

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1906.

TO-DAY'S MATCHES.

GLOUCESTER v. LONDON HOSPITAL.

CUP-HOLDERS AT KINGSHOLM.

LONDONERS BEATEN.

This was the Hospital's first visit to Gloucester. Ideal football weather prevailed, but there was only a moderate attendance of spectators when the teams took the field at 2.50 as follows : –

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	HOSPITAL.
G. Romans	Backs.	W. W. Woods
A. Hudson	Three-Quarter	R. J. Vernon
C. Smith	Backs.	A. S. Heale
H. Smith	"	T. P. Lloyd
F. Smith	"	A. C. Palmer
J. Stephens	Half-Backs.	S. R. Harrison
A. Hall	"	I. S. Gabe
B. Parham (capt.)	"	H. G. Monteith
W. Johns	Forwards.	E. McEwan
A. Hawker	"	G. M. Chapman
F. Pegler	"	J. E. McHaffey
H. Collins	"	B. E. Ingleby
G. Vears	"	H. Gibson
J. Merchant	"	W. C. Hodges
W. Holder	"	W. G. Parkinson

Referee : Mr. A. J. Lawes (Bristol).

THE GAME.

Gloucester lost the toss, and Parham kicked off. An exchange of kicks followed, ending in Romans finding touch at the centre. From the first scrum formed the visitors got possession, but a loose pass by Gabe went wide of Harrison and nothing resulted.

The Medicos forwards were soon prominent with a dashing loose burst, but the city backs replied with some neat passing. The ball got across to Hudson, who re-passed, but "Whacker" Smith was collared. Heeling by the Gloucester forwards saw Hall pick up, but his pass was intercepted by an opponent, who ran down. Romans collared his man, but he managed to re-pass to a confrere, who crossed in the corner. The place-kick failed.

Gloucester dropped out, and Stephens, with the return, sent to Woods, who was pulled down. In some loose work Hawker secured, and punted across, but the ball went to touch. From the ensuing scrum Hall set his three-quarters going, and Hudson, nicely fed by C. Smith, had a dash for the corner, but he was held outside.

The Hospital worked out with a loose rush, and centre play followed. A slow pass out from the scrum by Hall was taken by a Hospital forward, who dribbled to the home 25. From a long throw out a visitor secured and passed out to Palmer, who dodged prettily and nearly beat the defence. Gloucester were hard pressed, but a timely punt by F. Smith brought relief.

Hesitation by Hudson lost a possible opening, and the ball subsequently getting loose, the Londoners kicked down the field. Pegler, in trying to pick up, kicked the ball over his own line, and a scrum was ordered on the home 25. Gloucester got away with some neat exchanges, and Hudson put in a strong run and re-pass, but the Hospital saved. In the next minute Stephens fed H. Smith, who raced for the line with F. Smith in attendance, but the centre tried to cut inside, and was collared.

The Gloucester forwards went very close after this, Vears and Holder being prominent. Then the City halves got the ball out, but with a clear opening for Hudson the wing man failed to take the ball – a bad miss. Gloucester lost further ground by wild passing, and a splendid kick by a visitor found touch in the City half. Romans was prominent with a good touch kick, which took play to mid-field.

Hudson was painfully slow in gathering the ball in the open, and a Londoner was allowed to come through to Romans, who picked up neatly and got in a lovely touch kick. Some scrambling forward play ensued, but at length Hall opened out, and the three Smiths in turn handled. F. Smith punted over Vernon's head, but Woods ran the ball to touch.

Again the City forwards heeled, but off-side by "Whacker" Smith got Gloucester penalised, and with the kick the visitors reached the home end. From a line-out the Gloucester forwards burst away, and the ball was subsequently taken over the line, but only a minor resulted.

On the drop-out Stephens and Johns were conspicuous with some good footwork, which severely tested the defence, but Woods cleared nicely. Then Holder misfielded, and the Hospital again secured a footing at mid-field. Here from the throw-out Holder secured, and after a short burst handed to H. Smith. The latter raced clear away to Woods, and then yielding the ball to Hudson the latter crossed far out. Romans failed at goal.

After the re-start Gloucester had the better of the exchanges and quickly forced another minor. The Londoners dropped out, and "Whacker" Smith put in a fine return, and following up, prevented a return. A scrum was formed near the Hospital line, and the ball coming out Stephens picked up and nipped over smartly. Romans goaled, and thus gave Gloucester the lead.

The Hospital resumed from the centre, Stephens replying to mid-field, where Parham secured, but he was at once floored. The ball became loose, and Lloyd gathering he punted finely to touch.

A spell of even play ensued, till Gabe robbed Hall of possession at the scrum and started an attack. Vears, however, turned the ball to touch when the movement looked dangerous. Half-time was then called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 goal, 1 try
Hospital 1 try

The Hospital re-started, and the first item of interest was a loose rush by the Medicos, which took some stopping. In his own 25 Hall passed back, and the ball being snapped up by Gabe, he was only held up on the verge of the line. The visitors lost the position by faulty handling, and Hudson kicked clear.

A useful punt by Hudson gained further headway, but later "Whacker" Smith kicked over the line, and Woods touched down. The Londoners, with big kicks, held a slight advantage on the drop-out, but a flying kick by F. Smith went to Palmer, who was upset by the Gloucester left wing. The ball rolled clear, and "Whacker" Smith and a couple of forwards dribbled on. Woods saved, but almost immediately Holder gathered and sent to Hudson, but a forward pass was ruled. From a scrum Hall gained possession and feinting to pass cut through. He was partially collared, but shook his opponents off, and went clean under the posts with a good try. Romans added the extra points.

Romans returned well to the kick-off, and later "Whacker" Smith followed up a kick and prevented a reply. The visitors came away from their own half with a passing run, but Palmer could not clear. Romans, with a lovely kick, found touch in the Hospital half, and here Gloucester had a possible chance, but it was not accepted. Woods picked up near his line and burst through, but in trying to kick he lost the ball.

There was a slight delay owing to a player having his knickers torn, and on resuming Gloucester were early afforded an opportunity of scoring. A mistake by Woods enabled Parham to field with a clear opening, but he stumbled and was collared.

The City, however, should have scored immediately after, but again they threw away their chances by failure to hold. Ensuing play was in the Hospital 25, and Hall, Stephens, H. Smith, and F. Smith took part in a passing movement which nearly took the latter over. Some dashing forward work was exhibited by the Londoners, and they cleared from a dangerous position.

Gloucester replied with similar tactics, but the visitors reached the centre again by the aid of a series of exchanges. For off-side by Collins Gloucester were penalised, but Woods' kick for goal fell short. The City soon worked to the centre, where another penalty was awarded the Hospital. Following this the home backs had a couple of bouts of passing, but though the handling was smart not much ground was gained.

The Hospital paid a brief visit to the home end, but they were sent back, and Gloucester had another spell of attacking. Once the defence appeared beaten, and Johns made a gallant effort to cross, but he was tackled outside. Using their feet well the Hospital gained more favourable quarters, and Hudson being at fault they reached the centre. Here Holder and Hall were knocked out, but were able to resume.

Ensuing play was of an even nature, but was very scrambling at times. A long kick over the line by Lloyd eventually caused Romans to kick dead. Following up the drop-out the Gloucester forwards secured possession, and had an apparent chance, but Woods saved in daring fashion.

Gloucester played up strongly to increase their lead, and a combined forward burst promised well. Woods, however, again saved. Before the end Hudson might have scored had he gone straight for the line, but he tried to double inside and was easily stopped. To the end Gloucester had the better of the exchanges, but failed to add to their score.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 goals, 1 try (13 points)
Hospital 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

It was a rousing game and pleasantly contested, but play was too scrambling to be regarded as a good exhibition of Rugby football. Gloucester won by a margin of ten points, and though the City deserved their win their display left a lot to be desired. The Medicos had a powerful forward division, and their footwork, keen tackling, and general all-round effectiveness often caused danger to the home lines.

Gloucester were again caught napping right at the start of the game, and at other points in the contest numerous mistakes were made. In the scrums the City generally held the advantage, and the men were occasionally good in the loose, but cleverness and skill were at a discount when it came to scoring. Holder, Johns, Parham, and Vears were very prominent in all departments for the City; whilst Monteith, Ingleby, and Hodges were best for the Hospital.

At half-back Hall was slow at times in getting the ball away, and more than once he was beaten by Gabe. The Gloucesterian, however, did good work in other directions, and his try was a capital individual effort. Stephens, back in his old place at outside half, fumbled his passes at the start, but later he settled down, and his transfers were always well timed.

The experiment of playing H. Smith at centre proved a success, and the try credited to Hudson was largely due to the A team captain. "Whacker" Smith proved a capable partner for his brother, and was often prominent for good work. Hudson was again off-colour, and just now he is not to be compared with the Hudson of last season. He was well served by his centre to-day, but the International made poor use of his opportunities.

F. Smith, on the right wing, made two or three praiseworthy dashes for the line, and only just failed in his efforts to pierce the defence. Romans was in good form at back, and Woods, the visiting custodian, also played a capital game.

The Hospital backs had pace and kicked well, but did not show much cleverness in attack. Lloyd was a difficult man to tackle, and Palmer proved slippery, but the other couple were not over prominent.

Like Gloucester the men handled poorly at times. Gabe was a hard worker at the scrum, and he had a useful partner in Harrison. The Hospital team created a very favourable impression, and it would be a good thing if the fixture could be made an annual one.

SOUTH END v. GLOUCESTER A.

Gloucester A 2 tries (6 points)
South End Nil

T. Guy and Holland scored.