

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1901

GLOUCESTERSHIRE v. MIDLAND COUNTIES

The annual friendly match between these counties was played at Kingsholm on Thursday before a moderate attendance. There were numerous changes in the Midland team, but Gloucester[*sic*] turned out as selected. The sides were as follows : –

Gloucestershire. – G. Romans (Gloucester), back; C. Smith, J. Cook, G. Clutterbuck (Gloucester), and E. Watkins Baker (Bristol), three-quarter backs; G. Hall and R. Goddard (Gloucester), half-backs; C. Hall (captain), J. Lewis, T. Spiers, C. E. Miller (Gloucester), J. Wilcox, J. Claridge (Bristol), F. M. Stout (Richmond), and C. Harris (Lydney), forwards.

Midland Counties. – A. C. Butlin (Leicester), back; H. Wilkinson (Leicester), Rev. W. H. Goudge (Moseley), W. Orton (Coventry), and J. H. Miles (Leicester), three-quarter backs; J. Braithwaite (Leicester) and H. Lovatt (Old Edwardians), half-backs; G. V. Evers (Moseley), G. H. Maddocks, B. Beasley (Handsworth), J. Woodward, W. Merry (Nuneaton), G. G. Yeld, D. Atkins (Leicester), B. C. Newbould (Burton), forwards.

Referee : Mr. T. Williams (Llwynypia).

The visitors started from the Worcester-street end, and play opened at mid-field. Goddard was early prominent with a dodgy run, but his pass went astray, and an opponent found touch beyond the centre. An exchange of kicks followed between the rival backs, ending in favour of Romans, but ensuing play was of a scrambling nature. The home forwards several times heeled out, but the passing behind was slow, and was easily checked by the Midlands.

By dint of dashing footwork the visiting front rank several times got down to Romans, but the City full-back returned finely on each occasion. At length G. Hall initiated a pretty passing movement, which resulted in Cook and Smith making considerable headway, but the latter's final pass inside to Goddard was adjudged forward.

Immediately after Goddard, Hall, and Smith were prominent with some neat exchanges. Goddard attempted a screw kick across the ground, but the ball went over the line, and a dead ball resulted. Gloucestershire attacked strongly after the drop-out, but indiscriminate passing spoiled several nice openings.

Subsequent play was confined to the visitors' 25, but at length the Midland forwards dribbled right away, and Romans had some difficulty in saving close on the line. Then G. Hall, picking up in the loose, punted out, only to see Miles make his mark easily. Yeld took a shot for goal, but it was a feeble attempt, and Gloucester easily relieved.

From just outside the quarter flag Miller burst away in fine style, and passing between Lewis, C. Hall, Baker, Cook, and Smith looked certain for a try, but the International was rolled into touch just outside.

Following this, another bout of passing placed Gloucester in a favourable position for a score, but Baker failed to take the ball when Clutterbuck had a clear run in. Gloucester, however, continued on the aggressive, and following several sharp attacks, Smith scored after some clever passing, started by Goddard. Romans kicked a beautiful goal.

On resumption the Midlands worked down to the Gloucester end, and just before the interval Yeld placed a penalty goal for off-side play by Goddard.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucestershire	1 goal
Midlands	1 goal (p)

C. Hall resumed, and play was at once taken to the Midlands 25. Clutterbuck, following up a kick by Cook, charged down Butlin's return, and a score appeared imminent, but the visitors saved. For palpable off-side play by Braithwaite, the Midlands were penalised, and Romans kicked a lovely goal from ten yards inside the half-way line.

On the re-start the Midlands forced their way into the home 25, but they were quickly sent back. A smart bit of work by Smith looked promising, but Cook failed to take the pass as he dashed through. After this play fluctuated considerably, but was very scrambling. The visiting forwards worked well in the loose, and in this department they were more effective than the Gloucestershire eight. The latter once got away in dashing style, Miller and Lewis leading, but though Butlin was beaten Braithwaite got back and saved at the expense of being winded.

Continuing, Goddard worked a pretty opening for Smith, but the International knocked on badly with no-one to beat. A couple of minutes later, however, after a dash by G. Hall, his brother scored a neat try. The place-kick failed.

There was a spell of even play after the resumption, but the Gloucester backs eventually got set going, and a faulty pass from Baker to Clutterbuck alone prevented a score. G. Hall, however, credited himself with a try a little later, and Romans goaled.

Brilliant passing and inter-passing between Clutterbuck and Baker gave the latter a fine try, which Romans converted. Immediately after the kick-off Cook executed a marvellous run from his own line, and passing to Baker the latter ran and handed to G. Hall, who completed a wonderful effort by scoring in a good position. Romans added the extra points.

RESULT :

Glo'stershire 5 goals (1 p), 1 try (26 points)
Midland Counties 1 goal (p) (3 points)