

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1925

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER'S GOOD WIN

TOTAL OF TEN TRIES IN KEEN MATCH

FINE PASSING BY THE OLD BLUES

CITY FORWARDS AGAIN THE MAINSTAY

Splendid overhead conditions favoured the meeting of Gloucester and the Old Blues at Kingsholm to-day, when the proceeds of the match were to be devoted towards the £10,000 appeal on behalf of the Gloucestershire Royal Infirmary. All members were requested to pay on admission to the ground, while inside the gates collectors, some of whom were in fancy dress, did their best to entice support for the charitable object. The ground was soft when the teams turned out. The Old Blues were strongly represented, while Gloucester lacked the services of Tom Voyce and Tom Millington, the latter of whom is recovering from an attack of "flu." The teams were :—

GLOUCESTER

BACK : S. Williams.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. Brown (capt.), E. Hughes, A. Hopcroft, and S. Crowther.

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

FORWARDS : F. Ayliffe, S. Bayliss, S. Duberley, F. Ford, M. Short, A. Hall, W. Hemmings, and H. Roberts.

OLD BLUES

BACK : H. W. F. Franklin.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. C. Bennett, E. S. Satterthwaite, A. W. Childs-Clark, and E. N. Wenborn.

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

FORWARDS : G. T. E. Cockerill, E. G. Moore, C. J. W. Hodgson, J. N. Young, C. W. S. Averill, R. C. Hare, and W. G. Poskitt.

Referee : Mr. G. Romans.

THE GAME

Gloucester kicked off and were quickly on the offensive, but Brown sent in an awkward pass and the visitors made progress. Quick work in the loose by the City forwards led to another handling movement, but a fumbled pass stopped progress. Franklin got in a beautiful kick to touch, while Williams, waiting for a bouncing ball, left himself with little room to clear. A series of forward rushes on one flank by the City backs led to Gloucester opening the scoring, CROWTHER darting over near the corner. Dr. Taylor failed to convert.

Both teams displayed any amount of pace on the greasy surface, and it was owing to lack of understanding in their own ranks that led to Gloucester being penned in their own half for a short time. Milliner was alert to get any advantages from the scrum, but the home backs' passing was far from being perfect.

There was a lot of play in mid-field for ten minutes, and it was noticeable that several attempts by the home players to get on the attack were spoiled by their hanging on too long to the ball. After a lot of uneventful play the Old Blues initiated a brilliant movement near the half-way line in which four or five players engaged in passing and re-passing until SATTERTHWAIT received the final transfer and went over for a fine try. Hodgson could not majorise.

This put more spirit into Gloucester's play, and after Dr. Taylor had got in a splendid tackle he started an attack which was carried on by Hughes and Brown, continued by Taylor, and polished off by BROWN, who touched down near the flag. Williams' effort to convert was short.

Gloucester's forwards did much in subsequent play to keep the Old Blues very busy in defending. Bayliss was unfortunately hurt in a melee and had to be carried off ten minutes before the interval. The absence of this good forward, however, did not unsettle the home team, whose forward rushes continued to wear down the Old Blues' defence.

FORD ended another spirited attack by getting a try, while CROWTHER also touched down for another. Neither try was converted, though Dr. Taylor and Williams respectively made good attempts from long and acute range.

The visitors got no rest, and though they played gallantly they were finding Gloucester' superiority in the loose a big obstacle.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 4 tries

OLD BLUES 1 try

There was any amount of fire in the play on the resumption in which the Old Blues were by no means second best. Bennett was the final receiver in two long rounds of passing, and on each occasion he sprinted straight for the line, but Williams and Taylor each brought off effective tackles. A splendid kick to touch by Williams brought him a rousing cheer.

There were any amount of fumbled passes and short kicks on each side. The visitors continued to keep their right wing well supplied, and Bennett set off on another fast-time dash until Ford brought off a great tackle. Then S. H. Wales took a drop-kick for goal and got the ball over the bar, but the referee signalled for a drop-out, a home player having apparently touched the ball in its flight.

Gloucester were still without Bayliss, and a period of sharp attacking by the Old Blues was finished off by BENNETT, who got the ball after it had been passed right along the three-quarter line. He ran hard for the line and touched down in spite of Williams' tackle.

The visitors showed they had any amount of stamina, and they were quickly back to the Gloucester 25. Their dogged tactics got due reward when S. H. WALES dashed over for another try which, like the previous one, was unconverted.

With only three points separating the teams the struggle became quite intense, and Gloucester had to pull out a bit more. This had the desired effect so far as the home team were concerned, for Taylor, after "selling the dummy" in great style, put his forwards on the aggressive, and a scramble on the visitors' goal-line ended in CROWTHER going over for a try, which Taylor converted from a difficult position.

There was little artistry about much of the play, but there was no doubt about the earnestness of intention, especially in tackling, the visitors not being inferior in this respect. However, they found the home forwards had lost none of their keenness, and in another breakaway from the half-way line AYLIFFE gained possession and ran 30 yards to touch down with three opponents in vain pursuit. Taylor failed with the kick.

This broke the back of the visiting defence, and CROWTHER ended a happy afternoon for himself by scoring another try which Taylor goaled.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER	2 goals 5 tries (25 pts)
OLD BLUES	3 tries (9 pts)

REMARKS

The bare result suggests that the Old Blues were well and truly beaten, and though this may be true, the visitors were very far from being disgraced. In fact, they excelled in one respect, and that was their handling. On several occasions each man in the three-quarter line handled the ball in a passing movement, and the reason this superiority did not bring its full reward was the lack of resource in the three-quarter line – typical of Rugby in the Mother Country at the present time.

But the first try scored by the Old Blues in the opening half was worthy even of the New Zealanders. There were eight or nine passes before the try was scored, a man always being in support despite the keen marking of the City players.

To the efforts of the Gloucester forwards in the loose must be ascribed much of the home team's success; and they do so consistently well in this respect that there is a danger of their real cleverness being taken too much for granted by the general body of supporters. It would not be just to single out one as being better than the others; all did well and deserve due credit.

Milliner was not given an excess of opportunity at scrum-half, but the transfers he did make to Dr. Taylor imparted the touch of class to much of his play, and two tackles he brought off were fine examples of timing and effectiveness.

Crowther was the most prominent of the home three-quarters, and his four tries were gained by clever individualism on most occasions. Hughes supported him well, but Brown was none too adequately assisted by Hopcroft, who was unaccountably weak either in passing or receiving. Williams did well at full-back, but should get rid of a tendency to wait for a bouncing ball.

There were about 4,000 spectators, and the collections made at the gates for the Royal Infirmary amounted to £17 6s.