

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1901

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. NORTHAMPTON

CITY TEAM'S FIRST OUT MATCH

GLOUCESTER WIN BY NINE POINTS

(BY OUR OWN REPORTER)

Gloucester were engaged in their first out match of the season to-day, when they were opposed to the champions of the East Midlands, at Northampton.

The teams had only met on three previous occasions (twice at Gloucester), and each time the City club obtained a substantial victory. At Northampton last season Gloucester won by 16 points to 10, after being seven points in arrears at the interval.

For to-day's game Northampton turned out their best available team, whilst Gloucester relied on exactly the same fifteen which scored so heavily against Clifton and the Old Edwardians.

In their previous games this season Northampton scored an aggregate of 85 points to six, the defeated teams being Olney (24 points to 3), Handsworth (27 to nil), and Nuneaton (34 to 3). In two matches Gloucester had recorded 118 points to 3 (a penalty goal).

There were a couple of changes in the Northampton team owing to Mullins and Weston being on the injured list. Patrick came in at three-quarter, and the forward position was filled by G. Rates. The weather was dull and drizzling. Rain commenced to fall just before the start. The attendance was about 3,000.

The following were the teams : –

GLOUCESTER	Positions	NORTHAMPTON
G. Romans	Backs.	C. Leigh
G. F. Clutterbuck	Three-quarter	W. H. Kingston
J. Stephens	Backs	F. Simmonds
J. Cook	"	L. Atterbury
C. Smith	"	W. Patrick
R. Goddard	Half-Backs	H. E. Kingston
G. Hall	"	W. West
C. Hall	Forwards	G. Rates
J. Lewis	"	W. H. Edwards
A. H. Click	"	A. Chalmers
F. Oswell	"	H. Atterbury
T. Spiers	"	J. West
B. L. Watkins	"	B. I. Swannell
F. Westbury	"	C. Naylor
C. E. Miller	"	G. Burke

Referee : Mr. F. W. Nicholls (Leicester).

### THE GAME

Northampton won the toss, and there being a good reply to Hall's kick off, play opened in the Gloucester half. Capital forward work by the East Midlanders put Gloucester on the defensive, and W. Kingston kicked well into touch just outside the visitors' line. By some smart back play Northampton got dangerous, but Romans and Clutterbuck saved in time. A minute later, however, Patrick was nearly over in the corner, a minor resulting.

Following the drop-out Cook gained relief with clever kicks. Midfield was then the scene of operations. Well served by Hall, Goddard got set going, but the passing broke down. Then, with the aid of a penalty, Northampton pressed severely again.

The home forwards were the smarter in heeling out than Gloucester, but the handling of the backs was uncertain, and ground was lost several times.

Once Clutterbuck looked likely to get a good opening by intercepting, but he knocked on. Ensuing play was keenly fought out, but the tackling was so close that few openings presented themselves.

Clutterbuck and Cook, with big kicks, enabled Gloucester to reach beyond the centre, but H. Kingston with a long punt compelled Romans to concede a minor.

Gloucester showed up strongly on the drop out, and Lewis following up a kick by Goddard tackled Leigh before he could reply. From the ensuing scrum the City backs indulged in a bout of passing, and Cook, with a clever feint, beat the opposition and scored a good try. Romans failed at goal.

Gloucester played up finely on the re-start, and Northampton were forced to defend. Leigh brought relief with a splendid kick, and even play followed. Both teams worked hard, but nothing further was done to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester .....	1 try
Northampton .....	Nil

Northampton started the second half, and the ball going over the line Romans touched down. The Gloucester backs were early set going, but Stephens kicked down to Leigh, who replied splendidly into touch. The home full-back several times repulsed the visitors with beautiful kicks, and Romans being slow in fielding, once the Gloucester lines were in danger.

Off-side play by Northampton, however, spoiled their chance, and the City worked out to mid-field. Here some scrambling play took place, but neither side was able to gain much advantage.

Useful touch kicking by Patrick eventually placed Northampton in a favourable position, and the home team worked desperately hard to effect a score. The forwards pushed Gloucester nearly ever scrum, and the visitors were forced right on their line. From a long throw out Simmonds marked from a knock forward, but W. Kingston missed goal from the easiest of positions – a lucky escape for Gloucester.

Cook and Goddard, with smart efforts, changed the venue of the game. "Whacker" Smith, with a fine tackle of Leigh, with the latter in possession of the ball, placed Gloucester on the home 25, and then ensued a desperate attack on the Northampton lines. Beautiful passing saw the ball come right across to Smith, but Leigh bored the International into touch.

Some exciting play followed in close proximity to the Northampton goal, but Gloucester could not get over. Eventually Spiers ran over after neat passing, but he was called back for an infringement.

Immediately after, however, Goddard picked up smartly in the loose, and passing at the right moment to Smith, the latter scored a fine corner try. No goal resulted.

Encouraged by this success Gloucester played up strongly, and Goddard with a brilliant individual effort scored near the posts. Romans again failed at goal.

The last five minutes proved desperately exciting. By good all round work Northampton made a big effort to score, but they were met with superb defence, in which Romans shone conspicuously. No further scoring was effected.

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 3 tries (9 points)  
Northampton ..... Nil

## REMARKS

It was a keenly-fought game, and Gloucester had to work their hardest to achieve the upper hand. In the first half Northampton held a slight advantage in actual play, but their attacks always lacked something in finish. The second half saw Gloucester decidedly superior, and both tries were thoroughly deserved, Goddard's being a beautiful effort.

It was a great fight between the forwards, but Gloucester came out best at the close. Miller, Click, Oswell, and Lewis were very effective in all phases of the play, the first-named especially stopping a lot of rushes.

There was nothing very brilliant in combination among the home backs, but Gloucester did some good work, though the ball did not come out as often as could have been wished.

All were sound in defence, and Romans, except being slow once or twice, showed capital form.

Leigh did wonderfully well for Northampton, and was the most prominent player on the side.

## GLOUCESTER 'A' v. BARNWOOD

### SECOND STRING START THE SEASON WELL

The City Second string opened their season on the Kingsholm ground with a match against their old rivals, Barnwood.

George Barnes has been fortunate in securing the services of at least twelve of last year's men, and several very promising new men have been drafted into the team.

There was only a poor attendance of spectators when the game started.

The teams were :-

Gloucester A. – Dave Cook, back; Lewis Smith, E. Keys, W. Gardner, and F. Rooke, three-quarter backs; L. Morgan and A. Hall, half-backs; G. Barnes, (capt.), A. Smith, R. Ellis, B. Parham, A. Cresswell, G. H. Bland, E. Essex, and W. Tozle, forwards.

Barnwood. – W. H. Wight, back; A. Lloyd, J. Cox (capt.), G. E. Bennett, and A. Harris, three-quarter backs; A. Goddard and L. Hayward, half-backs; H. Quixley, J. Brav, A. E. Greenhill, H. Harris, F. Pegler, G. Cullis, H. White, and G. Fifield, forwards.

Referee : Mr. W. Butcher.

Gloucester kicked off, defending the Worcester-street goal, and for several minutes the game was stiffly fought out in neutral territory. However, Hall eventually made a good opening, and passing smartly out, Gardner and Keys handled, the latter passing out to Lewis Smith, who ran round under the posts, putting the finishing touch to a pretty bout of passing. Gardner goaled easily.

Gloucester were penalised twice in quick succession, but both Bennett's kicks fell short. Some more vigorous play followed in the neighbourhood of the centre, but eventually the Seconds got into more favourable quarters, and after some more neat passing, Keys nipped over under the posts, Gardner goaling.

A. Goddard had to leave the field owing to a blow in the mouth, and Barnwood were forced to play one man short. Another pretty bit of play by Lewis Smith gave Hall possession, and he grounded beneath the bar, Gardner again doing the necessary. Play was in neutral territory at half-time.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester ..... 3 goals  
Barnwood ..... Nil

On resuming after half-time Goddard came out again. From a scrum in the Barnwood 25, Rooke neatly snapped an opponent's pass and ran right away, scoring near the posts. Gardner again added the extra points.

Barnwood after this pressed strongly and forced a minor, having to concede a similar point from a drop at goal by Cook a few minutes later. Gloucester again pressed, and were within an ace of scoring on three or four occasions.

In a scrummage Greenhill sustained a twisted ankle, and after attention from the St. John Ambulance men on the ground, he was carried from the field. Gloucester continued to press, and some tight scrums were fought out on the Barnwood line, and eventually Lewis Smith again got over, Gardner this time failing to majorise. Play was in the home team's favour to the close.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 4 goals, 1 try (23 points)  
Barnwood ..... Nil

#### REMARKS

The Seconds gave a taste of their quality in this their first match. The whole team played wonderfully well together, and had the measure of their opponents throughout. The forwards combined well, and were the faster pack, getting away well from the scrums and lines-out.

It would be difficult to single any out for special mention. Hall and Morgan outplayed their opponents at half, and the home quartette were by far the better, Lewis Smith having quite a day out. What little he had to do Cook did very well, and should be a very useful man in the future.

Barnwood, although playing a plucky game against a more skilful combination than themselves, did not make full use of their opportunities.