

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1921

## FOOTBALL

SERVICES WELL BEATEN AT KINGSHOLM

BRILLIANT SCORING BY GLOUCESTER IN FIRST HALF

DELIGHTFUL AND SPORTING GAME

The return fixture between Gloucester and the Services (Portsmouth), at Kingsholm this afternoon, had been looked forward to with great interest as certain to provide a keen and sporting contest. On New Year's Day, when the City visited Pompey, the teams drew, 5 points each; but the weather conditions were all against a fair test. It had been hoped that the Services would bring both Kershaw and Davies, England's half-backs, with them to-day; but the former could not make the journey, to the great disappointment of local enthusiasts, who had been anxious to see the International and Dix in opposition. Lieut.-Commander Davies, however, was included in the ranks, and Kershaw's deputy was Lieut. Chevallier, who was in the team against Gloucester at Portsmouth.

Gloucester had practically a full side out, Stanley Cook again appearing at centre. Sid Brown, still on the disabled list – and reported likely to be for another month – and W. F. Warde (forward) were the only absentees.

After a dull and threatening morning the weather turned bright and clear, and there was a fine attendance. There was one change in the Services side, Lieut. Hone displacing Lieut. Farrant in the forwards. The teams took the field at 2.45, and a very hearty ovation was given the visitors.

## GLOUCESTER

BACK : C. Cook.

THREE-QUARTERS : F. Webb (capt.), T. Millington, Stanley Cook, and N. Daniell.

HALF-BACKS : W. Dix and A. Robbins.

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe, G. Holford, T. Voyce, S. Smart, A. Hall, J. F. Lawson, J. Harris, and J. H. Webb.

## UNITED SERVICES

BACK : Lt. Evan Thomas (3).

THREE-QUARTERS : Lt. Robertson-Macdonald, Lt. Carnduff (58), Lt. Commander Mackenzie (11), and Lt. Head (45).

HALF-BACKS : Lt. Chevallier (60). and Lt. Commander Davies (1).

FORWARDS : Lt. Agnew (24), Lt. Loriston-Clark (27), Lt. Orr-Ewing (29), Lt. Graham (21), Lt. William Powlett (47), Lt. Hone (61), Lt. Stoneham, and Lt. Pearce (54)

Referee : Mr. W. H. Vanstone (Bath).

## THE GAME

The Services started the game, and Millington being closely pressed was lucky in getting a left-foot punt to touch. The visitors got the ball away from the first scrum, but Davies cleverly kicked to touch some 20 yards down the field.

Early on the City pack broke away finely with a loose rush, and Thomas was collared directly he received. In the loose Voyce picked up and started a bout of passing. Stanley Cook receiving, ran finely and passed to F. Webb, who cross-kicked, and Holford gathering beautifully scored near the posts amidst great cheers. Robbins kicked a neat goal.

On the restart a Gloucester forward tried to open out from the kick-off, but passed badly, and the Services dribbled away until stopped by Millington.

Gloucester changed the venue with a splendid touch-finder, and midfield was the centre of operations. Here Hall picked up and initiated a series of transfers. The backs were in correct position to receive the ball, and after some delightful exchanges Daniell crossed at the left corner with as fine a try one could wish for. The place kick failed, but Gloucester were eight points up in less than five minutes.

Following the resumption there was some even play, but Gloucester took up the attack again, a fine kick by Daniell being well followed up by Harris. Gloucester were giving the ball plenty of air, but a mistake in handling spoiled one nice movement.

Robbins was prominent with a neat bit of play and drop for goal, but the ball went wide and over the line, with Millington and Daniell well up when Thomas touched down.

A pretty run and kick by S. Cook on the drop-out put Gloucester on the offensive again, but the visitors relieved with a loose rush to beyond the centre. Gloucester quickly came back, and from a high punt from a penalty the Services were lucky in escaping with a touch-down.

Voyce took the drop-out and effected a short burst and pass, but the movement was checked. Then the Services forwards broke away with a long dribble, which C. Cook stopped after the movement had progressed some 30 yards.

Back Gloucester came through Lawson, who dodged several opponents and put in a left-foot kick past Thomas. F. Webb tried hard to get to the ball but just failed before it went out of play. The Services moved out slightly by the aid of a penalty, but S. Cook put his side well down again with a smart kick after clever elusive work.

A kick sent the ball over the Services line, but a visitor pluckily ran round behind the posts. He, however, dropped the ball just as he got inside the field of play, and Gloucester nearly scored.

The City were now in a good attacking position, and with a sweet reverse pass Dix served Robbins. The latter cut through and handed to F. Webb, who yielded to Cook for the latter to hand on to Millington. The goal-line was in sight, and Millington had no difficulty in scoring Gloucester's third try. Robbins had hard lines with his shot for goal, the ball hitting the upright and rebounding into the field of play.

The resumption saw Gloucester clearly in the ascendant. The whole team were playing delightful football, the forwards dribbling grandly and the backs handling with accuracy and precision. Thomas checked one fine combined rush by turning the ball to touch when matters looked dangerous for his side. A penalty for Gloucester saw Robbins take a drop for goal, but he screwed the ball too much and only a minor resulted.

Soon afterwards Millington gathered a low pass from Dix, and after feinting cross-kicked. Ayliffe gathered and threw out wide to Daniell, who took the pass nicely, but the transfer was ruled forward. Another penalty was given to Gloucester a couple of minutes later, but Robbins could do nothing with his kick.

Subsequent play was all in favour of Gloucester, who continued on the aggressive. Dix and Robbins opened out whenever possible, but the defence was good. Daniell just missed a try in the left corner, and then play went to the right, where Dix, Robbins, Millington, S. Cook and Webb took part in a combined movement, which was stopped only a few yards from the line.

The Services were clearly outplayed, and after Robbins had failed at another penalty close in, Gloucester missed a couple of tries by the closest shave. Not to be denied, Gloucester pegged away, and Dix was nearly over on his own. In the next minute, however, Dix got the ball out again, and serving a quick pass to Robbins the latter slipped over the line nicely. Voyce took the place-kick and landed a lovely goal, giving the City the splendid lead of sixteen points to nil.

To the interval play was wholly in favour of Gloucester.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
GLOUCESTER ..... 2 goals, 2 tries  
UNITED SERVICES ..... Nil

The run of play in the first half had been very one-sided for with the exception of an occasional loose forward burst the Services had been overwhelmed in all departments. Sixteen points to nil rather underestimated the City's superiority.

Ayliffe resumed, and the Services marking, they punted to touch inside the home half. Hall gathering, broke away and started passing, but the ball was missed, and Davies slipped in and ran a few yards, when he transferred to Macdonald. Putting on full pace, the Services' right wing beat C. Cook and notched a fine try, the opening success of the visitors being loudly applauded. Davies missed the goal points.

Nettled by this unexpected reverse, the City put in a fine forward rush on the restart, and the Services were hard pressed. Davies relieved with a good punt, but Dix, picking up, made headway before he passed. Some good tackling, however, prevented the desired opening. The Services worked back to beyond the centre, but Stanley Cook, with a dashing effort down touch, completely changed the scene of operations to the other end. Dix was hereabouts prominent with a couple of clever runs, but nothing tangible resulted. Then as the result of some loose kicking the ball was sent to the Gloucester end and over the line, Cook conceding a minor.

Ensuing play was fast and open, the Services doing much better and shaping well. Harris and one or two other forwards brought off a fine dribble for some 30 yards, the ball being finally kicked past Thomas. The latter, however, got back and saved.

Midfield play followed, until Holford got in a nice kick to touch. The Services worked out a few yards, only to see Stanley Cook run back in dashing style. He, however, held on too long, and was brought down by Davies. Gloucester confined play to their opponents' half, until a long kick sent the ball to touch a few yards ahead.

Holford was the medium of Gloucester being sent away again, and the ball being taken past Thomas a score seemed imminent, but the Services saved at the critical moment. Gloucester attacked resolutely, and well inside the visitors' 25 Dix sent out a clever pass to Hall, and with several home men well placed a try looked certain, but Millington failed to accept the transfer, and though a home player recovered it was too late.

The Services cleared from a dangerous situation, and a loose rush took them into the Gloucester half. Play, however, was not up to the standard of the first half, the handling being very deficient at times.

A wild pass by Chevallier gave Gloucester a chance which was at once seized upon, and Voyce, with a strong burst, looked like going through. He, however, essayed a pass to Dix, which was not accepted, and another possible scoring chance was lost.

The Services were called upon to defend hotly; but their tackling was very keen, and Gloucester could not get through. A penalty to the Services saw Davies put in a big punt which Webb had to run back to field, and he was only able to get in a moderate kick to touch.

The visitors got closer after this, but in trying to open out Robbins intercepted and ran to the centre before being stopped. Harris and Dix combined in a neat bit of combination, but the next transfer was not accepted, with a fine opening.

The Services were having a full share of the play just now, and Gloucester were confined to their half of the ground. F. Webb, S. Cook, Dix and Hall shone in some good work for the City, but there was an absence of that finish which crowned their efforts in the opening stages.

C. Cook was twice at fault in fielding and let the Services in, but the situation was recovered. Passing by home backs promised well, F. Webb finally cross-kicking, but the Services were able to save. Play was well contested and full of interest to the end, but there was no more scoring.

RESULT :  
GLOUCESTER .... 2 goals, 2 tries (16 pts.)  
UNITED SERVICES ..... 1 try (3 pts.)

### REMARKS

Another splendid victory for Gloucester, though I daresay some disappointment was felt that the City failed to score in the second half. But full credit must be given to the Services for their fine recovery after being hopelessly out of the hunt in the first thirty-five minutes. The game as a whole was delightful to watch, and the opening half provided thrills and spectacular football the equal of which has not been surpassed at Kingsholm for some time.

In a word, the City were simply irresistible. Overwhelmed forward, the Services backs were nonplussed by the running, passing, combination and resource of the Gloucester men.

The visitors tackled strongly, and tried their hardest to break up the continual offensive movements, but they were successful only to a moderate degree. It was fine Rugby, and the crowd were fairly carried away with excitement.

With the change of ends there was a transformation. The wind no doubt had proved beneficial to Gloucester in the opening half, and the Services were not slow to take advantage of the conditions.

Encouraged by that early score by Robertson-Macdonald, the visitors greatly improved all-round, and there were several occasions when the City were subjected to real pressure. All the same Gloucester ought to have added to their lead more than once.

Openings were clearly made on several occasions, but the safe handling so prominent a feature of the play in the earlier stages was conspicuous by its absence. Added to this the fact that the Services' marking and collaring were far more effective, and the City's non-success is explained.

Gloucester, taking the game through, had a decided pull forward. The men were splendidly together in the loose, and in the scrummages an excellent standard was maintained. In the lines-out, too, Hall, Holford and Voyce were particularly good. For general all-round work, however, I give the palm to-day to Harris, Ayliffe and Lawson, with Jack Webb a noteworthy performer in his own speciality of stopping rushes.

At half-back, Dix and Robbins displayed a perfect understanding, and the delightful way the pair opened out must have impressed the English captain. Chevallier, Kershaw's deputy, could not "live" with Dix, who was positively ubiquitous. He, not content at times with only beating his immediate opponent, had Davies guessing on several occasions as to his intentions.

Robbins showed real cleverness in attack, and for 20 yards or so covers the ground very quickly. His defence was also good. The old Breamite was not so successful as usual with his shots for goal from penalties, one or two being missed from comparatively easy distances. But the wind no doubt was very tricky. Hall was playing outside most of the second half with his usual effectiveness, and Gloucester ought to have benefited on two occasions from openings he made.

The City three-quarters were happy in combination, with Stanley Cook and Millington much to the fore at centre. Both displayed judgment and resource, and their respective wings were well served. Daniell put plenty of dash into his play, but I think he makes a mistake in trying to cross-kick so near the goal-line with only one man to beat. Fred Webb showed better form to-day, and did one or two good things under pressure. If Stanley Cook can be prevailed upon to assist again next week the line should do alright against Newport.

The Services played a good sporting game, keenness and vigour being prominent characteristics of the front rank. They lacked the finish in the open displayed by Gloucester, especially in hand work, but they had one or two men who knew how to control the ball in a loose rush.



Chevallier was outclassed at scrum half, and Davies had to find most of his own work. There were times when the English[sic] captain shone with a smart individual effort, but he was too closely watched to make much headway. His excellent kicking to touch was a valuable asset to his side, especially in the second half.

The Services three-quarters were not over-taxed with opportunities, and it was not until the second half they were able to do much with the ball. Carnduff and Mackenzie were useful in defence, and Macdonald showed good speed when he scored. Against weaker opposition the line would probably do much damage.

At full back Thomas was a sound defender and kicked strongly, whilst he stopped a number of dangerous forward bursts. On the day he was superior to C. Cook, who did not reach the form he displayed at Leicester.

An now for Newport! The Usksiders retained their unbeaten record at Swansea to-day, and it is up to Gloucester to see that the "burial" duly takes place next week at the famous Kingsholm ground. The "boys," I know, fully realise the task that is set them, and it is certain they will not fail for the want of trying. "Up Gloucester!"

JC