, but this was finely stopped at the right moment. A series of scrums followed, Gloucester making desperate attempts to score.

Andrews got too anxious at the scrum, and his side was fined for the first time in the match. Egerton made a good attempt to cover the bar, the ball going outside. Johnson ran the ball out, and Barnes, who took it, tried to get through, but failed, and shot to touch.

Then Gloucester attacked hotly, and Barnes, who received from a colleague, feinted prettily, cut in between Milton and Gawne and scored near the corner. The place-kick, by Egerton, failed.

Gloucester were now having all the play, but the defence did not slacken, and eventually Stroud eased the pressure and forced play to the other end. Gloucester retaliated and Barnes dropped a clever goal.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal (d) 2 tries (10 pts.)
Stroud Nil

REMARKS

Our Stroud correspondent says : – Undoubtedly Gloucester had good value for their points, but nevertheless they were a bit lucky to get a ten point margin, for Stroud missed two or three good chances, and experienced very hard lines indeed, when Hill knocked down the corner flag in the first half.

The game was desperately keen, fast and exciting, and what is more it was a good one from a spectacular point of view for three parts of the play. There was really not a deal to choose between the teams, and certainly up to the time of Gloucester's second score. Baldwin's unconverted try was quite the extent of the Citizens' superiority.

In the last quarter of an hour they were always a little better than the Gothamites, who stood up to their more experienced rivals remarkably well. The success attained by Gloucester was due first to the combined play of the forwards, who frequently got possession in the scrum.

Stroud's forwards were dashing in the loose, but their failure to heel well placed the backs at a great disadvantage. They, however, were smart to snap up chances, and were distinguished for the soundness of their defence. Forward they were well served by Wheatley, Wathern, Gibbons, and Wagstaff, though all worked hard. Andrews was a glutton for work at half, where Ward also did well. The three-quarters were good, and Johnson gave a finished display.

For Gloucester the front were admirably led by Hollands, who was well supported by Holford and Pearce. J. Stephens was fine at half, and Hall and Barnes did splendidly at three-quarters, where Baldwin was also good. Egerton's fielding and kicking were remarkably good.

JC