

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1906.

TO-DAY'S MATCHES.

GLOUCESTER v. STROUD.

GOTHAMITES LEAD AT THE INTERVAL.

BUT RETIRE BEATEN BY SEVEN POINTS.

The visit of the Gloucester team to Fromehall as usual proved a popular attraction in Stroud.

Both clubs had absentees owing to the county engagement, but two good sides took the field as follows : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	STROUD.
G. Romans	Backs.	C. Harrington
L. Vears	Three-Quarter	A. W. Gorin
H. Smith	Backs.	T. Cull
C. Smith	"	W. Pitt
F. Smith	"	C. Smith
J. Stephens	Half-Backs.	W. Cull (capt.)
A. Hall	"	B. Andrews
B. Parham (capt.)	Forwards.	F. Westbury
H. Collins	"	F. Conian
G. Vears	"	H. Vickeridge
F. Pegler	"	R. Craddock
J. Merchant	"	G. Denley
A. Purton	"	B. Fisher
A. Hawker	"	H. Aston
W. Johns	"	W. Watkins

Referee : Mr. F. W. Nicholls (Leicester).

THE GAME

Previous to the match the Stroud Town Band (Mr. Clissold conducting) rendered selections of music. It was unfortunate that heavy rain fell up to a short while before the start, which prevented many from journeying from Gloucester and made the ground soft and greasy. The grandstand was well patronised, and there was a splendid attendance on the popular side of the field. The start was delayed by the late arrival of a couple of the home team.

Parham started for Gloucester, Pitt returning to A. Hall, who misfielded, and play settled at the centre. Stroud were a man short, Gorin being the absentee. This was a great misfortune, still Stroud buckled to and had the better of the opening stages. Andrews opened out, and W. Cull kicked prettily to Romans who was collared in possession. Excitement ruled high as Andrews fielded a short kick by H. Smith and appeared likely to get through. He did not have pace enough, Whacker Smith hauling him down from behind.

Gloucester got the ball but Stroud smothered the effort, and T. Cull got down to Romans who could only get in a poor reply to touch. Gloucester were the stronger in the scrums and forced play to the centre. Here T. Cull got possession and made a fine run to Gloucester's 25, where he was grounded by F. Smith. Good exchange kicking by Romans and Harrington resulted in the former gaining the advantage, but Stroud rushed back splendidly to their opponents' 25, when Gorin took the field amid cheers.

Both sides were playing at high pressure, and Gloucester infringing Harrington had a shot for goal. He made a splendid attempt, Romans fielding in front of goal. Running across he found touch finely at the centre. Here Andrews pluckily stopped a rush and Stephens charged down a kick by W. Cull. Things looked promising for Gloucester, but Smith came to the rescue. Andrews spoiled Hall's attempt to open out, and Cull kicked the ball to the centre.

Here the Stroud forwards came through, Conian leading a fine dribble into the visitors' half. H. Smith turned the ball to touch. Stroud got possession in the line out on the 25 mark, but the tackling was too good. However, there was enthusiasm the next minute as Stroud opened up. W. Cull threw wide to his brother Tom who scored a brilliant try under the posts. Harrington failed at goal.

Gloucester dropped out, Stroud working dangerously near the line. Unfortunately the ball struck the referee, or another try might have resulted. Andrews returned a kick to Romans who knocked on close to his goal line. Stroud kept up the pressure and Cull missed a certain chance by failure to hold the greasy ball. The next minute the ball was rushed over the line, Hall conceding a minor.

Gloucester's front worked out to mid-field, but immediately the Stroud lot, led by Cull, rushed down to Romans and it was really marvellous there was no score. T. Cull was knocked out in the movement but was able to resume in about a minute.

Gloucester got away by kicking. However, Stroud again attacked hotly, Romans averting disaster in a very lucky manner. Stroud got off-side following a kick by Harrington and the same player followed up a flying kick and it appeared as if Stroud would get through, but Lindsay Vears stopped them. Gloucester tried hard to get away but the defence was keen, and Harrington gave a good display of kicking.

Gloucester gained the Stroud half for the second time but were not allowed to go far, being almost immediately repulsed by the kicking of the Stroud backs. Gloucester replied with a fine round of passing from the scrum, but Vears knocked on at the centre. Westbury opened up for Stroud and more neat passing was seen, a knock-on spoiling the effort.

The next minute T. Cull broke through splendidly and a score appeared certain. Cull, however, was going at such terrific speed that Gorin was unable to accept the pass and a certain score was lost. Then amid great excitement Stroud attacked hotly, and Romans had to concede a minor.

Gloucester dropped out and a big kick by Romans subsequently sent play to the Stroud half. Here the homesters put their shoulders to the wheel and Gloucester were forced to defend hard which they were doing when the interval arrived.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Stroud 1 try
Gloucester Nil

Gloucester had the advantage of the slope in the second half. Westbury restarted for the homesters, play settling down in the visitors' half. Gloucester wheeled beautifully, and Stroud were soon in a tight position. Harrington saved fearlessly. Gloucester got possession in the scrum, and a bout of passing appeared promising until F. Smith knocked on.

Gloucester's front rushed nicely, and Harrington was forced to concede a minor in self-defence. Stroud dropped out, and G. Romans replied grandly to touch. Gloucester's half-backs opened out, and a splendid run by H. Smith resulted in L. Vears scoring finely in the corner. Romans failed at goal, and this made matters level.

There was great excitement when Stroud dropped out. Harrington exhibited splendid kicking power, but almost immediately a misunderstanding between Goring and another Stroud player gave Gloucester another fine chance. Hall kicked down the ground, and although Gorin made a great effort to stop the score, F. Smith was able to score in the bottom corner. Romans made a grand but unsuccessful attempt at goal. This took the steam out of the All Whites, whose efforts flagged, for almost immediately "Whacker" Smith, who had nearly scored a moment or so before, dropped a pretty goal.

Westbury restarted from the centre, and Stroud looked like recovering from their fright, but the Gloucester defence was sound. Both sides showed pretty footwork, Stroud working to Romans on one occasion, but the movement was stopped by C. Smith running back and falling on the ball. F. Smith put in a lovely touch finder in Stroud's half.

Some severe scrummaging took place in the Stroud 25. Stroud came out on top, but Romans, following up a tremendously high kick, caused play to proceed right on Stroud's line. The Gotham front eased the pressure, and Smith and others improving on the movement, the centre was reached, where several over-ran the ball with only Romans to beat.

Trouble arose over on the popular side, [page damaged/torn; words missing] result was that Parham and C. Smith [words missing] orders. Gorin was prominent in [words missing] favoured Gloucester. Johns [words missing] away splendidly, but Harrington [words missing] fine save. Craddock took [words missing] wing, and tackled well. [words missing] in the loose [words missing] Gorin finding [words missing] Stroud half, where Gloucester [words missing] off-side at the scrum. [words missing] and for a time ruled [words missing] good work. [words missing] Failure [words missing] held the greasy ball let [words missing] but the forwards [words missing] to come away, and [words missing] cut out to prevent [words missing] the Gothamites [words missing] play had degenerated [words missing] were ordered by [words missing] play.

Shortly after "No side" sounded, with the game in the centre of the field of play.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal (d) 2 tries (10 points)
Stroud 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

(BY OUR STROUD CORRESPONDENT)

Fast and exciting, the game abounded in interesting incidents, both sides being evidently worked up to concert pitch, and it was a great pity that eventually some of the players lost their tempers, with the result that not less than four men, two of each club, received marching orders.

Truly a very unsatisfactory state of things, and the writer would be failing in his duty if he did not at once say that certain of the Gloucester players were largely responsible.

The writer may be wrong, but it did really appear as if Parham was cautioned once or twice before the referee reverted to severe measures. It would have surprised nobody if Johns had received similar attention. These are strong remarks, but they are nevertheless true.

However, to pass on to a more congenial topic it must be at once confessed that Gloucester deserved their victory, simply and solely because they were prompt to take advantage of their opportunities.

Taking the game as a whole, the trend of play was fairly well balanced, although Stroud were all over the Citizens in the opening half, during which they ought to have scored a dozen points at least.

Gloucester had the better of the argument after the interval, though by no means to the same extent as Stroud before half-time. Romans played a fine game at full-back for the winners, and "Whacker" Smith was a tower of strength at centre three-quarter, with "Tinker" Smith a good second.

Hall and Stephens worked well together at half, and Collins, Vears, Johns, and Parham were conspicuous amongst the forwards. For Stroud, Westbury, Conian, Craddock, and Vickeridge were the best though the others worked exceedingly well.

Andrews and Cull were as smart as the opposing pair; Tom Cull and Pitt rendered yeoman service at centre three-quarter; Goring also doing splendidly.

C. Harrington, who has only played once before this season, generally caught and fielded the ball excellently, and kicked a good length, whilst he was fearless in stopping rushes.

GLOUCESTER A v. ST. MARK'S.

PLAYER'S FINGER BROKEN.

This match was played at Kingsholm before a small attendance in drizzling rain. Both sides were well represented.

Early on the Seconds pressed, but by the kick and rush style the Saints' relieved. Twice their centres cut through nicely, but the tackling was sure and play was in neutral territory for some time. Bloxsome came through well with a follow up, but he kicked a bit too hard and the ball went dead, thus losing a certain try.

Bloxsome nearly ran through but Cook effected a fine tackle at the corner flag. The game was of a give and take order with very little of interest to record to the half-time when there was no score.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	Nil
St. Mark's	Nil

Play opened evenly in the second half. St. Mark's had two marks and C. Cook took the kicks but he failed to negotiate at long range. St. Mark's were nearly in from a dangerous rush, but Gloucester relieved by touch-kicking. St. Mark's returned to the attack and J. Cooke got over but the pass was ruled forward.

St. Mark's were now having the best of matters and kept the Seconds pretty busy defending. Eventually, however, they broke away and carried the game to the other end. The game fluctuated pretty evenly after this to the call of time, when a hard fought game ended in a point-less draw.

H. Taylor (St. Mark's) had the misfortune to sustain a badly broken finger on the left hand, and after receiving attention from the Ambulance men on the ground he was taken to the Infirmary.

The game calls for little comment. The packs of forwards were about evenly matched, and it was in this department that the greater portion of the work was done.

"Ninny" Cook played a sterling game at full back for the Saints'.

RESULT :

Gloucester A Nil
St. Mark's Nil

JC