

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY JANUARY 30, 1926

FOOTBALL

REMARKABLE GAME AT KINGSHOLM

MILLINGTON'S DAY OUT IN GOAL-KICKING

BOXING DAY RECORD EQUALLED

OLD BLUES WELL BEATEN IN ATTRACTIVE GAME

The Old Blues paid their annual visit to Kingsholm this afternoon for the benefit match for the Gloucester Royal Infirmary. Unfortunately, the weather turned out bad, a drizzling rain falling all the morning, and continuing up to the time of starting. The unfavourable conditions naturally affected the attendance, which was disappointing at the start. There was one change in the home team, Crowther taking the place of Thompson, who injured his thigh in the County match on Thursday. The teams were : —

GLOUCESTER

BACK : S. Williams.

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

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and T. Millington.

FORWARDS : A. T. Voyce (capt.), F. W. Ayliffe, S. Duberley, H. Roberts, J. Hemmings, E. Triggs-Herbert, G. McIlwaine, M. Short.

OLD BLUES

BACK : H. W. F. Franklin.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. C. Bennett, G. R. Cooper, W. H. Mills, and G. H. Jennings.

HALF-BACKS : S. H. H. Collins, C. D. Wales, and S. H. Wales.

FORWARDS : G. T. E. Cockerill, R. C. Hare, C. W. S. Averill, E. G. Moore, C. J. W. Hodgson, J. A. C. Kennedy, and W. G. Poskett.

Referee : Mr. Stanley Budd (Bristol).

THE GAME

The Old Blues adopted the seven forwards and three half-backs formation as usual. The Old Blues started the game, and from the first scrum the visitors dribbled away and cross-kicked to the right, where Bennett sent the ball to touch in the home 25. A penalty against the Blues enabled Gloucester to clear; but off-side by the City gave the visitors a similar kick.

Millington replied well to the punt, and from the centre Gloucester went ahead. A sharp dash by Voyce improved the City's position, but a knock-on spoiled a possible opening. The Gloucester backs handling nicely, the ball got across to Crowther, but the wing man was beautifully tackled when going at full pace. The Blues relieved with a neat passing bout, but Gloucester worked back quickly with clever work between Brown and Hughes. The visitors were kept busily defending, the City forwards making good progress with a loose rush. Inside their own 25 a visitor had his kick charged down, and BROWN, fielding the ball on the bounce, raced over with a good try, Millington converting.

Resuming, the Londoners showed up with a beautiful bit of passing, and Bennett cross-kicking in front of the posts there was a fine opening, but the chance was not accepted. Williams brought about a clearance with a good touch-finder, and later the City forwards broke away with a fine loose rush. Franklin partly saved, but lost the ball, and Gloucester went right away. Milliner fielded, but being pressed fed CROWTHER, who dived over in the corner. Millington's shot for goal hit the upright.

Eight points up, Gloucester soon got going on the restart, the forwards overpowering the opposition. Once the ball was rushed to the line and a player crossed, but a scrum five yards out was ordered. The Old Blues eased the pressure with smart work, and faulty play by the home players allowed the visitors to reach the centre. Here S. Wales opened out cleverly for the Old Blues, and a cross-punt from the wing gave Hodgson a chance, but the latter just failed to gather the ball with an open goal, a minor resulting.

The home team restarted, play settling at mid-field. From a scrum Milliner fed Millington, who cut clean through and to Franklin, when he yielded to BROWN who ran away from his opponents and scored behind the posts. Millington added the goal points.

Though down thirteen points the Old Blues made the game as open as possible, and there was a delightful round of passing which ended in Jennings being tackled. A little later the visitors broke away and looked likely to score, but Gloucester saved with a smothering tackle close in. The Old Blues, however, continued the attack, and following a series of exchanges JENNINGS crossed in the corner. Cooper failed at goal.

This score by the visitors was heartily applauded, for their play deserved reward. After the restart the home backs showed up with neat back play, but on two occasions a forward transfer spoiled good openings.

A rush headed by Voyce transferred play half the length of the ground, a visitor luckily kicking out of bounds. Back the Old Blues came with pretty passing, and Gloucester were lucky in escaping. The open character of the play delighted the crowd, and there was hearty applause when from a perfect movement COOPER cut inside and scored a lovely try, which he himself converted.

Gloucester were well held on the resumption, and play was fairly even. Towards the interval the Blues pressed, and Milliner being covered on the line let the ball go. There was further fumbling, and the result was a try, credited to COLLINS, under the posts. Cooper added the points, and brought the scores level – a surprising position after Gloucester's early successes. But the Londoners deserved their scores on the play.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 2 goals 1 try

OLD BLUES 2 goals 1 try

Gloucester restarted, the Old Blues being short of Hodgson. With only six forwards the visitors held their own at the start, and the Brothers Wales did capital work at half-back, kicking with good judgment. The Gloucester team were not showing the form of the early stages, and were far less effective.

The Old Blues had quite a fair share of the ball in the scrums, and the backs made the best possible use of their opportunities. A series of exchange kicks left the advantage with Gloucester, but when the game was opened up a visitor intercepted and cleared effectively. The Blues were penalised, and with a good shot MILLINGTON gave the City the lead again.

The football on the restart was bright and open, but the defence proved effective. With a combined rush the City forwards got down to Franklin, but the old Oxford Blue managed to turn the ball to touch a few yards outside. Gloucester lost their position through faulty handling, and centre play ensued.

At length BROWN was given possession, and seizing an opening cut through brilliantly. Franklin alone had to be faced, and the City vice-captain rounding his opponent, who stood still, finishing a brilliant effort by scoring behind the posts. Millington placed a goal, and the tally was 21–13 in favour of Gloucester.

The City had the better of the exchanges on the restart, but some passing going astray the Old Blues secured and raced away, the man in possession finally punting beyond the centre.

Gloucester worked back, and from a well-judged punt across to the right Crowther was unfortunate to send the ball to touch in kicking past Franklin.

Play was in the Old Blues half when Brown made off again, beating the defence cleverly. MILLINER was backing up, and taking a pass scored nicely. A goal followed by Millington.

Gloucester continued to do the attacking on the resumption, and Crowther had hard lines in being robbed of a try, the decision being that he had knocked on – a mistake by the referee. It mattered little, however, for from the succeeding scrum Milliner fed Millington, who slipped through and passed to HUGHES, for the latter to score and Millington to convert. This was a pretty try, and perfectly worked out.

Gloucester had all the play after the resumption, though the Londoners played pluckily and did not fail to keep the play open. Following a mistake on the line from a long kick down CROWTHER added to Gloucester's score, Millington again covering the cross-bar. The same player also kicked a penalty goal, making Gloucester's score 39 points.

Both teams were on the attack in subsequent play, Gloucester being very forceful, but there was no further scoring, and the end came with Gloucester winners by 26 points, the City's score being exactly the same as against O.M.T.'s on Boxing Day.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ...	8 goals (2p)	1 try (39 points)
OLD BLUES	2 goals	1 try (13 points)

REMARKS

We had spectacular football served up this afternoon, and attack triumphed over defence to such an extent that try-getting became a trifle monotonous. The feature of the match was Millington's wonderful goal-kicking, the Gloucesterian for the second time this season kicking eight goals, and only missing one shot from a try.

Gloucester badly wanted a win this afternoon, and though the score at the finish flattered the City, victory went to the side better equipped in general play. As usual the Old Blues played a delightful open game, and with Gloucester quite willing to give the ball air the football witnessed was very enjoyable.

Playing only seven forwards, and later in the game six, the Old Blues were beaten for the most part in the pack, but the visitors were adept at opening out from the loose, and the backs combined in a number of movements, several of which deserved a better finish.

Where the Londoners exhibited weakness was in defence; there was too much waiting for the pass instead of going for the man with the ball. Millington, Brown and Hughes were quick to spot this deficiency in the opposition, and by clever inside passing frequently had the visitors guessing.

The City backs were in capital form all round this afternoon. Mistakes were made in handling as was only natural with the ball continually being thrown about, but there were many bright bits of combination. Brown and Millington were the shining lights, the vice-captain making several brilliant runs. Crowther performed with credit in place of Thompson, but Abbey was again unfortunate in not getting the same number of chances which went to the other wing.

Milliner was a capable and efficient scrum half, and he was well served by the forwards, who, except for a quarter of an hour's lapse, played with dash and resource. Voyce's return to the leadership of the team was welcome, and the International shone with his usual prominence in the open. Short, McIlwaine and Roberts were other capital workers in this department, whilst Ayliffe dribbled with great effect at times.

At full back Williams compared more than favourably with Franklin, who at times appeared to take things too casually. On other occasions, however, he fielded well and kicked a good length. The Old Blues had a very capable attacking force, the Brothers Wales and Cooper being a dangerous trio when in possession. Bennett and Jennings also ran with determination on the respective wings, though there was a tendency to overdo the cross-kick with only the full back to beat. The forwards were a fast and resolute set, Hare, Hodgson (up to the time he was injured), and Cockerill being very conspicuous.

But it was always hard work for the front against such a resolute opposition as possessed by Gloucester. The Old Blues have yet to obtain their initial success at Kingsholm, but they are a good sporting side and play football of the cleanest and best. They are always popular visitors at the City Club headquarters, and their attractive display to-day was greatly appreciated by the crowd.

The collection organised by Mr. H. J. Balchin on the ground for the Infirmary realised £14 12s. 10½d. (including two farthings).

Next week : United Services, at Kingsholm.

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