

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1923.

FOOTBALL.

FREE SCORING AT KINGSHOLM.

GLOUCESTER TOO CLEVER FOR THE OLD BLUES.

CAPT. AYLIFFE'S SUCCESSFUL GOAL KICKING.

The first visit of the Old Blues – old boys of Christ's Hospital School – to Kingsholm attracted a large crowd, the match having been set aside by the Gloucester F.C. for the benefit of the Royal Infirmary.

Gloucester were short of Voyce and Millington (engaged in the International trial) and Roderick (injured), but fielded a strong team.

The vacancy at outside half was filled by Hughes – who has come to be regarded as the utility player of the team, having already figured at centre and wing three-quarter and scrum half – and Bayliss and Rea were included in the pack.

The Old Blues, who adopted the eight-back game, brought a good side, though H. W. Franklin (who had a trial with Oxford, and played against Gloucester in November) was not available at full back.

The afternoon turned out beautifully fine, and despite the heavy rains during the week the ground had recovered splendidly and was in good condition.

The teams were : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : J. C. Collett.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. A. Brown, S. Stone, A. M. David, and S. R. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS : T. Gough and E. H. Hughes.

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe (captain), S. Bayliss, G. Holford, S. Smart, A. Hall, T. Coulson, H. W. Collier, and A. Rea.

OLD BLUES.

BACK : A. A. Jones.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. H. Coulson, R. C. Hare, A. C. Bennett, and E. F. G. Haig.

HALF-BACKS : C. D. Wales, S. H. Wales, and E. G. Barrett.

FORWARDS : G. T. E. Cockerill, E. G. Moore, J. W. Young, D. F. Hay, C. T. W. Hodgson, P. Mayne, and W. B. Poskitt.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis (Cheltenham).

THE GAME.

The visitors, an athletic-looking set of players though on the light side, had a hearty reception from the crowd. Winning the toss Cockerill (the Surrey county player) deputed Gloucester to start with the sun in their faces. Following the kick-off there was an exchange of kicks, ending in the ball going out of play at midfield.

A Gloucester forward opening out from the loose to Crowther, the latter punted up the field, and Jones misjudging the bounce of the ball the City forwards tried hard to gather, but a visitor luckily kicked to touch. Scrappy play followed until David broke away with a fine run which took him close up to the line. He then passed to Stone, but the latter just failed to cross. A minute later the Gloucester backs were again in possession, and though the pass was low and awkward, Crowther picked up and dashed over with a corner try. Collett failed to negotiate.

On the restart the Old Blues showed up with some neat exchanges forward, and the home half was visited. Working well together the Londoners had a possible chance, but a knock-on occurred. Gough brought relief with a useful punt, and later Hughes improved with a dodgy run, but he succumbed to numbers.

Gloucester gained headway with loose footwork, and David came into prominence with another dashing effort, but he was eventually collared and his pass went forward. The City dominated the play, and out of some loose play Coulson picked up, and feinting to pass completely deceived the opposition and dashed over the line with a good try. Collett again missed the goal points.

The Old Blues restarted and at once gained a footing in the home 25. Here Gloucester were penalised, but Mayne's shot for goal dropped short. David received and cut through beautifully, finally getting in a good kick to midfield. The Old Blues, however, returned, but Hughes cleverly relieved from near his line.

Gloucester now shone in a good passing bout, David and Stone both doing well, but the pass back inside was forward. The City forwards were distinguished with a fine bit of footwork, but Jones gathered the ball from their feet in wonderful style and sent to touch. Play was bright and open, but there was a good deal of uncertainty in the handling.

Twice the good tackling of the Londoners broke up home passing, and then a long kick down forced Hall to run back to save. This he did effectually, beating a couple of opponents and starting a bout of passing, which, however, did not carry far. Clever work by the Old Blues enabled them to have a fair share of the play, but the home defence was very sound. The Gloucester forwards were doing well in the loose, and the backs also showed up cleverly, but there was not sufficient finish to the movements. Crowther showed splendid dash on one occasion on the left wing, beating several opponents cleverly and running hard, but Jones proved a stumbling block.

Hughes was next in evidence with a neat effort and punt, but he just failed to get up to regain possession. Play hovered in the centre for a few minutes, until Gough opened out to Hughes, who fed Stone. The latter yielded to David, and the Oxonian with a beautiful run beat the opposition with wonderful artistry, and finished up a great effort from half-way with a try behind the posts. Ayliffe kicked a goal, and Gloucester led by 11 points.

Immediately on resuming the City backs were in motion, Stone serving Brown nicely, but the latter could not clear Jones. He passed inside, and Smart took the ball over the line, but could not reach it before it passed the dead ball mark. The drop-out saw Stone bring off a capital run and pass to Brown, but though the latter punted with judgment across, Jones robbed the home forwards and got the ball to touch.

The Old Blues continued to play a keen game, but they were overpowered in front. A short dash by Hughes and pass to Ayliffe enabled the City captain to make headway, but Jones again checked well. Gloucester, however, continued on the attack, and from a long line-out the ball became loose. Hughes snapped it up, and though partly collared shook himself free and went over with the fourth try. Ayliffe again converted.

The Old Blues made a sharp attack on the restart, and came very near scoring in the corner. The forwards eased from a dangerous situation, and Stone and Ayliffe further improved, play reaching the centre.

From this point the visitors opened out from a kick up the field, and the ball being sent to Bennett, the right wing brought off a dashing burst down the touch-line, just failing to a hurricane tackle by Collett almost on the line. From a scrum which followed close in Gough was penalised for off-side, and Barrett opened the Old Blues' account with a penalty goal from the easy position.

Gloucester restarted, but the Old Blues got on the attack, and following a clever bit of combination Barrett made a good opening for C. Wales, who scored behind the posts amidst hearty cheering. Barrett converted.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
GLOUCESTER 2 goals, 2 tries
OLD BLUES 2 goals (1p)

Though outplayed for a greater part of the first half, the Old Blues had played keenly throughout, and their two scores were well deserved. Gloucester failed to respond to the kick-off, but the home team quickly recovered. W. H. Coulson failing to gather from a kick, he was collared, and though he passed, his colleague lost the ball. Holford picked up and was making a fine opening when the whistle went for off-side.

The penalty gave the Old Blues a good slice of ground, but an attack on the Gloucester left only just failed in a try to Brown. Loose footwork by the Old Blues brought them clear to Collett, who saved luckily. The visitors were off again soon afterwards with a loose rush, but a Gloucester player punted back, the ball rolling to touch a few yards from the line.

The Londoners with a sharp rush worked out of danger, and clever passing saw Coulson make off down touch. Being pressed he passed inside, but the ball was knocked on by Brown, and went out of play. The City team were not doing so well this half, their play being very scrappy.

At length Crowther was given a chance, but he ran tamely into the full-back's arms, and with no one in support a good opening was lost. The game was fast and open, and David and the Stone made big efforts to cross, but the tackling was too good. By special efforts the Old Blues kept their line intact, and the brothers Wales were very smart in individual work. Collett twice sent the visitors back with big punts to touch, and another time he cross-kicked cleverly and put his men on side, but a visitor marked.

David, from a pass by Hughes, brought off a dazzling run, eluding the opposition very cleverly, but he was finally upset after working in front of goal. The ball became loose, and was taken by the Old Blues' front past the centre. Another dribble sent beyond Collett, who had to get back to save. He managed to gather and pass to Brown, who, though hampered, got in a kick to touch.

Subsequent play favoured the Old Blues, but at length Hughes picked up, and though partially held shook himself free and burst clean away to the full-back. He gave a nice pass to Holford, who had an open goal, but the old International lost the ball, and a certain try was lost.

The effort led to Gloucester gaining a good attacking position, and a try soon resulted. The visitors cleared to outside the 25, where Brown picked up, and with a dodgy run got into the open. Racing hard, he reached Jones, when he yielded to Crowther, who ran over and behind the posts. Ayliffe kicked his third goal.

The chief item of note on the restart was a piece of clever combination by the visiting backs. Hare ran to Collett, but held on too long, and being collared was forced to throw forward to his wing. For a few minutes the Old Blues looked likely to score, but they were beaten off. Gough opening out to Hughes, the latter fed David, but the Oxford Blue knocked on and a promising movement was stopped.

Gloucester, however, made headway, and following neat work by Gough, Hughes dashed to the line, when he lost the ball. He picked up again and touched down, but his try was not allowed. In the next minute, however, Brown distinguished himself with a dash through the defence, and a try behind the posts. Ayliffe added the goal points, and the tally read 26-8.

The game showed no slacking off on the re-start, and the crowd enjoyed the open character of the play. The Old Blues kept pluckily to their task, but they were beaten forward and seldom got the ball from the scrum. From a nicely-judged cross-kick by Brown, Hall scored near the posts, and Ayliffe again converted.

Gloucester got on the attack from the kick-off, Collier kicking into touch inside the 25. From a punt out by a visitor Brown gathered, and running hard for the corner crossed the line – a fine effort. Before the end another cross-punt by Brown enabled Rea to score near the posts, and Ayliffe converting, Gloucester recorded a big win by 39 points to 8.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 6 goals, 3 tries (39 pts.)
OLD BLUES 2 goals (1p) (8 pts.)

REMARKS.

The Old Blues put up a plucky contest, but their seven light forwards were overpowered for the most part, and the opportunities of the back division in attack were extremely limited. Both teams endeavoured to give the ball as much air as possible, and the result was some very bright and interesting football. As the score indicates, Gloucester were greatly superior, and nine times over the line suggests a weak defence.

The Old Blues, when they did get near an opponent tackled well, but too often the men were left guessing as to what was coming off, and David, Hughes, Stone, and Brown, in addition to several forwards, proved very elusive. No doubt the Londoners will profit by to-day's experience. In tackling Gloucester and other first-class provincial sides they have entered on an ambitious programme, but their visits should certainly prove of educational value.

Gloucester had one or two scrappy periods this afternoon, but on the whole the City players gave a good account of themselves. The forwards did practically what they liked in the tight scrums, and in the open the men were brilliant at times. Ayliffe was ever in the lead, and Coulson, Hall, Rea, and Bayliss were also very prominent.

Gough's improvement at Coventry last week was maintained to-day. He and Hughes worked well together, the latter proving one of the big successes of the afternoon. He seldom failed to take his passes, and in attack he gave the defence a particularly anxious time.

At three-quarter David and Stone did splendidly at centre. The Oxford Blue was at his very best to-day, and that one try of his was a masterpiece. There were many other occasions when David beat more than half the opposition, the defence being cleared with amazing facility.

On the respective wings Brown and Crowther utilised their chances with good effect, the former's two tries in the second half being exceedingly creditable efforts. Collett was very safe at full-back, and his kicking was at times of great length.

The Old Blues displayed an attractive style, but the extra man outside was of no special service. The forwards were good in the loose, and, led by Cockerill, they made many effective raids, but the half-backs saw little of the ball from the scrums.

The brothers Wales did some clever individual work and there were indications that with a free service of the ball the backs would prove dangerous.

Bennett, on the right wing, especially showed good dash, but his opportunities were very limited. Jones made some smart and effective clearances at full-back, and appeared best when severely tested.

The collection on the ground for the Royal Infirmary amounted to £16 17s. 8d. This will be added to the gate receipts, which, without any deduction for expenses, will be handed to the Institution. Mr. Curtis, the referee, gave his services free.

Next week: Pontypool, away ; Gloucester A v. Lydney A, at Kingsholm.

GLOUCESTER A v. OIL MILLS.

A DRAWN GAME.

Played at Hempsted. The Oil Mills scored in the first ten minutes through G. Mallard, who also converted. Shortly afterwards W. Pitt got over for Gloucester A.

A dropped goal scored by S. Tanner for the Mills quickly followed the restart. R. James kicked a good goal for Gloucester A from a penalty.

The second half was keenly contested, play being of a forward nature. Just before the close R. James kicked another penalty for Gloucester A.

RESULT :

Oil Mills	2 goals (1d) (9 points)
Gloucester A	2 goals (p), 1 try (9 points)