

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1906.

TO-DAY'S MATCHES.

GLOUCESTER v. LONDON WELSH.

GREAT GAME AT LEYTON.

SPLENDID VICTORY FOR THE CITIZENS.

Gloucester paid their annual visit to London to-day when they met London Welsh on the Essex County Cricket Ground at Leyton. Unfortunately the City were very weakly represented behind the scrimmage. Wood's serious injury at Exeter last week in the county match kept him out of the team, and Hudson was unable to make the journey. In addition Gent and E. Hall are still hors de combat, so that Gloucester had to again rely largely on reserves. London Welsh, on the other hand, had a powerful side out, being practically the same team that defeated Blackheath last week.

The teams were : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	LONDON WELSH.
G. Romans	Backs.	J. T. Timmins
E. Butler	Three-Quarter	T. J. David
J. Stephens	Backs.	C. E. Lewis
C. Smith	"	G. Jones
F. Smith	"	*E. T. Morgan
A. Hall	Half-Backs.	W. L. Morgan
H. Smith	"	C. F. Rowlands
B. Parham (capt.)	"	*A. F. Harding
W. Johns	Forwards.	*J. F. Williams
W. Holder	"	J. C. Jenkins
G. Vears	"	F. H. Clay
F. Pegler	"	H. S. Coppock
G. Matthews	"	C. T. Hawkins
H. Collins	"	H. G. Thomas
A. Hawker	"	C. Thompson
		* Internationals

Referee : Mr. — . Sloper (London Society of Referees).

THE GAME.

Heavy rain had fallen at Leyton during the morning, and the ground was very heavy. The weather affected the attendance, and there were only about a couple of hundred spectators present.

Harding kicked off and the home forwards were early prominent with a dashing dribble, which caused Romans some trouble. Gloucester worked out with a useful kick, but Timmins returned, and Holder failing to gather, the Welshmen were again dangerous. With a loose rush Gloucester relieved, but they were beaten back, and their line narrowly escaped. Wild passing by Rowlands enabled H. Smith to clear, but Timmins gathered and sent to touch at the centre.

Even play followed, but good work in the line-out by Holder gave Gloucester an advantage. Owing to the greasy state of the ground it was difficult to handle the ball, but A. Hall at length opened out. The ball went nicely among the backs to Butler, who missed. F. Smith, however, gathered and punted to Timmins, who found touch at his 25. From a kick by the same player Morgan dribbled through, but Romans saved with a flying kick.

From a pass by Hall, H. Smith tricked the defence cleverly and passed to Butler, who sent wide to C. Smith, but the transfer was not taken and a possible chance of scoring was lost. Gloucester still attacked, and H. Smith made another good effort, but E. Morgan spoiled the passing. Dashing forward work by the City promised well, but the visitors lost ground through attempting to handle. Parham, with a big punt, put his side in a good position, and the Welshmen subsequently only just stopped a score.

The game was vigorously contested and in favour of Gloucester, whose forwards were doing grandly in all departments. Butler was collared in possession, but F. Smith recovered and kicked cleverly. Play was wholly confined to the Welsh half, and Timmins fumbling a kick Gloucester only just lost a try under the posts.

The Welsh gradually eased the pressure, and Morgan later tried to clear, but he was smothered by the City forwards. A strong burst by the home front, Harding being prominent, brought the game to mid-field, where operations were hotly contested.

Gloucester eventually assumed the upper hand again, and dribbled over the line, Timmins touching down in the nick of time. After the drop-out H. Smith broke away brilliantly and ran almost to the line, when he parted to F. Smith, who was collared from behind. After this the Welshmen played up strongly, but Romans relieved from his line with a grand touch-kick. At half-time Gloucester were pressing.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester Nil
London Welsh Nil

Parham restarted, Gloucester now having to face the wind. The kick went to Lewis, who returned with a huge punt which Romans had to run back to field. Play settled in the Gloucester quarter, where Rowlands marked from a throw-out, but Harding failed at goal, a mark resulting.

Romans' drop-out was charged down, but Butler was handy and kicked to touch. Wheeling a scrum, the City forwards came away grandly more than half the length of the field, Rowlands saving in daring style. Harding with a useful kick gave the Welshmen an advantage, but the Gloucester pack with another terrific burst took the ball to Timmins, Johns tackling the latter in grand style.

The Welsh defence was severely tried, and from a clever cross-kick by Stephens, Collins picked up and sent H. Smith over, but the transfer was ruled forward. From the subsequent scrum H. Smith picked up and, passing to Collins, the latter forced himself over with a good try. Romans failed at goal.

The Welshmen restarted, and play was fast and furious. Clever handling by the home team gave Morgan a chance, but the International was beautifully tackled by A. Hall.

Later Holder intercepted a transfer, and Timmins was beaten by a kick, but Rowlands got back and saved. Ensuing play was contested at a great pace, but Gloucester were performing in great style in all departments.

From a pass by Hall, H. Smith made another fine opening, but something went amiss. Gloucester confined operations for several minutes to their opponents' end, but Morgan with a lucky kick punted down, and C. Smith was only able to get in a poor return.

Gloucester soon worked out of danger, and then followed a lovely bit of combination between the backs and forwards, ending in F. Smith being pulled down a yard outside. Immediately after Butler was smothered when a passing movement looked promising. The Welshmen worked strenuously to raise the siege, and eventually a splendid loose rush took them to the centre.

Later Lewis found touch close to the Gloucester line, but the City staved off the attack in capital style. Then twice in quick succession Lewis forced a minor with a kick over the line. The last five minutes were very exciting, the Welshmen making desperate efforts to equalise. The Gloucester defence, however, was superb.

Before the end the City attacked again. David intercepted a pass and ran clean to Romans, who effected a glorious tackle. Stephens picked up and ran back, and Gloucester nearly scored again.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 try (3 points)
London Welsh Nil

REMARKS.

The game was splendidly contested, and the last five minutes provided plenty of excitement. Gloucester were clearly the better team, and on the day's play should have won by a larger margin.

The whole team worked grandly, and the forwards have seldom given a finer display. In all departments the City pack were seen to advantage, but their loose work was immense. The whole eight deserve credit for the performance, but if one man should be mentioned it is Holder, who stood out as the best forward on the field.

At half Hall and Hubert Smith were a great success, the latter being frequently dangerous with his sharp dashes from the scrum. The three-quarters all played soundly, and were fully equal to the opposition.

Morgan was at fault more than once for the Welshmen, but he was too well marked to do much. Lewis was smart, but very selfish. Romans gave a good display at full back, and was in advance of Timmins.

Gloucester's win was received with enthusiasm, and certainly it was a splendid achievement to meet such a powerful side with a weakened fifteen. The victory should do the club a lot of good.

GLOUCESTER A v. SWINDON.

RUNAWAY WIN AT KINGSHOLM.

This match was played at Kingsholm before a small crowd in windy weather. Gloucester had wind and sun against them in the first half, but they opened strongly and had most of the play.

After about ten minutes Swindon were penalised for off-side, and Purton landed a beautiful penalty goal.

From a penalty for a foul Purton kicked well across, and Dix gathering dived over with a try which Purton improved with a good kick.

Gloucester continued to have the best of matters, and Pearce put Cole over nicely but the latter tried to get behind the posts and was held up, a five yards scrum being ordered. Even play followed.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 2 goals (1 p)
Swindon Nil

In the second half Gloucester had matters practically their own way, Swindon only once getting beyond half-way after the kick-off.

Bloxsome, Dix, Hollands, and Bridges scored tries, three of which Purton converted – the last a grand kick – and Welshman, the full back, dropped a clever goal.

Individual comment on a game of such a nature is hardly necessary, but the display of Dix at outstanding half[*sic*] was really excellent.

RESULT :
Glo'ster A 6 goals (1 d, 1 p), 1 try (30)
Swindon Nil.