

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY JANUARY 14, 1926

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. LONDON HOSPITAL

The return of wintery weather greatly affected the attendance at Kingsholm this afternoon for the match with London Hospital, which was unfortunate, for the fixture was specially arranged for the benefit of the Children's Hospital and other local charities, which receive annual donations from the funds of the Gloucester Football Club.

The only change in the selected teams was A. Rea for McIlwaine for Gloucester.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : S. Williams.

THREE-QUARTERS : L. Abbey, T. Millington, E. H. Hughes, and A. Hopcroft.

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

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe, J. Hemmings, S. Duberley, H. Roberts, F. J. Seabrook, A. Rea, G. Foulkes, and R. Smart.

LONDON HOSPITAL

BACK : J. Rae.

THREE-QUARTERS : J. Steele, A. E. Gordon, V. O. Sullivan, and A. E. Barrett.

HALF-BACKS : J. R. Wheeler (Capt.), and W. J. Waring.

FORWARDS : G. MacDonald, J. Davel, T. Malan, T. R. S. Cormack, S. C. Clouts, B. Noble, T. G. Willis, and M. Glover.

Referee : Mr. Hale (Bristol).

THE GAME

Snow was still falling when the teams took the field, and the ground was covered with a thin layer. There were only 300 or 400 spectators present at the start. The Hospital kicked off, and Gloucester at once started passing, but it broke down, and a visitor kicked through to Millington, who punted to touch at the centre.

A series of exchanges by the visitors left the ball with Barrett, who ran and cross-kicked, but Gloucester saved close in. A good punt by Williams sent play to the Hospital 25, and Taylor later slipped through the defence cleverly, but his pass was not accepted. Gloucester attacked strongly, but a wild transfer by Hopcroft lost the position, and centre play followed.

Off-side by the City lost a good slice of ground, and in some subsequent loose play, in which mistakes in trying to pick up were frequent, the Hospital dribbled through and over the line, winning the touch for a try behind the posts. Wheeler converted.

The Gloucester forwards showed up with nice strong bursts on the restart, but owing to the state of the ground and the slippery ball it was difficult to do the correct thing. Millington just failed with a shot at goal from a penalty, and a little later a forward transfer spoiled a good chance of a score.

Scrambling forward play followed, in which the Hospital had the better, and the home line narrowly escaped. Despite the conditions there were some praiseworthy attempts at passing, the Hospital backs being far more successful than the City players. Gordon kicked with splendid judgment, and though the home forwards cleared effectively with loose rushes, the visitors quickly recovered the ground. Gloucester were confined to their half for some minutes, attempts to break away with passing failing each time. In this respect Hopcroft was often at fault. Williams, at full-back, was often called upon for the City, but he never failed, and several times relieved splendidly.

Taylor, picking up in some loose play, went clean through and worked out a lovely opening, but his pass was not taken with an open goal line. Gloucester continued to fumble their chances, though Taylor, Millington, and Abbey did good work individually.

Gloucester attacked strongly just now, and Abbey and Taylor, following good work by Millington, only just failed to score.

Taylor injured his ankle in a tackle and had to be carried off. Gloucester kept up pressure, but though going very close, could not cross.

HALF-TIME :
HOSPITAL 1 goal
GLOUCESTER Nil

JC