

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1902

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. RICHMOND

The City team paid their second visit of the season to London to-day, when they opposed Richmond at the Athletic Ground.

Two years ago, on the same enclosure, Gloucester suffered defeat from the Metropolitans by a try to nil, but last season the City Club had ample revenge, a powerful fifteen led by the International captain (J. Daniell), being beaten at Kingsholm by 1 goal 1 try to nil.

In their games so far this year, Gloucester have not approached the form of the previous season, and doubts were expressed as to their ability to win this afternoon.

Richmond certainly have done nothing great despite the leaven of International talent in their ranks, but the Londoners generally play a better and stronger game at home, and there were other reasons for an extra effort to beat Gloucester.

With the exception of W. Johns the City club played their strongest available fifteen, though it will be seen yet another experiment was made at half-back. F. Keys, who was afforded a good trial at the opening of the season, with moderate success, was again introduced, with Parham as a partner; whilst the vacancy forward was filled by T. Spiers, who was a regular member of the pack two years ago. This arrangement enabled Stephens to occupy his old position at centre three-quarter, a move that gave general satisfaction.

The Gloucester players made the journey to Paddington by the 9.45 train, and were accompanied by a few enthusiasts.

The following were the teams : —

GLOUCESTER	Positions	RICHMOND
G. Romans	Backs.	T. M. Body
L. Smith	Three-Quarter	R. N. Hancock
G. F. Collett	Backs.	R. M. Gwynn
J. Stephens	"	A. J. R. Roberts
C. Smith	"	L. D. Bailey
B. Parham	Half-Backs.	H. W. Pavitt
F. Keys	"	P. S. Hancock
A. H. Click	Forwards.	J. Daniell
F. Goulding	"	S. Reynolds
F. Westbury	"	F. M. Stout
G. H. Smith	"	G. Fraser
A. Hawker	"	G. G. Yeld
A. Purton	"	— Leggett
T. Spiers	"	W. E. Vincent
F. Oswell	"	G. F. Turner

Referee: Mr. F. Gilliard (London).

After a terribly wet and stormy morning the weather at Richmond turned out delightfully bright and warm, but the attendance naturally suffered, and the ground, if better than might have been expected, was of course soft and wet. Richmond made one change — Leggett for Smith amongst the forwards.

A slight breeze blew across the ground. Daniell kicked off for Richmond at 3.15, and the return being mulled Gloucester gained ground, but the visitors were twice penalised for off-side and so lost any advantage. A fine bout of passing, in which all the Richmond three-quarters shared, carried play to the Gloucester 25, L. Smith at length bringing down R. Hancock, but following a big knock-on by Gloucester, Roberts broke through and scored a try for Richmond in five minutes. Yeld failed at the easy place-kick.

Following the drop-out, L. Smith ran well but was collared, and Daniell replied with a fine personal effort. From a line-out in the Gloucester 25, R. Hancock broke away, but the visitors relieved, Bailey having hard work to try and save. C. Smith overran the ball, but Stephens punted neatly into touch. Romans followed with a good kick, but Gloucester again got off-side.

Play was mainly in the Gloucester half, the Richmond three-quarters being distinctly smarter. A good rush by the Gloucester forwards was stopped by Roberts. Then came a brief interruption owing to a Richmond forward being injured.

Keys, for picking up out of the scrummage, gave Richmond another free-kick. Twenty-five minutes from the start P. Hancock made a clever opening for Roberts, who handed off vigorously and, when within a few yards of the line, passed to R. Hancock, who scored in the corner. Yeld made a poor shot at the place, and Richmond led by six points.

The drop-out brought little relief to Gloucester, Gwynn putting in a useful run, and though the visitors worked back to midfield there came a sixth penalty against Gloucester for picking out, and another speedily followed. The Gloucester backs at length got going, but a chance was lost through a pass forward to Stephens by Collett.

A better piece of work ensued, the ball coming right across the Gloucester three-quarter line, but although C. Smith passed back cleverly to Stephens, the latter had to kick. He collared Body and a scrummage ensued in Richmond quarters, but once more Gloucester threw away their chance by Keys picking out of the scrummage. Daniells headed a good rush back to the Gloucester half, the interval coming just afterwards with Richmond leading by two tries to nothing. The Gloucester play was disappointing, off-side work and unfair picking out of the scrummage repeatedly destroying their chances.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Richmond.....2 tries
Gloucester..... Nil

On resuming Gwynn and Collett in turn made marks, but gained little thereby. Both sides tackled smartly, the game being rather close for the first few minutes and slightly in favour of Gloucester. The visitors did not learn by their experience of the first half, but for picking out of the scrummage and off-side had two penalties promptly given against them.

Two fine kicks by Romans helped the visitors considerably. Gloucester for a few minutes showed more smartness than they had done hitherto, Keys and Parham making openings, but Richmond still tackled strongly.

Eventually Richmond worked their way up-field, and though the Gloucester forwards made a useful rush the home backs broke away, R. Hancock finding touch in the Gloucester 25. Again Romans saved his side brilliantly. Gloucester attacking, a pass came to L Smith too late, but a minute later Gloucester scored, through "Whacker" Smith, and Romans kicked a goal.

Leading by only one point Richmond played up vigorously, P. Hancock breaking away but being forced into touch. The Gloucester forwards then came away in great form, and C. Smith, though collared, found touch cleverly. Turner and Fraser replied with an equally fine rush for Richmond, a neat kick by Gwynn still further helping the side until play was well inside the Gloucester 25. Parham, however, relieved, and Romans got the best of an exchange between the backs.

A long kick by Collett caused Richmond to touch down. C. Smith having a kick charged down, Turner headed a rush and gave to Roberts, R. Hancock scoring in the corner. No charge was allowed, but Yeld did not convert. Stephens in the last minute checked the Richmond three-quarters when in full swing. Richmond pressed towards the finish.

RESULT :

Richmond.....3 tries (9 points)
Gloucester.....1 goal (5 points)

GLOUCESTER A v. BERKELEY AND SHARPNESS

At Kingsholm, before a poor attendance. The following were the teams : –

Gloucester A : F. Pugh, back; A. Hudson, F. Rooke, L. Rudge, and L Vears, three-quarter backs; H. Smith and L. Morgan, half-backs; T. Russell, W. Essex, W. Jones, G . Vears, J. Jewell, A. Peglar, A. Pyart, and G. Bland, forwards.

Berkeley : Sid Powell, back; F. Wilkins, S. Green, F. Sumsion, and R. Neale, three-quarters; G. Taylor, and A. Morgan, half-backs; A. Bick, B. James, W. Portlock, W. Thomas. D. Thomas, H. Moody, F. Portlock, and H. Plumb, forwards.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A.....	1 goal
Berkeley.....	Nil

RESULT :

Gloucester A.....	3 goals (1p), 1 try (16 points)
Berkeley.....	Nil