

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1927

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. R.A.F.

SERVICE TEAM AT KINGSHOLM

GLOUCESTER WIN FINE OPEN GAME

Beautiful weather prevailed for this match at Kingsholm, the last of the Air Force trials prior to meeting the Army, on Saturday week.

The visitors brought a strong team, but Gloucester had somewhat of an experimental side.

Goodwin and E. Stephens were given a trial at half back, Millington going centre; whilst Hemming and Ferris replaced Voyce and McIlwaine forward.

Hough appeared for Crowther at wing three-quarter.

There was only a small attendance when the teams took the field as follows :—

GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. Hough, J. Stephens, T. Millington, and R. N. Loveridge.

HALF-BACKS : E. Goodwin and E. Stephens.

FORWARDS: M. Short, L. E. Saxby, A. Rea, H. Pitt, G. Foulkes, F. Russell, J. Hemming, and H. J. Ferris.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

BACK : F-O E. S. Burns (Leuchars).

THREE-QUARTERS : F-O Vines (Farnborough), P-O F. S. Hodder (Andover), F-O R. V. M. Odbert (Worthydown), F-O G. D. Harvey (Bircham Newton).

HALF-BACKS : P-O J. Norwood (Kenley), Sqdn-Ldr. J. C. Russell (Air Ministry).

FORWARDS : F-Lt. J. S. Chick (Felixstowe), F-Lt. G. H. H. Maxwell (Flowerdown), F-O F. V. Beamish (Sealand), F-O J. G. Franks (Leuchars), Cpl. M. G. Christie (Shrewsbury), F-O P. G. Chichester (Manston), L-A-C C. Rollings (Felixstowe), L-A-C Sinnicks (Felixstowe).

Referee : Mr. G. L. Jones.

THE GAME

Gloucester kicked off, and opening play was contested at mid-field. The airmen made headway with a loose rush, their heavy forwards taking a lot of checking in the loose. Attempts at passing by both sides broke down, the ball being very lively and appearing difficult to handle.

A good punt by J. Stephens made 20 yards for Gloucester, but a missed pass from Goodwin to E. Stephens allowed the visitors to kick through. J. Stephens, however, got back and effected a useful save. The City, with good forward work, rushed ahead, and later Goodwin cleverly broke away down touch and fed Short. The latter ran a dozen yards or so and re-passed but the scrum half was tackled. For obstruction at the scrum a visiting forward was penalised, and from a favourable position MILLINGTON converted.

On the restart Millington was distinguished with a lovely run, going clean through to the full back. He essayed a wide pass to the wing, but Hough was not in position to take the ball and a fine chance of scoring was lost. The City, however, still attacked, and from a line-out clever work between Short and LOVERIDGE gave the latter a corner try. Millington failed at goal.

Resuming, the Air Force backs indulged in some passing which looked promising, but the tackling was too good. J. Stephens recovered a mistake by a colleague, and found touch well inside the visitors' half. Millington again ran well, but nothing resulted from his effort, and the same player failed in an attempt to drop a goal. Failure to gather allowed the Airmen to clear, and the ball was sent past Thomas. E. Stephens, however, got back and brought off a clever clearance.

Gloucester, working well together, secured territorial advantage. Harvey tried hard to clear with a strong run across the field, but Vines missed the pass, and the ball being gathered by Hough, the City wing raced away but was overhauled in attempting to beat the full back.

Next combination between Millington and Loveridge put Gloucester on the attack, but the defence held out. Hough was hurt in a tackle in front of the visitors' posts, and the ball getting loose Norwood picked up and fed VINES. The latter ran hard and punting over Thomas's head had an open field. He dribbled the ball over the line and touched down for a good try. Chichester missed the goal point.

Hough was able to continue, but Rollings (Air Force) retired with a damaged rib. The Gloucester backs displayed clever passing, but Millington sent behind Loveridge. Then E. Stephens tricked the defence and worked out a beautiful opening, but Foulkes failed to take a perfect pass with an open line. Gloucester, however, kept up the pressure, and the forwards breaking away in fine style, SHORT picked up and went over with a capital try. The place kick by Millington failed.

The resumption saw a spell of even play, until a great run by Vines gave the Air Force a splendid chance, but it was thrown away through a wild transfer. Thomas was instrumental in bringing Gloucester out of danger, and good forward work further improved. Play was contested in the centre when the interval was called.

HALF-TIME :

GLoucester 1 goal (p), 2 tries
R.A.F. 1 try

From the restart the Airmen got the ball and at once started passing, but the movement broke down and Gloucester gained an advantage. Rollings had returned prior to the change over and the teams were at full strength again. The visitors again got the ball out but the marking was too close. Then Godwin opened out with a nice reverse pass to Stephens, and Millington and Loveridge passed and interpassed beautifully. They got right to the line when the final transfer was captured by an opponent. From the ensuing scrum close in GOODWIN secured and dodging round the blind side scored in the corner. No goal resulted.

From the kick-off there were some keen exchanges at mid-field until Russell led a sharp rush. J. Stephens, however, gathered and punted well to touch. From the line-out Loveridge kicked ahead and the forwards being well up the ball was dribbled over and REA credited with a try. Millington landed a neat goal and Gloucester led by 17 to 3.

On the restart some passing by the Airman was fumbled and Loveridge intercepting, darted clean up the centre of the field. He was partly tackled by Burns, but passed to E. Stephens who was tackled from behind. The ball getting loose Goodwin sent out a wide pass to the right, but Millington just failed to receive it with a splendid chance of scoring.

Gloucester had another possible opening later, Millington again being to the fore, but close tackling spoiled the passing. A penalty to the Airmen gave them a nice slice of ground and there was a determined attack on the left. This was beaten off, but the ball getting out to the opposite wing Vines ran strongly, and when collared gave an inside pass to HODDER, who scored near the posts. Maxwell converted.

Gloucester were penalised immediately after the kick-off, but the home forwards recovered, and the Airmen lost ground with a long pass to the wing. The City went close after this, but they missed their opportunity. Opening out in their 25, Hodder and Odbert cut out an opening for HARVEY, who raced away from the centre, and scored a fine try, which Maxwell failed to convert. The score now stood 17–11, an interesting position.

Resuming, the Airmen gave the ball plenty of air, and with fast men at three-quarter, they were always dangerous when in possession. Vines made another fine run down touch, but this time was brought down in fine style by Thomas. After Harvey had been stopped on the other wing, J, Stephens was prominent with a determined run, and Gloucester were provided with a good opening. There was a series of exchanges ending in SAXBY forcing himself over the line with a try. Millington just missed the goal points.

Subsequent play was fast and open. E. Stephens and Loveridge shone in a pretty bit of combination, but the latter's pass went astray. Gloucester showed some clever play later, and MILLINGTON scored nicely after good dribble by J. Stephens and a pick up and pass by Hough. The goal kick failed.

Gloucester had the better of the exchanges to the end, and just on time, after neat work by the backs, J. STEPHENS went through, and side stepping Burns beautifully scored between the posts for Millington to convert.

RESULT :

GLO'STER ... 3 goals (1p) 5 tries (28 pts.)
R.A.F. 1 goal 2 tries (11 pts.)