

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1925

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER 11 Pts.; GUY'S HOSPITAL 9 Pts.

CITY TRIUMPH IN FIERCE CONTEST

SPEEDY AND CLEVER HOSPITAL BACKS

GLOUCESTER FORWARDS DO WELL

Owing to a damaged heel, T. Voyce, the Gloucester captain, had to stand down for to-day's match with Guy's Hospital at Kingsholm. The vacancy was filled by G. Shaw, who has been doing well for the A team this season. Shaw is only 19 years of age, and started Rugby last year with West End A.

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Teams : —

GLOUCESTER

BACK : T. Millington.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. A. Brown, E. H. Hughes, E. L. Saxby, and S. R. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS : Dr. Taylor and R. Milliner.

FORWARDS : G. Shaw, F. W. Ayliffe, W. B. Scott, J. Read, M. Short, S. Duberley, J. Hemmings, and E. Triggs-Herbert.

GUY'S HOSPITAL

BACK : P. D. Spence.

THREE-QUARTERS : G. Clarke, J. G. Van Schalkwijk, C. L. Steyn, and G. Fellowes-Smith.

HALF-BACKS : T. Garland and V. R. Preen.

FORWARDS : W. H. Myburgh, E. Hutchinson, J. Popplewell, W. Hops, C. Kurtz, J. H. Richmond, J. Schabert, and J. D. Vissir.

Referee : Mr. J. Southby (Bristol).

THE GAME

Guy's lost the toss, and kicking off facing the sun there was no reply to the start, and early on the Hospital backs handled, Steyn sending to touch in the home half. Hemmings led a fine dribble of the home forwards to beyond the centre, and a short punt by Scott put Gloucester further down. Guy's, however, quickly recovered with neat handling and a cross-kick by Steyn, which forced the City well back.

From a line-out a visitor secured and burst clean away, but a bad pass spoiled a glorious opening. Gloucester were severely pressed, and Guy's had another opening, but Millington tackled finely. The Hospital continued to exert pressure, and Gloucester were sorely pressed. Steyn with a clever run beat the defence cheaply, but with a certain try in view he passed wildly.

With useful kicking Gloucester worked out of danger, and mistakes by the visitors lost further ground. The game was fast and open, Guy's continually getting the ball in the scrums, and handling at every opportunity. The home tackling was weak at times, and there were shouts of "Tackle low, Gloucester."

Millington, with a lovely touch-finder, placed Gloucester well down, but the position was quickly lost. A kick through and follow up by Crowther saw Spence tackled in possession, but later Guy's opened out nicely from the loose. The ball got across to Clarke on the right, but he was well watched by Brown and forced into touch.

Saxby was prominent with some good work, and the City forwards rushing well Guy's were pressed at their 25. Gloucester, however, failed to retain their position, and Guy's took up the attack again. From the scrum the visiting backs were set going, and Clarke, the last to receive, sprinted hard for the line. He was met and tackled by Millington, but the ball got loose and PREEN was credited with a try. Hutchinson failed at goal.

Gloucester restarted, and early on Hughes came into prominence with a lovely run and cross-kick. Ayliffe, well up, robbed Spence of the ball which rolled away, and was gathered by a Gloucester forward. The latter made a desperate plunge for the mark, but was tackled outside, and a scrum was ordered. Here Guy's were penalised, but Millington, from a good position, shot wide.

The Hospital forwards were getting the ball nearly every time in the scrum, and the backs twice broke away, but Saxby and later Hughes broke up the movements with effective tackling. So far, however, there was no question as to the extra cleverness possessed by Guy's behind, and Gloucester were kept busily employed chasing their opponents.

From a line-out Hutchinson gathered and dashed away, finally punting hard to the line, where Millington conceded a minor. On the drop-out Brown brought off a sharp dash, and Hughes improved further, but Guy's defence was too good. After Millington had just missed from another penalty kick, Guy's set up an attack on the right, but a long kick went over the line for a minor.

Gloucester showed up well on the restart, Taylor and Hughes being conspicuous. The latter was tackled off-side, and this time MILLINGTON successfully essayed a shot at goal, covering the cross-bar with a beautiful kick. The score placed the teams on a level, and the game was resumed with increased vigour. Gloucester were doing fine work forward in the loose, but the ground gained was quickly recovered by the clever work of the Hospital backs.

After a spell of close work in the home half, Milliner opened out from the loose, and Taylor brought off a brilliant cut through, but nothing resulted. The effort, however, led to a strong aggressive movement by the home forwards, the ball eventually going into touch-in-goal. From this point to the interval play was contested in the Hospital half, but nothing of incident occurred.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (p)
GUY'S HOSPITAL 1 try

Gloucester were a trifle lucky in changing over on level terms, for Guy's had the better of the play. A number of movements were taken part in by the visiting backs, but though there was speed and cleverness, finish and penetration were lacking. The City forwards had certainly saved the home team by their vigorous and robust play in the loose. Hughes had to receive more attention from the ambulance during the interval, and was not ready when the game was resumed.

Working well together Gloucester attacked from the kick-off, and the Hospital line was hotly assailed. Milliner and Taylor in turn tried hard to pierce the defence, but were stopped in time. Then a failure to take a pass by Saxby allowed Guy's to clear from a dangerous position.

Hughes now came back and immediately the Gloucester backs handled. Brown punted directly he received and from the kick Spence made his mark. Guy's cleared nicely, but the City forwards, with Crowther, dashed down touch and the latter was nearly over. Gloucester worked with great zest to gain a lead and their efforts were soon afterwards crowned with success, MILLINER darting over from a scrum close in. From the difficult position Millington failed.

This success encouraged Gloucester greatly, and they resumed with increased confidence. Inside his 25 Milliner opened out and Brown and Taylor passed and inter-passed, the movement gaining much ground. The City forwards, with Duberley in the van, rushed well and Guy's were forced back right on their line. Here there was a scramble, out of which MILLINER gathered and crossed with a couple of opponents on top of him. Millington landed a fine goal and Gloucester held the good lead of eight points.

The game showed no abatement in pace on the restart and early on the Guy's backs brought off a brilliant round of passing which ended at the home 25. Another series of exchanges followed by the visitors, and Fellowes-Smith looked well away, when he fell to a glorious tackle by Taylor.

Gloucester changed the position with strong footwork, and there was a spell of fast and open play, both sides shining. Saxby missed a sharp pass from Taylor at mid-field, and Preen picking up Guy's had a splendid chance, but again the defence proved too good. Another attack followed on the right, but this was also unsuccessful, and then Taylor, with a big punt sent well up the field. Crowther raced up and tackled Spence but was injured and had to be carried off. Hemmings was brought out to the wing position, and the battle was continued with great strenuousness.

The Gloucester forwards were doing wonderful work in the close exchanges, but Guy's were always dangerous when the ball got loose. Gloucester were holding their own well, when from passing Preen broke away beautifully and secured a nice opening. There were several neat transfers, ending in PREEN again receiving and scored a fine try. Hutchinson added the goal points, and the scores read 11-8 in Gloucester's favour.

A visitor was injured and had to go off, whilst Saxby had a damaged shoulder.

Guy's came into the picture immediately after the restart with a fine run by Fellowes-Smith, who raced away in fine style. He got to Millington, when he passed badly and a try was lost. The injured Guy's player now came back, and the game became fiercer than ever.

Gloucester, with a great forward effort, rushed right to the line, but Guy's defence was not to be beaten. Just before the end Guy's were awarded a penalty, and the kicker took a short punt, caught the ball and started a round of passing. The movement looked promising as the wing man raced away down touch, but a repass was not taken and a Gloucester player kicked to touch. Immediately "no side" was sounded.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER	2 goals (1p) 1 try (11 pts.)
GUY'S	1 goal 1 try (8 pts.)

REMARKS

To-day's contest furnished one of the fiercest games seen at Kingsholm for many a long day. Gloucester gained a narrow victory – a penalty goal decided the issue – but to the end the result was in doubt.

It was stirring football from start to finish, with the Gloucester forwards in great form and the Guy's backs delighting the crowd with some delightful open play. In the matter of actual attacks Guy's should have won this game; but though movements were initiated in clever style, and splendidly carried through up to a point, the penetrative ability one would expect from such experienced and speedy performers was lacking.

Both in combination and individual work there was no real comparison between the respective back divisions. Aided not a little by the way the ball was put in the scrum, the Guy's backs were continually placed in possession, and at times the home defence had a really hot time. By turning and swerving, Steyn and Preen were difficult to hold, but the Gloucester men made the mistake too often of going too high, and opponents frequently eluded their grasp. Later in the game the fault was recognised, and Taylor twice laid low a possible scorer by glorious tackles.

Guy's were all out to repeat their success of last season, and the side played with rare vim all through. As already indicated, the forwards held a big superiority in the scrums, and the home eight were seldom able to gain possession. But the City pack came into their own in the loose, and it was their fine work in this department that so successfully countered the aggressive tactics of the Guy's backs.

All the Gloucester forwards deserve credit for a really fine show against an opposition equally determined. Ayliffe, Read, Hemmings and Duberley were frequently noticeable for dashing work; Short, Scott and Triggs-Herbert were little inferior, and the recruit Shaw was by no means overshadowed in the fierce exchanges which ensued.

For Guy's Hutchinson, a hefty player, was an outstanding performer, and for a big man he showed good pace. It was the best display Guy's have given at Kingsholm, the tactics generally employed being more in keeping with the style of play adopted at Honor Oak; where Gloucester have never yet won a game.

Milliner again had an unthankful job to-day, for his work was mainly defensive. Yet with the few opportunities he had the Gloucester scrum worker performed admirably, and he contributed largely to the City's victory. Taylor did much better this afternoon than against Bristol, even if he failed to reach the standard he set up last season. His handling was none too certain, but he was quick to recover and his kicking was very helpful. There were one or two occasions when he cut through cleverly, but these efforts did not develop owing to the close tackling of the opposition.

Garland and Preen were a dangerous combination for Guy's, the former cultivating a good and clean service, both from heeling and the loose; whilst his partner was quick off the mark and had a keen eye for an opening. At three-quarter, Guy's held the advantage all through. The players were very fast and, for the most part, handled accurately; whilst Schalkwijk and Steyn kicked with splendid judgment. Clarke and Fellowes-Smith, on the wings, ran with determination, but, fortunately for Gloucester, they were well looked after by Brown and Crowther.

Both the Gloucester wings were damaged, but though Brown kept on the field it was apparent he was labouring under a handicap. Crowther was more unfortunate, and had to retire mid-way through the second half. The loss of a man at this stage was seriously felt, as it meant reducing the forwards by bringing Hemmings out. The latter did his best, but had not the pace to hold Fellowes-Smith.

Hughes and Saxby, too, were on the injured list during the game, and it says much for the City team that they were able to keep such a formidable opposition under with three members of the third line more or less crocked, and the fourth, a forward, out of position.

Hughes did one of the prettiest bits of play in the match when he feinted to pass to Crowther and then raced on the outside to gain a position from which a try might have resulted with a bit of luck.

Millington and Spence both accomplished excellent work at full back, and were well matched on the day's play.

Next week : Cardiff, at Kingsholm. Cardiff A away.

GLOUCESTER A v. BERRY HILL

CITY SECONDS WELL BEATEN IN THE FOREST

At Berry Hill. The home side kicked off, and were penalised in their own 25. Williams just missed the penalty kick. The home forwards made a fine rush to the Gloucester half, and W. Cooper scored a try in the corner, which Wilson failed to convert. Berry Hill again pressed, and Short scored between the posts, Wilson converting.

Half-time :

Berry Hill 8 points
Gloucester A Nil

On the re-start Berry Hill pressed, their forwards beating Gloucester in loose play. A good movement saw Madley over the line, but he was held up. From the ensuing scrum Gloucester broke away, and Redler put in a fine run to the full-back, and putting a short punt over his head, a certain try was lost, the ball rolling into touch. Hopcroft scored a fine try in the corner from some loose play. Berry Hill broke away, and Wilson kicked a penalty goal from wide out.

Result :

Berry Hill 2 goals (1p), 1 try (11 pts.)
Gloucester A 1 try (3 pts.)