

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1925

## FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER'S FIRST HOME DEFEAT

DEVONPORT SERVICES GAIN THIRD SUCCESSIVE VICTORY  
AT KINGSHOLM

A DAY OF MISSED CHANCES FOR THE CITY

With the exception of Hughes and Hemmings, Gloucester fielded full strength against Devonport Services at Kingsholm this afternoon, and the visitors also had out a strong team. The Services, except on the occasion of their first visit, have done particularly well at Kingsholm, and they won in 1923 by 13 points to 8, and again last season by 8 points to nil. The weather was foggy and cold, and the attendance when the players lined out was not up to expectations. There was no change from the advertised teams.

### GLOUCESTER

BACK : T. Millington.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. C. Thompson, E. L. Saxby, G. Thomas, and S. A. Brown.

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

FORWARDS : A. T. Voyce (captain), F. W. Ayliffe, J. Read, M. Short, S. Duberley, E. Triggs-Herbert, H. Roberts, and W. B. Scott.

### DEVONPORT SERVICES

FULL-BACK : Shipwright Hoskin.

THREE-QUARTERS : E. R. A. George, A. B. Knapman, Sub.-Lieut. Lee, and A. B. Fogarty.

HALF-BACKS : Sgt. Tippens and S. B. A. Barrington.

FORWARDS : M. A. A. Luddington (capt.), Pte. Mogg-Davis, Lieut. Orr-Ewing, Lieut. Fricker, A. B. Paddon, Corpl. Jones, Lieut. Honeyman, and Sub-Lieut. Orborne.

Referee : Mr. R. W. Barry (Cardiff).

## THE GAME

Gloucester lost the toss and Voyce kicked off, the ball dropping in the field of play and going to touch well inside the Services 25. The City got the ball away early, but nothing resulted. A punt by Lee was fielded by Thompson, who got in a useful kick, the ball eventually going out of play.

Taylor gained some twenty yards for Gloucester with a touch-finder, but a penalty awarded the Services regained the ground. With a useful forward rush and well-judged kicking the Services worked down to the home quarter, where Millington twice relieved with beautiful kicks to touch. Gloucester made headway, and from a free Voyce put in a short punt and re-gathering started passing. The ball was handled cleverly, and a nice opening presented itself, but the Services saved at the critical moment.

Gloucester attacked strongly from the position gained, and the visitors were hard pressed. A splendid dash by Saxby looked promising, but the centre was brought down when likely to clear. The ball, however, got loose, and Thomas picking up sent on to Thompson, who burst over in the corner, but to the disappointment of the crowd "touch in goal" was given.

Following the drop-out Gloucester had the better of the exchanges, but dropped passes lost possible openings. With big kicking the Services removed the danger, and later a fine forward rush forced Gloucester back to their 25. Here the Services opened out, and George and Lee showed pretty interpassing which caused the City some trouble, but a forward transfer spoiled the movement.

From some distance out Knapman took a drop for goal, a good shot failing. Millington ran out and punted, the ball again going to Knapman, who this time sent to touch. The Services confined play to the home half for a couple of minutes. Then the Gloucester backs shone in some passing. Thomas kicked towards the wing, but Brown could not keep out of touch.

At the centre the City pack heeled, and Taylor giving a wide pass to Voyce, the captain dashed through finely to the full-back. He was attended by Ayliffe, but with an open goal the latter failed to take the pass. Gloucester had another fine dash for a try on the right, but a wild transfer allowed the visitors to clear. Centre play ensued until a strong forward rush placed the City on the defence. For an infringement Gloucester were penalised, and with a splendid kick LUDDINGTON landed a goal, giving the Services three points.

Gloucester restarted, and for a time had the better of the exchanges, but good kicking by the Services' backs gave them the advantage. Gloucester were heeling with that quickness which characterised their work last week, and the ball at times hung badly in the back row.

Brilliant work by Taylor, who worked his way through the defence in fine style, promised well, but Voyce to whom he passed slipped and fell. He got up, but was forced to run back, and ground was lost. More big kicking by the Services gave them a lot of ground, and in the left corner the City line narrowly escaped. From a fruitless drop at goal Brown had the ball out pluckily, and kicked to touch. Good work by Milliner enabled Gloucester to reach the centre, but subsequent play was not up to standard, and the City failed to make the most of their opportunities.

After Luddington had forced a minor with a big kick over the line Gloucester rushed to beyond half-way, but the Services again recovered with a big kick. The game was keen enough in every respect, but there was too much kicking on both sides, and there were few spectacular incidents. Gloucester eventually secured the upper hand, and Brown put Gloucester down further with a sharp punt, for which Lee made his mark. The Services were soon afterwards penalised, and Millington had a shot for goal, his kick just going wide of the upright.

HALF-TIME :

SERVICES ..... 1 goal (p)  
GLOUCESTER ..... Nil

The Services were a bit lucky in holding the lead, for Gloucester ought to have had a couple of tries at least. The visitors re-started, but when the kick was taken several of their players were in front and a scrum was ordered at the centre. Gloucester early broke away, but Milliner's pass was intercepted by Knapman, who ran ahead and punted, the ball going to touch beyond the City 25. The home team quickly worked out, and with strenuous forward work set up a hot attack. The fog had thickened considerably, and it was difficult to follow the run of play on the opposite side. Gloucester, however, continued on the attack, but the defence held out strongly.

Gloucester were getting the ball better now, but the backs could not seem to take full advantage of their chances. Millington twice ran up and started passing, but things went wrong and in one instance the Services benefited. Hoskin showed capital form at full-back for the Services and one clever screw-kick under pressure saved his side from a dangerous position.

Up and down the field play went, but there was no particular cleverness exhibited. The Services' backs were adept at kicking, and threatened danger on several occasions was arrested by timely kicks to touch.

From a line-out in the visitors' 25, the backs were set going, and the movement was not checked until the centre line was passed. The Services improved upon this position, and the Gloucester line had to undergo severe attacks. First, Taylor and Saxby combined in a splendid breakaway, but the Services at once rushed back. Then Brown, getting a pass, raced away in fine style, but his pass inside went astray.

Gloucester, however, exerted pressure, and Taylor intercepting secured a brilliant opening, but the player to whom he passed was bundled over. Then Brown put the City left wing in position with a cross-kick, but the visitors saved luckily. For the next few minutes Gloucester pressed severely, but the defence was great.

Try as they would Gloucester could not get over, and eventually the Services got out of danger. It was now the turn of the Naval men to take charge of the game, and they worked desperately to add to their score. Lee brought off a strong run to near the line, where the City luckily saved. From the subsequent scrum Tippens fed LEE nicely, and with a sharp dash the centre man beat the defence well, and scored wide out. Luddington failed at goal.

Six points down, Gloucester redoubled their efforts to wipe off some of the arrears, but nothing seemed to come off for the City. Inside the visitors' half Milliner opened up nicely, and Taylor sent Saxby away with a dash through. There was a possible chance for Brown, but the centre held on a shade too long, and was pulled down.

Just now the play was very scrappy, and Gloucester were often at fault. The concluding stages went in favour of the Services, and KNAPMAN, after a smart run down touch, eluded Millington and scored a good try. Luddington made a fine attempt at conversion, but just failed.

#### RESULT :

SERVICES ... 1 goal (p) 2 tries (9 points)  
GLOUCESTER ..... Nil

#### REMARKS

Devonport Services may well consider Kingsholm one of their lucky grounds, for to-day's victory was the third in succession gained by the visitors.

I cannot recall any English Club having previously accomplished such a feat, and the Services can take full credit for a remarkable achievement. Incidentally, too, the City suffered their first defeat of the season at home. In a measure Gloucester contributed to their downfall. They had sufficient chances – real openings – in the first half to have gained a nice lead, but they were frittered away in disappointing fashion.

It was hard, keen football all through, in which the quick following up and keen tackling of the Services put the City combination out of gear. Now and again Taylor showed up with a brilliant individual effort, and from two of his movements tries should have resulted. But there was a weakness at centre, where Thomas was not good enough. Gloucester tried hard enough whilst only three points in arrears, but after Lee scored the Services outpointed the opposition, and were clearly the better side.

It was in the closing stages the visitors exhibited their cleverness and skill in attack; previously the men were lacking in confidence, and were not inclined to take the slightest risk. As a unit, the Services were the more finished combination, and in kicking they excelled the home players with the exception of Taylor.

Lee and Knapman, who played together on the left wing, were a source of danger, and George combined well with his co-centre. The Gloucester three-quarters failed to bring off much in the way of combination; the close marking of the visitors giving them little room to manoeuvre. Saxby did some capital work in defence, and Brown made good use of opportunities which came his way, but they were few and far between. Thomas did one or two good things, but did not shine to any extent, and Thompson was starved for the most part. The latter experienced hard luck in losing a try when touch-in-goal was given against him after a spirited dash for the mark.

The Gloucester forwards did not reach the standard displayed against Oxford and Swansea. But they were up against a bustling opposition to-day, who kept close on the ball and tackled with great effect. Luddington proved a fine leader, and Orr-Ewing, Fricker and Mogg-Davis were a trio who were frequently in evidence in the loose.

In the scrums the work of the City pack was not satisfactory, the heeling slow and erratic, whilst the marking in the lines-out at times left a lot to be desired. Voyce was well looked after, though the International worked with all his accustomed dash and abandon. Of the other members of the pack, Read and Short often came into prominence, but as a whole it was not one of the City's best days.

The Services evidently know how to deal with the Gloucester forwards, for in previous games they have generally managed to get the upper hand at Kingsholm.

At half-back, Milliner and Tippens were well matched, with the Gloucester player more distinguished in defence. Taylor was the City's best player behind and it was a pity his fine work did not receive the backing so necessary to finish off movements successfully.

The rival clubs were again splendidly served at full back. Both had a tremendous amount of work to do, but neither made a mistake that had a serious effect on the play. Hoskin, in his 40th year, vies with his old clubmate, Gilbert, in keeping up his wonderful form. He was a big asset to the Services this afternoon, especially when closely pressed.

Next week : Newport, at Kingsholm.

## GLOUCESTER A v. OLD BOYS

### CITY SECONDS WIN HARD-FOUGHT GAME

At Bristol-road. Gloucester A were without Hopcroft, for whom Franklin played on the right wing, H. Ferris coming into the pack. An extremely fast and hard-fought game was seen in the first half. The City Seconds were rather heavier, and had slightly the better of matters forward, but the Old Boys had the more likely men outside, G. R. James, W. Prior, and A. Lewis all making good runs.

R. Smart opened the scoring with a try from a long line, and J. Print added a second, both being goaled by Williams. Gloucester A held a lead of ten points at half-time, a score which hardly represented the run of the play.

Half-time :

Gloucester A .....	2 goals
Old Boys .....	Nil

Gloucester A pressed on the resumption, and L. Abbey got over in the corner, Williams failing with the kick.

Straight from the kick-off the Old Boys attacked, and A. Hough scored after a splendid run of 40 yards or more.

The City forwards rushed almost the length of the field, and the ball being kicked back, S. Williams dropped a goal from well outside the 25 line. This completed the scoring.

Gloucester A deserved to win, but were lucky to do so by so large a margin.

Result :

Gloucester A ...	3 goals (1d)	1 try (17 pts.)
Old Boys .....		1 try (3 pts.)