

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1905.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. LONDON WELSH.

THE RETURN MATCH.

CITY TEAM IN LONDON.

WELSHMEN DEFEATED ON TIME.

A SENSATIONAL FINISH.

Gloucester made their only visit to the Metropolis this season to-day when they appeared at Queen's Club, West Kensington, for the return fixture with London Welsh.

Less than a fortnight ago the Welshmen, strengthened by several Cardiff players, were defeated at Kingsholm by 13 points to 3, after a particularly fast game.

Gloucester only made one change in the team which proved successful on the former occasion, Quixley taking the place of the City captain (W. Johns), who had the misfortune to dislocate his collar bone against Cheltenham last week.

The Welshmen had a good side out, E. Morgan, the brilliant International three-quarter, being announced to play at wing three-quarter; the team also including Lewis and Thomas, of Newport.

The Great Western Railway ran a cheap excursion in connection with the match, and the trip was fairly well patronised.

The following were the teams : –

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	LONDON WELSH.
A. Player	Backs.	A. Goodman
C. Smith (capt.)	Three-quarter	H. T. Maddocks
E. Hall	backs.	R. Rees
J. Harrison	"	C. E. Lewis
A. Hudson	"	E. Morgan
J. Stephens	Half-Backs.	H. Morris
D. R. Gent	"	C. F. Rowlands
A. Hawker	Forwards.	A. F. Harding (capt.)
B. Parham	"	J. E. C. Partridge
F. Pegler	"	F. H. Clay
G. Vears	"	T. James
H. Collins	"	S. H. Coppock
H. Quixley	"	C. T. Hawkins
J. Jewell	"	E. Thomas
G. Matthews	"	J. Evans

Referee : Mr. R. S. V. DYAS.

### THE GAME.

Beautiful weather prevailed, but there was only a moderate attendance. Gloucester won the toss, and Harding started for the Welsh, who had the sun in their faces. Play opened very scrambling, and early on Morgan forced a minor with a kick over the line.

Resuming, the City forwards were prominent with a good rush, and later a good bout of passing took the ball to the centre, where Hudson knocked on. Gloucester heeled cleverly on several occasion[s], but the passing was faulty, and little headway was made.

Morgan shone with a smart run down touch, but Gloucester saved, and then useful kicks by Hudson and Harrison took play well inside the Welsh 25. A strong forward burst took the City right to the line, where Matthews collared Rees. Pegler was nearly through from a throw-out, being forced back into play. Subsequently the Welshmen dribbled clear, but "Player" sent them back with a good kick.

Gloucester continued to do well, and from a long pass by Hawker, Hall cut through prettily and passed to Smith, who was collared a couple of yards outside. Gloucester attacked strongly, and the forwards pushed their way over, but some infringement occurred. The Welsh relieved by the aid of a penalty, and, later, a lucky flying kick sent to touch on the Gloucester 25.

Clever work by Stephens changed the venue, and Gent feeding Stephens nicely, the latter initiated a bout of passing, but Harrison knocked on. Loose play favoured the home team, and the Gloucester full back misjudging a kick, the Londoners gained a good position. Gloucester quickly worked out, and play was contested at mid-field. Here Gent gave a lofty pass to Stephens, which was fumbled, and Maddocks, breaking through, picked up and, beating "Player," scored behind the posts. Harding converted.

Gloucester re-started, and at once took up the attack, but poor play lost a lot of ground. Stephens at this point was injured, but resumed, though he limped badly.

Gloucester had a couple of beautiful openings, but failed badly, Harrison knocking on right under the posts. After this "Player" had a shot for goal from a penalty, failing only by inches.

A dashing run by Lewis gave the London Welsh a good position, but off-side play saved Gloucester. Then Hudson, after passing, ran straight down the left wing, but Lewis came across and stopped him.

Both teams played strongly, and play was very even. "Player" stopped a dangerous movement with a good return, and the game was at the centre at the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
London Welsh ..... 1 goal  
Gloucester ..... Nil

"Player" restarted for Gloucester, who immediately made an incursion into their opponents' end. A bad miss by the Gloucester full back, however, let the home team right down, and a score was only narrowly averted. Harding attempted a place-kick from a long range, but was unsuccessful.

Harrison brought relief for Gloucester with some neat kicks, and later the backs tried passing, but the transfers were very poor. Stephens kept pluckily at it, but was of little use, and he was pounced upon several times before he could get rid of the ball. A big kick and follow-up saw Rees get his return charged down, and Gloucester looked to have a chance, but fumbling took place on the line.

Gent worked heroically for Gloucester, but he was poorly supported, the City players being very wild and erratic. Operations were contested for some time at mid-field, until a big burst by the Gloucester forwards carried play close to the Welsh quarter. Morgan was temporarily laid out by a smothering tackle by Hudson, but the International soon resumed.

Gloucester carried the ensuing scrum and went up close, but Rees effected a daring save. For palpable off-side play by Rowlands the Welsh were penalised, but "Player's" kick for goal was very wide.

Play continued in the Welsh half until big kicking transferred the game to the other end. Here the Welshmen got the best of matters, and Lewis was only stopped in the nick of time by Smith. The same player a moment later nearly dropped a goal. Gloucester played up desperately after this, and brilliant work by Hall nearly ended in a try. Continuing on the aggressive the visitors attacked strongly, and following neat passing Hall scored finely. "Player" failed at goal.

Gloucester worked grandly now to bring off victory, and just before the end Hudson, with a brilliant dash, beat the defence and scored a fine try. "Player" goaled, and immediately after the whistle blew no-side.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)  
London Welsh ..... 1 goal (5 points)

## REMARKS.

The game furnished a sensational finish, for it was right on time that Gloucester scored the winning points. The City thoroughly deserved victory, for they were severely handicapped through Stephens' injury.

Play was vigorously contested, but apart from a few brilliant incidents was not particularly interesting. The Gloucester forwards played a dashing game all through, and were able to continually get possession, but the backs were not up to the mark, and some nice openings were thrown away in the last half.

The try by Maddocks was the result of a bad pass by Gent, but "Player" ought to have stopped the London Welshman. The City custodian put in some magnificent kicks, but now and again appeared slow and uncertain. At three-quarter Hall displayed cleverness and resource, and was better than Harrison. Hudson looked after Morgan splendidly, and his try at the finish evoked the greatest enthusiasm among the spectators.

In the last ten minutes Gloucester were all over their opponents, and showed a bit of their true form. London Welsh were well served at half by Rowlands, but Gent did yeoman service for the visitors. Maddocks and Lewis were noticeable at three-quarter, and of the forwards Harding, Partridge, and Thomas were the pick. Hawker led the City pack splendidly, he and Matthews, Parham, Peglar, and Collins being the most conspicuous.

## GLOUCESTER A v. CHELTENHAM A.

### MANY TRIES BUT POOR PLACE-KICKING.

These Second XV.'s met in their return match at Kingsholm. Last Saturday the Citizens had visited Cheltenham with successful results, which they hoped to repeat. There was only a moderate attendance.

In the absence of a referee, Mr. A. J. Barnes was "borrowed" from amongst the spectators to officiate with the whistle.

The teams lined out as follows : —

Gloucester A.— F. Pugh, back; H. Hughes, R. Hook, H. Cook, and T. Smith, three-quarter backs; H. Smith and H. Ewers, half-backs; F. Pyart (captain), H. Taylor, H. Wixey, C. Voyce, R. Craddock, T. Meadows, H. Lane, and H. Peart, forwards.

Cheltenham A.— B. Daunter, back; L. W. Hayward, J. Grinham, H. Rose, and H. Beck, three-quarter backs; G. Speary and A. Fisher, half-backs; L. Wade, A. Burnell, C. Wakeman, L. Geage, R. F. Elwes, B. Fisher, W. Ward, and F. Knight, forwards.

Gloucester commenced, and a scramble ensued. Kick and rush brought the Citizens up to the Townsman's 25, where a scrum followed. From this Ewers made off, and cleverly evading several opponents, popped over the line, and thus a very few moments after the start saw three points registered in Gloucester's favour. The kick failed. The proper referee (Mr. E. Browning) now arrived. Resuming, Hughes got away and scored. There was no conversion.

The City men were all over the Cheltonians, and almost scored again. Eventually Daunter relieved with a touch-finder that brought play to midfield. From here a Cheltonian over-ran the ball, and it was once more travelling towards the visitors' citadel when Daunter put it into touch.

Cheltenham got down into the home 25 by a scrambling kick and rush, and a scrum ensued. Now a splendid chance was missed by the visitors' right wing bungling; nevertheless, they were right on the Gloucester line, where a scrum was ordered. The Citizens relieved, but finesse was notably lacking, and play was of a very mediocre quality. Opportunities in plenty were vouchsafed the visitors, but they either would not or could not take advantage of them.

The leather was still in the home half, but Cook sent it up the field and put a better complexion on things. Daunter was again prominent in defence, and the investment of the home territory continued. Pugh at a critical moment averted disaster. Gloucester relieve and attacked. Wade had to retire from the game with an injury to his ankle. Shortly after Taylor got over with another try, which was unconverted.

Wade resumed, and Gloucester lost a certain try by bungling in the left corner. Ewers added another try, which Pugh converted, putting the homesters 14 points ahead.

A capital round of passing by the visitors' third line brought play into the home 25. The ball was soon carried back to the Cheltenham half of the field once more. Smith was hurt, but continued play pluckily. A burst of quite brilliant play by the Cheltenham three-quarters nearly led to a score. Gloucester were penalised in their own 25, but the attempt to kick a goal failed.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester A ..... 1 goal 3 tries  
Cheltenham A ..... Nil

After "lemons" Gloucester immediately got away, and Cook raced off with a dribble and scored. Pugh failed to majorise.

The Citizens still had all the game, and settled down comfortably to maintaining a steady pressure on the visitors' defence. The home three-quarters got possession, and passed the leather along in remarkable style, the result being that Smith crossed in the right-hand corner. Pugh's kick failed to add points.

Decidedly and decisively beaten, Cheltenham had no hope but to spoil any further attempts at scoring. With the setting sun in their eyes, accurate judgment was difficult. Cook snapped up the ball and got over by the right goal-post. Pugh hit the bar in attempting to convert. Following this, Hughes was nearly over in the left-hand corner.

Cheltenham managed to work up to mid-field. Their back muddled a return, and the homesters were once more in a scoring position. Hughes received cleverly and was almost over, a scrum on the line following, from which Cheltenham conceded a minor.

The homesters continued to press throughout most of the remainder of the game. H. Smith raced over with an unconverted try, Cook added another, and the end came.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 1 goal, 8 tries, (29 points)  
Cheltenham A ..... Nil

REMARKS.

An easy victory for the home team, who were never seriously inconvenienced. Cheltenham were not at full strength, having several regular "second teamers" away. The score sheet is an illustration of the present day deficiency of good place-kick men. Only one try was converted out of nine scored, despite the position being on several occasions easy enough. A little practice in this line would serve, perhaps, to add points when they might be badly needed.

Pugh, Hughes, Cook, and Smith were particularly prominent, whilst Cheltenham had to thank their custodian for much good defence.