

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1936

ROYAL NAVY 8 Pts., GLOUCESTER 8 Pts.

CITY FORWARDS SHINE IN GREAT STRUGGLE

NEW PLAYER A SUCCESS ON THE WING

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester opposed a representative team of the Royal Navy, instead of the United Services, at Portsmouth to-day. The City put up a splendid fight against strong opposition, and shared honours in a drawn game. Recently the Royal Navy won at Bristol, where Gloucester suffered defeat a fortnight ago.

Gloucester had Boughton back in the team for the first time since his injury against Cornwall, and a new three-quarter appeared in T. K. Bishop, of the Berkshire Wanderers. Bishop was given a trial as the result of a recommendation by A. F. Hamilton-Smythe, the former Blackheath and Cambridge forward.

Owing to his being engaged in the County semi-final for Hants. against Cornwall, Hordern was absent from the pack, and Ken Smith filled the vacancy.

The Royal Navy missed their trial with Blackheath last week owing to the general cancelling of fixtures consequent on the National bereavement, and were anxious to get in another game prior to the Inter-Services test with the R.A.F. next Saturday. Gloucester readily fell in with the request for the substitution of the match with the United Services with whom the date was originally arranged. Devonport Services, whom Gloucester defeated at Kingsholm at the end of the year by 9 points to 3, had a big representation in the Royal Navy side – four backs and four forwards.

GLOUCESTER

FULL-BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: R. E. Hook, F. G. Edwards, J. C. Brooks (capt.), and T. K. Bishop.

HALF-BACKS: E. Day and D. Meadows.

FORWARDS: A. Carpenter, C. Harris, T. Price, J. G. A'Bear, R. Morris, Dr. Dick, A. Welshman, and K. Smith.

ROYAL NAVY

FULL-BACK: A. B. Knapman (D. Services).

THREE-QUARTERS: Shipwright Hurden (D. Services), Stoker Marsh (D. Services), Leading Seaman Criddle (D. Services), and Sub-Lieut. A. T. Darley ("Excellent").

HALF-BACKS: Pay-Lieut. Weeks and Lieut. J. S. Walsham (R.N.C. Greenwich).

FORWARDS: Lieut. I. G. Ayles (R.N.C. Greenwich), Mid. D. N. Callaghan (R.N.E.C.), Lieut. R. S. Hawkins ("Dolphin"), Lieut. Cdr. J. W. Forrest (D. Services), Lieut. N. L. Evans (R.N.E.C.), Lieut. R. J. Hammond ("Excellent"), Ldg.-Sig. Aitken (Chatham), and E. R. A. Doggett.

There was a late change in the Gloucester team, Dr. Dick taking the place of Ivor Williams, and for the Navy Paymaster Lieut. Weeks replaced Welch at half back and E. R. A. Doggett, Watkins at forward.

Owing to the late arrival of the visitors the kick-off was delayed. About 1,500 spectators were present.

THE GAME

The ground was very heavy in places and likely to prove a big handicap to the backs. Boughton started for Gloucester and from Knapman's return, Hook found a splendid touch close in.

Carrying a loose scrum the City made a few yards, but the Navy dribbled clear. Hook, however, gathered and passed to Brooks who punted back.

From a free the Navy got out beyond the centre, but Boughton started a bout of passing.

Brooks and Bishop interpassed beautifully and the latter finally cross punted, but a knock on spoiled a fine opening.

Gloucester attacked again with passing, Edwards being just stopped in time after a strong burst.

BOUGHTON OPENS SCORING

Offside gave the City a penalty and from 30 yards out BOUGHTON landed a grand goal, the ball hitting the post and dropping over the cross bar.

Fast forward play followed the restart and Knapman started the Navy with several good touchfinders.

A breakdown in Gloucester's passing saw the home forwards dribble away, and a dangerous movement was checked in time.

Gloucester continued to open out prettily and the Navy defence was tested. From the loose the City got the ball away to Meadows, and EDWARDS, taking a neat pass, dashed ahead and scored a fine try.

Boughton converted with another glorious kick and Gloucester were eight points up.

The football so far had been very interesting, being very fast and open.

Day was getting the ball away from the scrums cleverly, and Meadows showed smart tactics in opening out the play.

BOUGHTON IN FORM

The Navy forwards were quick in breaking up, but they were more than beaten in heeling.

Boughton was showing his best form in fielding and positioning, and his kicking was always well judged. One long punt went past Knapman, and there being only a moderate return, Gloucester gained a footing in their opponents' end.

Bishop showed up with a fine dodgy run at the centre of the field, but he unfortunately slipped up as he was getting clear. The ball rolled away, and the Navy securing, there was a dangerous attack on the left, ending in a kick over the line for a touch down.

Near mid-field Day started the City backs going, and Brooks made a lovely break through. After running 30 yards he handed to Hook, but the pass was ruled forward. Combined loose play by the Navy regained the ground after Knapman had a long shot for goal from a penalty kick, but sent wide.

ARREARS REDUCED

Gloucester again moved ahead promisingly, but Knapman, who was very safe, sent them back with lovely punts to touch. A keen forward struggle followed in the Gloucester half, and eventually Walsham fed Marsh, who after a powerful burst handed to HURDEN who scored near the posts for Knapman to convert.

With only three points between the teams, the contest was waged with grim determination on the restart. Brooks and Bishop again showed up with pretty work on the left, but a return pass was spoiled by an opponent. Darley replied with a dashing run for the home team, but he was upset before getting dangerous.

A penalty, splendidly taken by Boughton, put Gloucester well down, and Morris led the forwards in a sharp rush, which placed the Navy line in danger. The Navy came again with fast forward work, but the City defence held up admirably.

Gloucester worked desperately in the next few minutes to add to their lead, but could not find an opening.

HALF-TIME :
Gloucester 2 goals (1p.)
Navy 1 goal

Despite the heavy conditions some splendid football had been witnessed, with Gloucester greatly distinguished in all departments. The second half started with some rousing forward work, Gloucester once rushing half the length of the field.

The Navy returned with neat passing, and Hurden made a determined effort to break through on the right, but was forced to pass forward.

Gloucester had to concede a minor, but on the drop out they rushed to the other end. Knapman was pressed, but he managed to get the ball to touch.

BISHOP'S HARD LINES

Fierce exchanges between the rival forwards ended fairly evenly, and there was a long spell of play at mid-field. Bishop shone with a delightful run, and just stepped over the touch-line.

Hurden made a fine effort for the Navy, but he was finely tackled by Boughton and Edwards. The Navy took charge of the play after this.

Gloucester were penalised in front of the posts, but from the easy place kick Knapman hit the upright, and the ball rebounded into the field of play.

Gloucester continued to be hotly pressed, but the defence was equal to all occasions. A combined forward rush eventually gained relief, and Gloucester had a short spell of attacking. Nothing resulted, however, and the Navy, aided by a penalty kick, transferred play to the City 25.

The visitors' defence had a warm time for two or three minutes, but it held firm.

GRUELLING CONTEST FORWARD

The Navy backs were getting more of the ball in this half, and there were several bouts of passing, but Darley and Hurden were well marked on the respective wings.

Gloucester made progress with a loose dribble in which Carpenter and Welshman were prominent, but Knapman proved a stumbling block.

Play continued fast and furious, and the contest forward was one of the hottest Gloucester had taken part in this season. Near the centre Welch[sic] broke away on the short side of the scrum for the Navy, and Hurden followed with a strong dash.

NAVY DRAW LEVEL

Fine inter-passing followed which ended in DOGGETT scoring a try, which Knapman failed to convert. With the scores level there was a keen fight for the lead. Gloucester put in a strong attack, but Knapman cleared with a run and pass, and play went to the other end. Gloucester rushed out and made a great effort for the winning points, but were unsuccessful.

In the last few minutes the Navy took charge of the game, and Boughton had to leave the field, but Gloucester held them to the finish.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 2 goals (1p.) (8 pts.)

NAVY 1 goal 1 try (8 pts.)

REMARKS

It was a grand struggle, and Gloucester deserved praise for their fine performance. The City forwards put up one of their best displays of the season against a very powerful eight, and all worked splendidly.

The Gloucester backs put in a lot of fine work, and Bishop, the recruit, was a decided success.

Boughton and Knapman were in great form at full-back, and their respective displays were among the features of the game.

JC