

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1911

TO-DAYS FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v STROUD

FREE SCORING MATCH

CITY PRESSED HARD FOR VICTORY

This match at Kingsholm on Thursday only attracted a small attendance. Both teams played substitutes, the teams being as follows : –

Gloucester. – C. Cook; A. Hudson (capt.), W. Staunton, H. Cook, and W. Washbourne; W. Dix and L. Hamblin; G. Vears, H. Berry, E. Yates, G. Griffiths, A. Lodge, J. Meadows, F. Pegler, and C. Mumford.

Stroud. – H. Smith; R. Marchant, G. Scott, G. Tyler, and W. Jones (capt.); E. Bridgman and S. Stephens; R. Craddock, F. Westbury, L. Dudbridge, J. Webb, L. Smith, F. Farmiloe, E. Mansell-Pleydell, and J. Wathern.

THE GAME

Stroud started, but for getting in front of the ball a scrum was ordered at the centre. Gloucester heeled, and Dix passing out to L. Hamblin, the latter threw wide to Washbourne, who, with a fine run, beat the defence and scored behind the posts. C. Cook added the goal points.

Stroud restarted, and centre play followed. Westbury got his side penalised for off-side, and with the kick C. Cook sent to the visitors' 25.

Westbury started a movement which enabled Stroud to change the venue, and C. Cook failing to gather, the Gothamites dribbled close to the home line, where Hudson saved.

Gloucester kicked out, but Stroud came back again with passing, Dudbridge getting close before being pulled down. Hudson again brought relief with a nice punt. H. Smith, receiving, dropped for goal, but the ball fell short. The City relieved with a good rush, and from a passing move, initiated by Dix, Washbourne had hard lines in not scoring, slipping on the greasy surface in attempting to swerve past the full back.

Scrambling play followed, ending in Stroud reaching the centre. Here Dix attempted a long pass out, but the ball was cleverly intercepted by Marchant, who, although collared by C. Cook, succeeded in planting the ball over the line. The place-kick failed.

Gloucester dropped out, and passing by the backs saw Hudson set going, but he was hampered and had to kick to touch. On the other wing Washbourne was pushed to touch a couple of yards outside, but a score soon came to Gloucester, Hudson going over after a strong run. C. Cook failed.

Stroud were placed on the defensive immediately after the drop-out, but the City backs were not taking the game seriously, and threw the ball about very recklessly. One or two possible openings were missed through this fault, and enabled Stroud to make a better fight. Gloucester were continually heeling, but fumbling behind spoiled numerous promising movements.

Once C. Cook fielded a kick and broke right through, passing to Hudson, who returned to Staunton, but the latter was collared by the leg just as he was getting clear. The City, however, kept up the attack and after some handling Hudson raced clear and scored. Cook failed at the goal-kick.

Stroud, on the restart, were forced to defend, and Washbourne crossed after a clever opening by L. Hamblin, but a forward transfer was ruled. Immediately after C. Cook, with a fine kick, only just missed dropping a goal.

Stroud defended well, H. Smith especially doing good work in this department, and when the interval arrived there had been no more scoring.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 goal, 2 tries
Stroud 1 try

Vears restarted, and there was a spell of even play at mid-field. For an infringement Gloucester were penalised, but the shot at goal went very wide. Cook ran out, but in attempting to pass he was charged, and the ball rebounded behind him. Mansell-Pleydell had an open goal, and dribbled over the line scoring smartly, a goal resulting.

On the restart Gloucester at once rushed to the other end. For off-side Westbury was penalised, and from the subsequent scrum Dix scrambled over in the corner. Washbourne failed with the place-kick.

Following the drop-out, the Gloucester backs indulged in more reckless passing, and allowed Stroud to gain nearly half the length of the ground. Immediately after a pass by Hudson was missed, and Marchant, picking up, made a fine run, just stepping to touch a few yards from the line. The City cleared with a forward rush, but continued to make numerous mistakes. In some loose play Dudbridge gathered, and after a neat run passed to Farmiloe, who scored near the posts. A goal resulted, and Stroud were only a point behind.

Gloucester resumed, but from another passing movement the ball was intercepted, and Stroud got clear. The final transfer left the ball with Scott, who raced home amidst great enthusiasm from the Stroud spectators. No goal resulted.

The Gothamites had certainly sprung a big surprise on the City men, but for the scores against them Gloucester were largely themselves to blame.

Gloucester, on the restart, played up strongly, but the attacks lacked finish, and many mistakes occurred behind.

At length Griffiths broke away finely, and handing to Staunton, the latter crossed in the corner. Vears took the place-kick, but failed to land the extra points.

Stroud played up with determination when the game was resumed, Dudbridge setting the forwards a fine example. Dix was prominent with a clever bit of footwork, which put Gloucester in a good position. Then came a fine run by Staunton, who put H. Cook over, but the pass was forward. After this Hudson had a possible chance on the right wing, but he was well tackled, and his re-pass was not taken.

Stroud, taking advantage of a mistake in fielding by the home men, took play beyond the centre. They were beaten back and Gloucester came near scoring again.

Stroud maintained a stout defence, and kept their lines intact against severe pressure. However, they were beaten eventually, L. Hamblin scoring behind the posts after a single-handed run from near mid-field. Although no charge was allowed, Cook failed at the easy place. There was no more scoring.

RESULT :

Gloucester	1 goal, 5 tries (20 points)
Stroud	2 goals, 2 tries (16 points)

REMARKS

The game was remarkable for the free scoring which took pace, and the reckless play of the home team. Stroud were hopelessly beaten in the scrums, but played up strongly in the loose, where Dudbridge, Craddock, and Farmiloe were prominent. The tackling was also very sound.

The City backs, though doing well at times, made numerous mistakes, and judgment in passing was sadly lacking. Three of Stroud's tries resulted directly from mistakes on the part of the home players. All the same, the visitors are to be congratulated on turning their opportunities to such good use.

JC