

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1927

## FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER, 14 PTS.; OLD BLUES, 7 PTS

KEEN AND INTERESTING GAME DESPITE BAD CONDITIONS

### OLD BLUES' CLEVER BACKS

The annual match allotted by the Committee of the Gloucester F.C. for the benefit of the Gloucestershire Royal Infirmary was played at Kingsholm, when the Old Blues again provided the attraction.

Voyce resumed the captaincy of the City team after an absence of eight weeks, and Seabrook being available also rejoined the pack.

The visitors brought a good side. Unfortunately the weather was very bad and greatly affected the attendance, there being only a few hundred present at the time of starting. The heavy rain had rendered the playing pitch like a quagmire in places.

Teams : —

### GLOUCESTER

BACK : Roy James.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. C. Thompson, J. Stephens, E. H. Hughes, and S. R. Crowther.

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

FORWARDS : A. T. Voyce (capt.), F. J. Seabrook, L. E. Saxby, M. Short, G. Foulkes, E. Comley, J. Hemming, and A. Rea.

## OLD BLUES

BACK : H. W. F. Franklyn.

THREE-QUARTERS : C. W. Newstead, W. W. Neilson, A. W. Childs-Clarke, and E. N. Wenborn.

HALF-BACKS : H. E. R. Wales, W. H. Mills, and S. H. Wales.

FORWARDS : R. C. Hare, E. G. Moore, C. F. Weekes, C. J. W. Hodgson, N. K. Payne, T. N. Pearce, and J. N. Young.

Referee : Mr. J. Hall (Cinderford).

## THE GAME

The Old Blues started the game, and early on started passing, which gained ground before a forward pass checked it. Immediately after the visitors had the ball again, and Childs-Clarke went through nicely until tackled from behind by Voyce. He, however, let the ball go to Newstead, but the latter was upset ten yards outside.

A penalty fell to the Blues, but the kick was wide and nothing resulted. H. Wales, from the next scrum, passed out, but Crowther intercepted and ran half the length of the field before punting over Franklin's head. Following up, he tackled a visitor who had run back, and the ball getting loose it was carried on and over the line, but Gloucester lost the touch.

The City attacked on the restart, but the ball was very difficult to handle. The players, too, found it difficult to keep a footing. Gloucester went very close, but they were driven out, the Old Blues handling the greasy ball very neatly. Twice the Old Blues came away with passing bouts, reverse transfers being given and taken with accuracy. A good rush by the Londoners took the ball down, but James gathered and punted back.

Stephens was next prominent with a good kick, and then came a pretty bit of combination between the home backs. Hughes, feinting to pass, cut inside and punted past Franklin. Thompson was well up, but Franklin got back and effected a daring save.

Gloucester pressed, but soon lost their position. Some passing breaking down, the visitors secured just inside their own half, and Mills dashed away in fine style. He beat James, cutting inside, but being pressed from behind he handed out to WENBORN, who finished a splendid movement by scoring a try. The goal-kick failed.

Gloucester restarted, but play favoured the Old Blues, whose combination and pace were seen to advantage. A capital movement initiated from the loose saw Childs-Clark dash ahead and feed Newstead, but James tackled the wing man in good style. Though only playing seven forwards, the Old Blues were getting plenty of the ball, and another round of passing gave the home defenders some anxiety.

The Gloucester forwards changed the situation with a combined rush, Franklin saving at the critical moment. The City set to work to equalise the scores, and H. Wales being penalised for off-side, MILLINGTON from a favourable position landed a penalty goal.

Resuming, even play followed at the centre until Crowther dribbled away down touch to Franklin. The City forwards continued the movement, and the Old Blues had a narrow escape in the corner. A clever pick-up by Millington started the Gloucester backs, Hughes and Stephens inter-passing, but Thompson just failed to gather close in. The Old Blues made a good clearance, and the contest was waged keenly in the mud.

A penalty aided the visitors, who were quick on the ball, and the half-way line was reached. Millington and Hughes, with clever handling, nearly effected an opening, and a little later Seabrook shone in a fine dribble, but could not get through. With a loose rush the Londoners gained a good slice of ground, but Gloucester returned, and ensuing exchanges were pretty even. Inside the City half H. Wales opened out, but the centre's transfer went behind Newstead. Then the Gloucester halves started a movement which was carried on well up to a point. Stephens, however, held on too long, and his pass went astray.

The game travelled up and down the field at a good pace despite the heavy state of the ground. James cleared neatly after having to run back to gather, and this was followed with a big rush by the home forwards. The Old Blues tried in vain to stem the advance until near the line, where a visitor picked up and attempted a punt out. The kick was charged down, and the ball rebounding over the mark, HEMMING dashed up and scored a try. Millington missed the goal points.

The Old Blues restarted in splendid style, their backs handling well and running with great resolution. They had one fine chance on the right, but the man in possession was pulled down a couple of yards outside. Gloucester eased the pressure through Millington and Thompson, but the Londoners returned to the attack and had the better of matters until the interval.

HALF-TIME:

GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal (p) 1 try  
OLD BLUES ..... 1 try

Considering the conditions the football witnessed had been very interesting; the Old Blues' backs especially being seen to advantage. Gloucester re-started, and from the first scrum Milliner got the ball away, but the passing broke down, and Wenborn picking up, sent inside to Neilson, who found touch close to the home line. With a big rush, Saxby, Seabrook and Crowther joining in, the City transferred operations to beyond mid-field, but the game only stayed here for a minute.

Rush and counter-rush followed but the players were terribly handicapped in controlling the ball properly. Gloucester twice went close but Franklin saved in good style. A penalty against the City gave the Old Blues relief but Gloucester worked back again with loose footwork. The attack was warded off, the defence and saving of the visitors being excellent. In turn the Londoners gained the upper hand, but they could not pass James, who went down to the ball well. A clever bit of combination by the home backs saw Crowther sprint down touch, but his re-pass to Stephens was not taken – easily excusable.

Subsequent football was mainly with the forwards, both packs doing good work. The Old Blues were quick to break up from the scrums, and tackled with deadly effect. Once, however, Hughes slipped the defence and punted over the line, where there was a race for possession. Voyce appeared to have gained the touch but the referee ruled for a minor.

Ensuing play was keen enough, and there was dashing work on both sides, but the desired opening did not come. Each side in turn gained the advantage, but the City forwards appeared stronger in the loose. One onward movement had the defence beaten, and the ball coming to the left wing, CROWTHER dribbled over and scored wide out. The goal kick by Millington failed.

Gloucester played up strongly on the resumption, Saxby and Seabrook doing fine work. Once there appeared a chance of another score, but the pass to Crowther was ruled forward.

The Old Blues came away and reached the home half, where the exchanges were hotly contested. Gloucester shifted play to the other end, where Thompson was given a chance, but he was legged when looking likely to [score].

The home team, however, asserted pressure, and loose footwork took the ball close, where HUGHES picked up and scored under the posts for Millington to convert.

In the concluding stages the Old Blues had a period of attacking, and MILLS dropped a clever goal from a position in front of the posts.

To the end the visitors had the better of the exchanges.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER .... 2 goals (1p) 2 tries (14 pts.)  
OLD BLUES ..... 1 goal (d) 1 try (7 pts.)

## REMARKS

It was a remarkably interesting game, considering the conditions prevailing. Though beaten by seven points, the Old Blues played the most attractive football, the clever handling of the backs, combined with resolute running, being distinct features. Where Gloucester had the pull was in loose forward play, and here the City pack brought off some splendid rushes. All three tries credited to the City were mainly due to the forwards, though in two instances Crowther and Hughes put the finishing touch to the efforts.

The Old Blues, who played seven men in the pack all through, were by no means outpointed in the matter of heeling in the scrums, and the terrible state of the ground did not prevent the visitors giving the ball plenty of air.

Playing three half-backs – and they proved a workman like combination – the visitors were very smart in initiating attacks, and there were numerous occasions when the home defenders were hard put to keep their lines intact.

H. Wales was a very keen worker at the scrum, and Mills and S. H. Wales served their centres well. The men ran straight and proved elusive, though it must be said the Gloucester tackling was painfully weak at times. Wenborn and Newstead, the respective wing three-quarters, showed plenty of dash, and behind the third line Franklin gave a splendid display, being very cool under pressure and clearing with judgment.

The Gloucester backs as a whole accomplished some capital work, but they were not the equal of their opponents in aggressive tactics. Milliner and Millington were capable and efficient at half-back, and Hughes was prominent with several tricky runs. Stephens rendered useful service, especially in defence. Crowther and Thompson, with rather limited opportunities, were seen to advantage, the former putting in some clever footwork and generally keeping in touch with his forwards.

At full-back James shaped very creditably, if failing to reach the standard set up by Franklin. It was a trying day for a full-back, but the Gloucester custodian made no serious mistake in fielding or catching, whilst he tackled well at times and was not afraid to go down to forward rushes. Gloucester were best served forward by Saxby, Seabrook, Voyce and Hemming, though all did their share in the loose work.

It was hard going for both sets of forwards, but they kept up the pace splendidly to the finish. Hare, Hodgson, and Moore were the most conspicuous of the Old Blues, but the "seven" lacked nothing in keenness and determination, and to hold their own so well against Gloucester's heavier set was distinctly creditable.

Next week : Gloucester v United Services, at Portsmouth.

#### GLOUCESTER A v. BROMSGROVE

#### CITY SECONDS WIN AWAY FROM HOME

Gloucester A played their return fixture with Bromsgrove on the latter's ground this afternoon, and won after a good game by the only try scored.

Result :

Gloucester A ..... 1 try (3 points)

Bromsgrove ..... Nil