

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1905.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER *v.* LONDON WELSH.

CITY TEAM IN THE METROPOLIS.

WELSHMEN WIN BY A GOAL.

Gloucester paid their annual visit to London to-day, when they opposed London Welsh on the Essex County Cricket Club ground at Leyton. This was the first match of the Welsh on this enclosure, the team having previously made their headquarters at Queen's Club, West Kensington. Gloucester unfortunately were unable to take a full team, the absentees being E. Hall, A. Wood, and J. Jewell. Wood sustained a twisted ankle in the county match at Cardiff on Wednesday, and he is likely to be out of the field for a week or two. A. Hall took the vacancy at outside half. London Welsh placed a representative side out against the City, the forwards especially being a strong lot. The teams were : -

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	LONDON WELSH.
G. Romans	Backs.	F. G. Cule
C. Smith	Three-quarter	C. E. Lewis
J. Stephens	backs.	H. T. Maddocks
J. Harrison	"	J. T. Timmins
A. Hudson	"	T. J. David
D. R. Gent	Half-Backs.	C. F. Rowlands
A. Hall	"	W. L. Morgan
W. Johns (capt.)	Forwards.	A. F. Harding (capt.)
A. Hawker	"	J. F. Williams
B. Parham	"	J. C. Jenkins
G. Matthews	"	F. H. Clay
F. Pegler	"	H. S. Coppock
H. Collins	"	C. T. Hawkins
G. Vears	"	L. Jones
F. Merchant	"	W. G. Jones

Referee : Mr. E. J. ANDREWS (London R.U.S.R.)

## THE GAME.

The weather was dull and the ground heavy from recent rain. This was the first Rugby match played on the Leyton enclosure, and the fixture aroused considerable interest. Mr. H. Terrell, K.C., was amongst the spectators.

Williams kicked off for the Welsh, and A. Hall returned to centre. The Welshmen started one short, Timmins failing to appear. Early play favoured Gloucester, and Gent quickly started the City backs, but the passing went astray, and ground was lost. A good forward rush by Gloucester took play into the Welsh 25, but Rowlands dribbled back, Romans effecting a clever pick up and kick to touch.

Off-side play by Gent caused Gloucester to be penalised, but Hudson returned Harding's punt to centre. Smart footwork by Rowlands gave the Welsh an advantage, but Stephens and Romans, with useful kicks, sent the game to midfield. Clever work by Gent and Hall secured Gloucester a splendid opening, but the pass was knocked on.

Immediately after the City had another chance, but Gent's transfer was intercepted by Harding, who cleared. The Welsh cleared to midfield, where Gloucester opened out, but again the passing was intercepted by Williams, who ran to Romans before being checked. Harrison replied with a clever run, but slipped when opposed to Cule, and a good opening was lost.

The Welsh by good forward work and useful kicking got down to Romans, who, however, gathered neatly, and, though collared, managed to pass back to Stephens, who put in a fine touch-finder. After some loose play Hawker picked up, but held too long, and was tackled. Good touch kicking by Harrison and Romans placed Gloucester in a good position, and a pretty round of passing looked promising for a score, but Hudson missed with practically a clear field.

Gloucester pressed severely for a few minutes, but a dashing forward burst by the Welshmen completely changed the venue, and Gloucester only just saved their lines. A big kick by Romans, which Cule missed, enabled Gloucester to clear, and then the City, after pretty exchanges, had an open goal, but Parham failed badly to take Collins' pass.

Gloucester still attacked, but there was something wanting in finish, and an interception of Gent's pass by Harding saw the latter run to Romans, when he punted instead of going on, and the Gloucester full-back saved. Hudson brought relief with a nice kick, and Gloucester immediately after had another chance, but it was not accepted. Gloucester had the advantage to the interval, but they failed to score.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester .....	Nil
London Welsh .....	Nil

Hawker re-started, and Gloucester early started a passing bout from a line-out, but the ball was lost, and the Welshmen dribbled right down to Romans on his 25. The City custodian brought relief with a nice touch kick, and from the throw out the ball got across to Hudson, who raced down, but found the defence too strong. Gloucester confined operations to their opponents' 25, and in a rush the ball was taken over the line, where Cule sent dead.

Following the drop-out Lewis was prominent for the Welsh with a long dribble, and for the next few minutes play was confined to the Gloucester half. The game, however, was chiefly forward, and mainly of a scrambling description.

The Welshmen, who had been strengthened by an extra forward, were good in the loose, and Gloucester experienced some difficulty in stemming their rushes. At length the City improved, and owing to a mistake by David, they were nearly over in a desperate burst. Harding, however, saved in the nick of time, and the International later cleared with a splendid kick to mid-field.

Here operations were fought with great vigour, but the tackling on both sides was so deadly that few opportunities occurred of opening out the game. The Welsh gained ground as the result of a couple of penalty kicks, but Gloucester managed to keep play at mid-field, however. From a kick over the line Gloucester eventually conceded a minor.

On the re-start play was fairly even, but lacking incident. Once or twice Gloucester attempted passing, but the marking of Harding and Lewis prevented much headway being made. A good opening by Harrison sent Hudson on his way down touch, and the wing man went well for thirty yards. He then punted, but Maddocks got the ball and found touch with a screw kick. A delay here took place owing to Cule being damaged in a collision with Hudson. He recovered, and was able to resume.

For an infringement in the scrum Gloucester were penalised, and Harding took a shot for goal from near the centre. The ball, however, went wide of the posts, and Stephens touched down. Resuming, weak tackling by the Gloucester forwards enabled Cule to elude them and find touch close to the visitors' line. From the ensuing scrum the Welsh forwards heeled, and following a sharp run by Lewis, Maddocks scored a try, which Harding converted with a fine kick.

Gloucester re-started, and the City at once worked to their opponents' end, where there was a possible chance of equalising. Wild play, however, lost the opportunity, and an infringement in the scrum enabled the Welsh to clear to mid-field by the aid of a penalty. The City continued to press to the end, but failed to equalise.

#### RESULT :

London Welsh .....	1 goal (5 points)
Gloucester .....	Nil

#### REMARKS.

Gloucester's play was disappointing, especially that of the back division, who made poor use of their chances. Wild passing was of frequent occurrence, and at other times little judgment was used.

The Gloucester forwards had the pull in the scrums, but in open play the Welshmen were superior, and their footwork throughout was very fine. Gent worked hard throughout, and got the ball away heaps of times, but he received poor support.

The Welsh try was a good one and well deserved. Harding played a splendid defensive game in the centre for the winners, and Lewis and Rowlands also did good work. Romans was very sound at full-back for Gloucester, and he cleared smartly on several occasions.

Of the forwards Collins, Hawker, and Matthews were the pick, but the men tackled altogether too high at times. It was a hard game, and well contested, but Gloucester were alone to blame for losing the match.

#### GLOUCESTER A v. BRISTOL A.

#### HOME TEAM CLEARLY SUPERIOR.

These old opponents met at Kingsholm, but owing to calls of the Premier Fifteen Gloucester A were not particularly well represented, whereas Bristol brought a good team, which included T. Leonard, the ex-Gloucester three-quarter.

There was only a small attendance, and the ground was wet. The teams were : —

Gloucester A : J. Watts, back; H. Hughes, H. Cook, C. Goddard, and H. Smith, three-quarter backs; J. Goddard and H. Ewers, half-backs; F. Pyart (captain), H. Taylor, R. Craddock, T. Meadows, F. Clutterbuck, W. Holder, T. Guy, and F. Welshman, forwards.

Bristol A : A. Vaughan, back; C. Phillips, C. Boddie, G. Chick, and T. Leonard, three-quarter backs; H. G. Righton and R. C. Coombe, half-backs; G. Phelps, P. Down, E. Kibby, S. Redman, H. Reynolds, M. Meyer, E. Hollier, F. Parsons, forwards.

Pyart started for Gloucester from the Worcester-street end, and within two minutes of the kick-off the Gloucester three-quarters opened out the game nicely, and although the final transfer was not accepted the ball was taken over the line, and Ewens was credited with a try. No goal resulted.

The Bristol forwards carried a couple of scrums nicely, but they were beaten back and play hovered in neutral territory for some time. Gloucester then got the ball back well, but the passing in the rear division was wild and ill-judged, the ball being flung about in the air anyhow. Play was vigorously contested in the neighbourhood of the centre for some time, neither side being able to make much headway. Eventually, however, by dint of hard work Bristol obtained a footing in the Gloucester 25, and a clever bit of work in the line-out nearly let Phillips in. Watts, however, brought off a fine tackle, and saved a certain score.

Bristol pressed desperately for some moments, but Gloucester eventually worked out of immediate danger with a strong forward burst, and transferred the game to the other end. Here the home boys opened out the game beautifully, and after capital passing all along the line Hughes raced through the opposition and scored a very smart try, the result of real good work. The goal kick failed.

Bristol played up strongly after this, but Gloucester put in some more very good passing, and again pressed strongly. A penalty was awarded Gloucester, and Watts made a good attempt, Bristol touching down.

Gloucester continued to press, and Guy got over in a scramble. Watts added the extra points. Towards half-time Bristol made desperate efforts to score, but although they got over the line the man lost the ball.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester ..... 1 goal, 2 tries  
Bristol ..... Nil

The first two or three minutes of the second half saw the ball travel up and down the ground at a great pace. Then at the centre Craddock obtained possession, and working out a nice opening, handed to C. Goddard at the right moment, and the latter scored a brilliant try after a splendid run. No goal resulted.

The fog spreading over the field made it difficult to distinguish players on the far side. Bristol had a turn at attack, and Watts had to concede a minor. Ewers put in a long touch kick, which gained Gloucester a nice slice of ground, and the same player was prominent with a good dribble a moment later.

Then Bristol tried passing, but not much headway was made. Gloucester in turn had a spell of handling, and Smith was only hauled down on the line. A hot attack on the Bristol line ensued, but the visitors' forwards relieved with a grand wheel. Gloucester were quickly back in the vicinity of the Bristol citadel again, but something went wrong at the critical moment.

A mis-kick by a Bristolian caused a line-out within a yard of the visitors' line, but again Bristol managed to avert the danger with a forward rush, and transferred play to the centre. It was impossible to see the game now for fog, but from the occasional notes of the whistle one was able to guess that play was in the vicinity of the Gloucester line, where it remained till the call of time.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester A .....	1 goal, 3 tries (14 points)
Bristol A .....	Nil

#### REMARKS.

Gloucester thoroughly deserved their win on the day's play. Although Bristol were the bigger and heavier team, they were inferior to the home men at all points. The Gloucester passing was poor in the extreme in the early stages, but it took a remarkable change for the better as the game proceeded, and the keenest critic could hardly quarrel with the work which led up to three of the tries scored.

There was very little to choose between the forwards; in fact, the Bristolians' front rank relieved remarkably well on occasions when under severe pressure. The full backs were about equal, but at three-quarters Gloucester showed to better advantage, mainly due undoubtedly to the smart work of the Gloucester halves, Ewers in particular.

Hughes and Goddard put in some excellent work, and on the other side Phillips showed to advantage, Leonard being too well looked after to do much when the ball came his way. The ex-Gloucestrian is leaving Bristol, for Croydon next week.

JC