

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1936

GLO'STER FORWARDS' TRIUMPH AT LLANELLY

FEATURES IN MEMORABLE VICTORY

1936 TEAM MAKE HISTORY

FROM "W.B.'s NOTEBOOK

WITH their triumph over Llanelly on Saturday, Gloucester completed a trio of successive victories which will bear favourable comparison with the best achievements of any Rugby Union club in the country. Oxford University and Richmond, both defeated at Kingsholm, are in the first flight of English combinations, and Llanelly's prowess at home is well known.

Few teams bring winning points away from Stradey Park, and that Gloucester had to wait 38 years for their second success over the Welshmen is significant. Boughton's successful goal kick – another fine effort – enabled the City to break that long record of defeats on the famous enclosure, and it was fitting that the International should feature such an occasion with an all-round display which added to his reputation.

ANOTHER MEMORABLE DATE.

Saturday, March 7, 1936.

GLOUCESTER beat Llanelly at Stradey Park for the first time since season 1898-9.

SCORES :

GLOUCESTER 1goal (5 points)

Llanelly 1 try (3 points)

R. Morris scored the try for Gloucester and H. Boughton converted.

TEAM : H. Boughton; R. Hook, F. G. Edwards, J. C. Brooks (capt.) and E. L. Phillips;
E. Day and D. Meadows; A. D. Carpenter, T. Price, C. Harris, J. G. A'Bear, R. Morris,
P. Hordern, Ivor Williams and A. Welshman. Reserve : Dr. Dick.

Linesman : J. F. Scoon. Committeeman : E. T. James; and T. Bagwell.

Of the 15 players, Boughton, Brooks, Edwards, Meadows, Carpenter, A'Bear, Morris, and Welshman were in the victorious team which gained the club's first victory over Swansea at St. Helen's on November 4, 1933.

Since his return to the team – against the Royal Navy at Portsmouth on February 1 – Boughton has figured prominently in the Gloucester scoring, and just now the City full-back is showing form equal to anything he displayed last season, when he gained the favour of England's Selectors.

There was just a hope that Boughton might be recalled to help England again in the Calcutta Cup match, but Owen-Smith has been preferred, and with the old Oxford Blue are the same backs who did duty against New Zealand.

BOUGHTON'S RECOVERY TOO LATE ?

Owen-Smith has points over the Gloucester player, in that he is quicker in his movements on the field, but Boughton proved his worth in all three International matches last year, and his value as a goal-kicker was clearly emphasised.

A moderate start this season spoiled Boughton's chances for the trials, and his recovery apparently came too late to displace Owen-Smith.

Boughton's form at Llanelly was good enough for any International side, and Welshmen were very appreciative in their praise of the Gloucester custodian.

I can only recall one occasion when he misfielded, and that was a very slight knock-on. Otherwise his collection of the ball from all angles was perfect, and his touch-finding of immense value to his forwards in such a terrific battle for supremacy. Further, Boughton was never at a loss in dealing with the fiery rushes of the Llanelly pack, and in those last few exciting minutes pluck and daring were needed to keep the opposition in check.

Boughton has given some of his finest displays at Stradey, where I believe he made his debut for Gloucester when a youth of 16 some ten years ago.

HORDERN'S KEENNESS

It was something new for Gloucester to field the selected team for the Llanelly trip, and this fact, I think, encouraged the players that they had an even chance of winning.

Peter Hordern made the long journey (130 miles) by motor-car to take part in the match, and fortunately he arrived just in time. Here's keenness and enthusiasm, for it was anything but a pleasant trip by road! And he had to make the return journey all alone, for his general invitation to anyone to accompany him was not accepted.

Hordern had charge of the City forwards, and his leadership and covering work under pressure were invaluable in such a contest.

It was one of the hardest tests the Gloucester pack has been set this season, and that they came through so gloriously was a tribute to the stamina and ability of the whole eight.

CITY'S SUPERB DEFENCE

Llanelly, with their three Internationals – Ifor Jones, Bryn Evans, and Jim Lang – fully expected to hold the advantage forward, but the Scarlets had a big surprise.

Gloucester established a clear supremacy before the interval, both in the scrums and loose, and the one try scored by no means represented the City's advantage. But the Welshmen were a strong attacking force in the second half, and only a superb defence kept them out.

There were many exciting moments in the later stages, and Llanelly had chances of snatching a win with penalty kicks, but Ifor Jones did not meet with any success with his shots for goal.

Gloucester made several thrilling bursts with effective footwork, and Phillips and Edwards went very close to scoring.

DOUBTFUL SCORE

Llanelly's try came mid-way in the second half, but the legitimacy of the point was very closely questioned before the referee gave a final decision. Gloucester players contended that Emyrs Evans not only stepped into touch, but when tackled by Boughton he was thrown into touch-in-goal before grounding the ball. The incident occurred in the far corner on the opposite side to the Press seats, and it was impossible to see what actually happened at such a distance. The visitors, however, were very emphatic that it was no try. As the goal kick failed, Gloucester were left with a hard-won victory by two points.

History was made, and it was a joyous party that left Stradey to entrain for home. The performance equalled the feat of two years ago, when Gloucester recorded their first win over Swansea at St. Helen's. And eight of the players had the satisfaction of figuring in the great "double" !

UNITED FRONT

I question if the Gloucester forwards, as a whole, have accomplished a better performance than last week, considering the strength of the opposition, and on a ground so fatal to visiting sides.

There were occasions when the pack were highly tested by the combined rushes of the Llanelly forwards, but no man shirked his work. There was a united front to all attacks, and sufficient in reserve to make counter efforts.

Carpenter held his own with Bryn Evans, the Welsh hooker, and both in the lines out and loose Gloucester gave nothing away.

Ivor Williams and Welshman shared honours with Hordern in the open, and their keen following up and close marking helped the backs continually in upsetting the Llanelly outsides.

In the general work, A'Bear, Morris, Price and Harris were all actively concerned: summing up, it was a very fine showing, and worthy [of] the club's best traditions.

WISE TACTICS

It was not a day for constructive back play, and Gloucester were wise in the decision not to attempt much in the way of handling. Now and again there was a bright interlude, but for the most part footwork paid best, and in this respect all the City players shone at intervals.

Day had the pull over Smith at scrum half, and Meadows' experience and judgment were extremely helpful in emergencies.

In the third line, Edwards came out strongly with some devastating tackling, and Brooks also gave the home men few opportunities to get going. The wing men, Hook and Phillips, received few direct passes, but made the most of any opportunity of getting ahead.

All-round the Gloucester backs looked the more efficient.

Llanelly were rather poorly served at half-back, where Dai John is badly missed. It would not be surprising if the veteran received another request to resume.

The Welsh centre lacked the smartness usually associated with the Scarlets, and E. Jones and W. H. Clement, the outside men, were little employed except in defence.

The full-back, L. Clement, had a poor match, and his weakness was emphasised owing to Boughton's excellence.

GLOUCESTER RECORD AND FIXTURES.

PLAYED 24 – WON 14, LOST 6, DRAWN 4.

SEPTEMBER

14	v. Lydney	...	W	21	3
21	v. Moseley	...	W	18	4
28	v. Bristol	...	D	3	3

OCTOBER

5	v. Northampton	...	L	0	3
12	v. Cardiff	...	W	3	0
19	v. Llanelly	...	L	14	19
26	v. Cheltenham	...	W	7	6

NOVEMBER

2	v. Newport	...	L	0	9
9	v. Old Blues	...	L	10	15
14	v. Oxford Greyhounds	...	W	14	6
16	v. Bath	...	W	6	3
23	v. Guy's Hospital	...	W	18	11
30	v. Oxford University	...	L	13	15

DECEMBER

7	v. Blackheath	...	Cancelled		
14	v. Moseley	...	W	13	5
21	v. Northampton	...	Cancelled		
26	v. Old Merchant Taylors	...	W	23	0
28	v. Devon Services	...	W	9	3

JANUARY

4	v. London Scottish	...	Cancelled		
11	v. Leicester	...	W	16	6
18	v. Bristol	...	L	3	14
25	v. Guy's Hospital	...	Cancelled		

FEBRUARY

1	v. Royal Navy	...	D	8	8
8	v. Cardiff	...	D	6	6
15	v. Bath	...	D	3	3
22	v. Oxford University	...	W	16	6
29	v. Richmond	...	W	16	3

MARCH

7	v. Llanelly	...	W	5	3
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MARCH

21	Newport	...	H
28	Cheltenham	...	H

APRIL

4	Devon Services	...	A
6	Torquay	...	A
11	London Welsh	...	H
13	Harlequins	...	H
14	Lydney	...	A
18	Headingley	...	H

WEAKENED UNITED TEAM

"R.C." writes : –

Without five of their regular players, Gloucester United did well to hold Cinderford to a three points' victory. The forwards felt the loss of Powell and Ken Smith to an appreciable extent. Powell, like K. Voyce, was unable to get away from work, and Smith had to cry off because of a cold. Pugsley, a serious loss to the threes, could not get away, and Bradley was the other absentee.

A Richards took Voyce's place at scrum half, and despite his smallness put up a remarkably good show against the burley Cinderford forwards. The way in which he marked W. Holder, the Cinderford scrum half, was worthy of note, and although some of his services went astray, he was certainly a good substitute for Voyce.

Dean came into the centre in the three-quarter line, and to my mind was the weak spot in the backs. His passing and handling were weak, and he has not Birch's ability to break through. For that matter, neither of the centres gave their wings the help they should, for both Prichard and Cale made several good runs, only to find no-one backing them up. It was left to Tom Stephens, the full-back, to come up and take a reverse pass to score the only try for the United.

GOOD WORK IN THE LOOSE

Forward, the United lacked weight and were pushed off the ball in the tight scrums. In the loose they showed up to better advantage, and it was due to this and to Stephens' fine kicking that Cinderford did not cross more than twice.

On numerous occasions the home forwards saved a difficult situation with a strong dribble. It must not be imagined, however, that Cinderford had more of the play. Far from it, I think the greater part of the match was played in Cinderford territory, but the United as an attacking force lacked the ability to finish off their movements on the none too numerous occasions when the forwards were able to heel.

Rose and Hiam were always prominent in attack and in upsetting the Cinderford back division's machinery. It would have been better to have seen more of the forwards ready to take a hand in passing and backing up the efforts of the wing threes, both of whom gave a good account of themselves, but were never allowed to get through.

JC