

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1926

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER WIN AGAIN

PLUCKY DISPLAY BY HOSPITAL CUP-HOLDERS

LONDONERS FINISH THE GAME WITH THIRTEEN MEN

The Hospital Cup holders paid their visit to Kingsholm, when they met a very weakened City team.

Thomas (full back), Loveridge and Crowther (three-quarters), Millington (half-back), and Voyce and Seabrook (forwards) were all on the disabled list, and the making up of the side was not without difficulty.

Fortunately, Dr. Taylor was available at outside half, and at full back a trial was given W. Guest, who played for Yorkshire in the recent match with Somerset.

Another experiment was the appearance of J. Howell at wing three-quarter – his third position for the City, as he had already occupied both positions at half-back.

In the absence of the Captain and Vice-Captain, the side was captained by Dr. Taylor, and Triggs-Herbert led the forwards.

The St. Thomas's side included twelve players who figured in the team which beat Guy's in the Hospital final last season, though one or two operated in difference positions.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : W. Guest.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. Thompson, Roy James, E. H. Hughes, and J. Howell.

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

FORWARDS : M. Short, G. McIlwaine, A. J. Owner, J. Hemming, G. Foulkes, E. Triggs-Herbert, L. Bartlett, and H. Pitt.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL

BACK : D. O. Williams.

THREE-QUARTERS : H. E. Blake, N. A. Miller, G. K. Cooper, and W. P. Purvis.

HALF-BACKS : P. Malena and C. W. Walker.

FORWARDS : D. S. Valentine (capt.), R. A. K. Weiner, A. B. Robinson, J. G. Wigley, C. B. Drew, C. I. Tuckett, R. Shelley, and T. M. Spilhaus.

Referee : Mr. J. Hall (Cinderford).

THE GAME

The weather was beautifully fine and the attendance up to the average this season when the teams took the field, Dr. Taylor being accorded a special cheer. Hemmings started for Gloucester, and there being no response play opened in the Hospital half. A loose forward rush by the visitors took the ball down to Guest, but the home custodian gathered nicely and brought off a short burst before being checked.

A sweeping rush by the City front beat the visitors, who were hard pressed near the line. Short, picking up, made a gallant effort to cross, but was pushed to touch. Gloucester still exerted pressure, and again Short was nearly through. Then the ball coming out Taylor threw wide to James, who took a difficult pass well, and sending to THOMPSON, the latter opened the scoring with a good try. Taylor failed at goal.

Resuming, play was fast and keen. The Gloucester forwards again dribbled well, and Taylor, bringing his favourite "dummy" into practice, Gloucester made good headway. The Hospital, however, broke away, and Malena had a clear opening to Guest, but he passed and the ball was knocked on.

Hughes and Taylor shone in a pretty bit of combination, but the latter missed the re-pass. Passing by the Hospital backs looked promising; Blake ran strongly down touch, but fell a victim to a grand tackle by Guest. Gloucester cleared through Milliner. Later James put in a capital kick which brought play to the centre. Here Gloucester opened out and Taylor beat a couple of opponents cleverly. James carried on and punted to the line, but lost the touch. From a scrum five yards out Milliner swung the ball out, but the pass was intercepted and the Hospital relieved to mid-field.

The game continued to be bright and open, but mistakes in handling spoiled several promising movements. Gloucester had the better of the exchanges, McIlwaine distinguishing himself with some capital work. Then the backs were set going, and THOMPSON, snapping up a pass that went a bit astray, dashed ahead, and beating the full-back scored a fine try. James failed at goal.

From the restart McIlwaine shone in a grand burst, but was eventually pulled down. Give-and-take play followed, with the forwards on both sides doing good work. The Hospital had a fair share of the ball behind, but the backs threw a way a couple of fine chances at scoring through passing forward.

Short led the home pack in a dribble, but the movement was checked, and Cooper set up an attack for the Hospital. This was beaten off, Guest clearing in good style. Still, the Hospital opened out, and after a glorious bout of passing, an inside transfer to VALENTINE gave the latter a try under the posts. Walker landed a goal, and the score was 6–5. Guest, in tackling his opponent, which he did effectively, was laid out, but was able to continue.

Gloucester re-started, and the Hospital backs at once got going. Good tackling saved the situation, and then Milliner robbed Walker and kicked ahead. McIlwaine came along at full speed and made a spirited attempt to reach the line, but was tackled just outside, a visitor being injured and going off.

Gloucester were very close now, and a sustained rush was nearly successful. Again the City were almost over, but in the loose a visitor picked up and punted clear. On the 25-line Milliner got the ball out, and Taylor and Hughes in turn handled. A nice service to THOMPSON saw the wing dash through the defence and, clearing Williams, notched his third try. Guest this time took the kick at goal, but met with no success.

Both sides played up strongly on the resumption, but there was no further scoring.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 3 tries
HOSPITAL 1 goal

The Hospital (still a man short) restarted the second half, and play was fast at the centre. The visitors were doing the best work in the open, but the combination was not perfect and ground was lost.

Gloucester then took charge of the play, and the forwards went very close. Hemming and then Short were only stopped just in time, whilst an attack on the left, initiated by Taylor, failed owing to a forward pass. The Hospital punted out of danger, but McIlwaine raced clean away, being pulled down from behind a few yards out. Gloucester should have added to their lead just now, but finish was lacking. The City, however, kept up a sharp attack, and MILLINER eventually sneaked through the defence and scored, for Taylor to convert with a lovely kick.

Soon after the restart the Gloucester backs combined in a clever move which ended in Howell cross-kicking nicely. The full-back fumbled, and a score seemed probable, but off-side was given.

The Hospital got out of danger with the kick, but a couple of minutes later Taylor just missed a penalty goal with a fine shot. Then a certain try was lost through a forward pass, and James only just failed in an attempt to drop a goal.

Play for the last five minutes had been all in favour of the City, but they did not get the best of luck. The Hospital did better later, but could not find an opening. Hughes and Taylor shone in some neat inter-passing, but the latter's final transfer to the wing went wide of Howell.

With a fine loose dribble the home forwards looked dangerous, but a player got in front of the ball, and a penalty followed. Gloucester kept the game well in hand, and Guest was seldom called upon. The City at length broke away, and after a strong effort by McIlwaine he passed to FOULKES, who had only to put the ball over the line for a try. Taylor failed to convert.

Gloucester again pressed on the kick off, and there was a possible opening on the left. The final pass, however, was intercepted, and Purvis ran to the centre, where he gave to Valentine. With a glorious chance the Hospital failed to accept. Gloucester, however, were penalised for off-side. In the tackling which ensued in this effort another Hospital player was injured and left the field. With thirteen men the Londoners continued the game, and for a time kept operations in the home 25. Their persistent and plucky efforts were ultimately rewarded, COOPER dropping a neat goal amidst hearty cheering.

Just now Gloucester's efforts were rather . . .

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. . . scramble BARTLETT was awarded a try. Triggs-Herbert failed with the goal-kick.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal, 5 tries (20 pts.)
HOSPITAL 3 goals (1d) (14 pts.)

REMARKS

It was a game in patches this afternoon, some entertaining football being intermixed with numerous mistakes in handling which put an end to some promising combined movements. Gloucester again scored freely, obtaining six tries to their opponents' two, but the goal kicking was poor, only one place-kick being successful.

Gloucester, as in the Moseley match, did all their best work in the first half. The Hospital were by no means outclassed, but in actual play the City held a big advantage, and three tries did not indicate the home team's superiority.

But there was a falling off after the change of ends, and though many attacks were initiated finish was often wanted. On the other hand, the Hospital worked surprisingly well after losing their second player, and the dropped goal by Cooper and the try by Robinson were well deserved scores.

The Gloucester forwards did well up to a point, but there was a lack of that cohesion exhibited against Cinderford. In the open the Hospital men were quite the equal of the home eight, but were beaten in the loose, where the Gloucester men showed skilful dribbling at times.

Individually, Short and McIlwaine were always conspicuous, and Bartlett and Foulkes again did well. Hemming, in the long line out, did some effective work, but the pack failed to keep up the form displayed in the early stages.

Behind, the City were faulty in combination, and the passing broke down badly on occasions. Milliner accomplished a lot of good things at the scrum, and Taylor, though obviously suffering from lack of training, made one or two good openings and kicked well. Hughes and Thompson formed the strongest wing at three-quarter in attack and the latter's three tries stood out amongst the features of the game.

Thompson showed pace and strength this afternoon in going for the line, and his all-round work was the best he has done for the City. But the home defence as a whole was not a strongpoint, and there was the old failure of players getting out of position. This weakness let the Hospital away more than once, and the Gloucester line had several narrow escapes.

Guest was not often seriously tested, but he can tackle; going for his man in the right quarter and making no mistakes in bringing him down. He also possesses a safe pair of hands, and gave the impression he would not be afraid to open up the game when opportunity served. On the whole, Guest impressed very favourably. Williams, on the opposing side, was useful and made no serious mistake.

The Hospital had two good centre three-quarters in Cooper and Miller, the latter being a difficult man to check. The half-backs displayed a capital understanding, and the third line could not complain for lack of service of the ball. The forwards were fast and handled well. Both the tries were scored by forwards, and the points came as the result of splendid backing up.

Like Gloucester, the Hospital have several players on the injured list, and were unlucky to have two more casualties this afternoon. It was an enjoyable game if the play did not reach a high standard at times, and St. Thomas's will be welcome visitors to Kingsholm again.

I regret to hear there is little possibility of a satisfactory solution of the Bristol–Gloucester–County trouble. Mr. A. J. Gardner, of Clifton, a former President of the County Union, made overtures to both Gloucester and Bristol for a match to be played at Clifton this season. Gloucester had already made it known they were prepared to play on any ground, but I am informed Bristol have turned down the proposal. Thus the position is "as you were."

Next Saturday : Guy's Hospital, at Kingsholm.

DRYBROOK v. GLOUCESTER A

CITY SECONDS THE SUPERIOR TEAM

Gloucester A met Drybrook on the latter's ground this afternoon, and showed their superiority in no uncertain manner. The game was pleasantly contested. The City Seconds adopted every opportunity of keeping play open, and they succeeded by this means. Tries were scored for Gloucester A by Hough (3), Shaw, Ferris, Comley, Robins and Sturge, Comley converting four.

Result :

Gloucester A	4 goals, 4 tries (32 pts.)
Drybrook	1 goal (5 pts.)