

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1904.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. STROUD.

WEAK CITY TEAM FIELD AT KINGSHOLM.

ALL WHITES BEATEN.

Owing to the County match at Bristol and other causes Gloucester fielded a very weak team against Stroud at Kingsholm. Only half the regular fifteen was on duty, the absentees including "Whacker" Smith, Harrison, Gent, Goulding, Johns. G. Vears, Oswell, and Matthews. To fill one of the places at centre three-quarter, G. F. Collett consented to assist, this being the old Cantab's first appearance since the injury he sustained when touring with the British team in South Africa last year. Stroud, who were short of W. Pitt at three-quarter, and Dight and Smith (forward), were accompanied by a goodly number of supporters, and the feeling was that the City team would have to play very hard to gain the winning points. The teams were : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	STROUD.
G. Romans (capt.)	Backs.	B. Blanch
T. Leonard	Three-quarter	Lewis Smith (capt.)
G. F. Collett	backs.	W. G. Price
E. Hall	"	F. Johnson
A. Hudson	"	V. Lawson
J. Stephens	Half-Backs.	A. Brown
C. H. Robinson	"	G. Williams
G. H. Smith	Forwards.	G. Denley
E. Westbury	"	C. King
A. Hawker	"	H. Snell
H. Taylor	"	Rev. C. V. Lester
A. Purton	"	F. Whittaker
F. Pegler	"	E. Warman
? Quixley	"	H. Griffiths
? ..... y	"	H. Vickeridge

## THE GAME.

[2/3 words unreadable] were accorded a hearty reception on their [2/3 words unreadable] those present appearing particularly pleased [2/3 words unreadable] Gotham's captain, Lewis Smith. The sun was shining splendidly when the teams took the field at 3.25.

Gloucester won the toss, and elected to play with the sun in their faces. Warman kicked off, and Westbury mulling, Stroud seemed likely to get dangerous. Leonard sent back with a ground kick to Johnson, who replied to touch. Gloucester saved from the scrum, and Collett securing from a line-out, sent beautifully to the other end. Blanch had to run back, and he had some difficulty in getting in a reply. In some loose play Lewis Smith saved nicely, and Stroud reached the centre by footwork. Gloucester were not to be denied, and Collett took a drop at goal. The ball went wide, and Blanch conceded a minor.

On the resumption Stroud fumbled, but Brown picked up, and dodging two or three men, shot well to touch. Robinson gained a few yards by a similar kick, but Lawson came to the rescue, and play was continued in Gloucester's half. Hall secured in the loose, and got in a fine kick to Blanch. The latter was safe, but later he was held, though only with difficulty. The tackling hereabouts was pretty warm on both sides. Collett raised a cheer by a good kick up touch, the ball going into touch a few yards from the line. Stroud came away on a dribble, in which Denley, King, and Johnson were to the fore.

Westbury headed a similar movement on Stroud's part, and the Gothamites were hard pressed. Quickly the scene changed, for Romans, whom Stroud pounced upon, made a wretched kick in the direction of his own goal. King ran after the ball in fine fashion, and taking it on the bounce ran splendidly for the line. Collett made a fine attempt to stop him, but the Stroud man gained the corner and scored a try amid loud cheers. Johnson made a grand attempt to convert, the ball going rather wide.

Gloucester dropped out, and centre play followed for a time. Stroud got possession, and Brown fed Williams, but the latter was well held. Blanch accepted, and the game remained at the centre, where another exhibition of determined tackling was seen. Leonard got going on the left, but Johnson swept across the ground and fielded nicely. He could not kick, however, and ran into touch.

Lester was prominent in another effort by Stroud to get out of their own half, but Gloucester were all there, and Robinson securing from the scrum, placed Stroud on the defensive. Then Gloucester handled in fine style, Stephens handing out to Robinson, who transferred to Collett. The latter yielded to Romans, who was up among the three-quarters. Hudson, the next man to receive, could not beat Lewis Smith, and kicked, the ball going to touch near the corner. Lewis Smith relieved splendidly.

Then a remarkable thing occurred. Some five or six yards from Stroud's 25 line the Stroud players thought the ball went to touch. It did not, however, and Robinson, quick to seize the opportunity, ran behind the posts without the slightest opposition, Romans goaling amid enthusiastic cheers.

On the resumption some fast play was seen, and Westbury and Quixley, for Gloucester, were to the fore in a fine dribbling movement, which carried the game to Stroud's 25. Blanch fielded well, and found touch near the centre. Here Stroud were penalised for off-side in the loose, but Gloucester gained little. Robinson passed out from the next scrum, but Stroud intercepted, and Romans was hard pressed. He kicked sharply across the ground, and had King taken the ball, Stroud might have got another try. Instead, he let the ball go through his fingers to touch, and Gloucester breathed again.

Gloucester were placed in a splendid position by a fine run on the part of Robinson, and ought to have scored. Hesitancy lost them the chance, and Blanch and then Lawson found touch well down the line. Stroud got possession at the centre, but Gloucester saved.

In some loose play on Gloucester's left, Stroud were pressed, and Lawson mulling, his side were nearly let down. Brown relieved with a good kick, and Williams found touch splendidly at the centre. A minute later the stand-off half threw out badly to Price, but Collett took the pass and ran to Blanch, who brought him down in fine style. The interval then arrived.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 1 goal  
Stroud ..... 1 try

The sun had now gone down greatly, and Stroud were not troubled to the extent the Gloucester players were in the opening moiety. Romans re-started with a tremendous kick to Blanch, who replied finely to the Gloucester captain near touch at the centre.

Johnson picked up a Gloucester pass, and while facing his own goal shot prettily up the ground. Romans ran across, and from near touch well in his own half put in a fine reply to Blanch, who mulled badly. There was a fair snip for Gloucester. Blanch, however, very smartly saved, and Johnson securing from Price, sent splendidly to behind Romans. For a time Gloucester were pressed until Stephens put in a lovely kick across to Gloucester's right. Hudson and Collett raced after the ball, but Lewis Smith was the fastest, and the situation was saved.

Near the centre Brown got off-side, and Romans, with a fine kick, nearly landed a goal, the ball just dropping underneath the cross-bar. Brown dropped out, and Whittaker was prominent with a fine pick up and kick under difficulties. The Stroud forwards got the ball at their feet, but were not allowed to travel far. A big kick to Romans saw the latter in difficulties, and he was floored. Stroud dribbled, and deserved a score. Gloucester, however, were a little too quick, and the ball was kicked dead. Stroud were not to be denied, and gained the corner, from where Brown appeared to have scored. The Stroud touch-judge had his flag up, and play continued. It favoured Stroud, who had hard lines with two drops at goal. Gloucester conceded two minors. At last Stroud's efforts were rewarded, and in a fine rush Whittaker scored for Williams to goal.

The game had hardly re-started before Romans sent across with his foot to Hudson's wing and put his men on-side. Lewis Smith hesitated somewhat, and Hudson cut inside and scored a very fine try. Romans added the extra points, the cheering being loud and continuous.

Stroud kicked off from the centre, and went off at a good pace. A bad pass out by Gloucester gave Stroud a chance, Price being collared a few yards out. A kick-out relieved Gloucester's lines, and Hall securing from a pass, found touch at the centre, though he was in the hands of a Gothamite. Brown was fined for picking out of the scrum. Lawson replied to the kick, and the Stroud forwards got going, but not very far.

Stroud pegged away, and Romans had to make a mark. Brown dodged through a couple of opponents, and threw wide to Lewis Smith. The latter, however, could not get to the ball, and a good chance was lost. Stephens broke away, and the result of a good movement, in which Collett played a prominent part and made an opening, ended in Pegler going over in the corner. Romans goaled with a splendid kick.

Gloucester were now playing in fine fashion, and Stroud were hard pressed. The visitors appeared to lose heart, and Williams, getting off-side, Romans landed a splendid penalty goal from a difficult angle.

Stroud re-started, and exhibited some pretty passing, Williams, Johnson, and Lawson joining in. The latter was not fast enough, and threw back inside to Johnson. The latter was promptly smothered.

Gloucester were attacking when the whistle went for "no-side."

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 4 goals (1p) (18 points)  
Stroud ..... 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)

## REMARKS.

When local rivals meet one seldom has the pleasure of witnessing a fine game, and the above was no exception to the general rule. It was a hard game, but not an edifying one by any means. Gloucester had to play with great energy to win, and if the result is disappointing to Gotham's supporters, the fault chiefly rests with the players, who had a chance which may not occur again for many a long day.

The game opened at a fairly good pace, and the tackling at times was vigorous, but not at all rough. Stroud were the first to score, and honestly they were entitled to great credit for the way in which they seized the opportunity. True, the try had its origin in a bad mistake by Romans, but King, the scorer, had to make the most strenuous efforts to beat Collett and two others who practically ran a neck and neck race with the Gothamite for the last ten or fifteen yards.

Gloucester's try in reply was a soft affair, and though opinions differ as to the fairness of the score, we are bound to say it was perfectly legitimate. Robinson lined the ball out short to a colleague, and then slipped round that player and went behind the posts with the men looking on.

There was not much to choose between the teams in the first half, but Stroud had a tying up once or twice, as also did Gloucester early after the resumption. The Stroud forwards, who were the better lot, and used their feet to considerable advantage at times, broke away quickly, and the effort brought a score to Whittaker, Denley being also on the ball.

A smart piece of work, in which Romans was a principal, placed Gloucester ahead, and from this point Stroud lost heart. Both full backs were in fine trim, Blanch certainly losing nothing in comparison with Romans. Both sets of quarters accomplished some pretty handling work at times, and on the Gloucester side Collett and Hudson were the best exponents, though Hall was useful. Leonard was weak.

Stroud were ably served by Price and Johnson, but Lewis Smith had fewer chances. Lawson was "off." Robinson was the best of Gloucester's half-backs, and Williams stood out for Stroud, who, however, had the better pair.

Among the forwards Westbury, Smith, Pegler, and Quixley best represented Gloucester, and for Stroud King, Denley, Lester, and Snell appeared the pick. As a pack Stroud were all over their opponents in several things, but they again failed to feed their backs as they should have done. Given the requisite number of chances, we believe the Stroud backs would have proved the superior set all round – as it was they were the smarter collectively – and Gloucester left behind.

There was not much in the game, and certainly not the difference between the teams that the score would seem to indicate.

#### GLOUCESTER A v. GORDON LEAGUE.

At Hempsted. Gordon League started. Gloucester A, who were only playing 14 men, had their territory invaded. A Leaguer made a capital attempt at goal from a mark, following which the visitors were penalised, and the home team continued to maintain their occupation of the City Seconds' lines.

Gordon League had the wind in their favour, and attempts by the visitors to kick the leather up the field proved futile. Once, when Gloucester looked like getting away, Pugh put a full stop on their efforts with a good touch-finder, shortly afterwards again spoiling the visitors' tactics with a clever mark.

Gloucester A rushed up the field, and the ball coming back to Watts, he found touch nicely at the centre. Pugh saved smartly in an emergency, and play ensued in mid-field.

An infringement gave the League a penalty kick, from which they had hard lines in not scoring, the ball striking the post. They were still on the aggressive when half-time was whistled.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester A ..... Nil  
Gordon League ..... Nil

The second moiety saw Gloucester A in a more favourable position, the leather being confined to home territory for some time, but the League first line got away, rushed the length of the ground, and opened their account with a try by T. Humphries. Pugh took the kick, but failed to convert.

Shortly after this Gloucester A had the misfortune to lose the full-back, Watts having to retire from the game with a wrenched knee. Resuming with 13 men, despite the ominous reputation of the number the visitors maintained the unequal contest with a fair measure of success, and eventually Watts pluckily resumed.

Spiers crossed with the second try for the League, and Pugh again failed to majorise. Gloucester A had a good chance later, when the League line lay at their mercy, but the forwards bungled, and the opportunity was missed.

RESULT :  
Gordon League ..... 2 tries (6 points)  
Gloucester A ..... Nil