

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1936

HARLEQUINS 10 Pts.; GLOUCESTER 5 Pts.

HARLEQUINS' OPPORTUNISM WINS THE DAY

GLOUCESTER FRITTER AWAY MANY CHANCES

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester concluded their original programme to-day with a drawn game[*sic*] against a strong Harlequins' team. The City are playing three extra matches before the close of the season – Bristol (home and away), and Stroud (away). Gloucester fielded short of Brooks (captain) and Hordern, and the Harlequins had Dunkley, Brook, and Chapman away, but two strong sides turned out. The weather was fine and the playing pitch never looked better. The attendance ten minutes before the kick off was disappointing, but late crowds filed in rapidly, and there were about 5,000 present when the teams lined out.

## GLOUCESTER

BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: R. E. Early, L. A. Phillips, F. G. Edwards, and R. E. Hook.

HALF-BACKS: E. Day and Don Meadows.

FORWARDS: T. Price, A. Carpenter, C. Harris, J. G. A'Bear, R. Morris, A. Welshman, M. W. McGrath, and Ivor Williams.

## HARLEQUINS

BACK: J. D. Ronald.

THREE-QUARTERS: T. H. Tilling, G. E. C. Hudson, K. S. Robinson, and K. B. Cross.

HALF-BACKS: G. J. Dean and J. H. E. Howarth.

FORWARDS: S. G. Smith, C. Thompson, B. J. Collins, H. E. Prescott, P. Rooney, E. Hamilton-Hill, R. Bolton, and R. Gray.

Referee: Mr. R. I. Scorer (North Midlands).

## THE GAME

Phillips and Boughton had been reported doubtful, but fortunately for Gloucester both were able to assist. The kick-off was delayed five minutes owing to the Gloucester team being photographed.

Boughton started against the sun for the City, and there being no reply the first scrum took place on the 'Quins 25. Day got the ball away to Meadows, who tried to find touch close in, but just failed, and the ball rolled over the goal line for a minor.

In some loose play, following the drop-out, the Londoners started passing, but Robinson was beautifully tackled by Phillips, and the movement was checked. Gloucester dribbled back later, but Prescott cleared from a scrum, and got in a burst for 20 yards before handing to a colleague, but no further progress was made.

## FAST PLAY

Subsequent play was fast at the centre, the 'Quins trying hard to open out, but with no direct success. Meadows gained a useful 30 yards with a touch finder, and then Day served out a beautiful pass to Meadows, who threw out to Hook. The latter cross-punted nicely, but Ronald made a good mark.

Passing by Gloucester promised well as Phillips dashed up field, but Early could not take his pass. The attack quickly reverted to the left wing, where Williams came up to take an inside transfer, but though headway was made nothing resulted.

## FINE DASH BY EARLY

Gloucester continued on the attack, and Hook started Edwards going with a long throw across the field. Phillips and Early in turn handled. The latter made a brilliant dash down touch, but Ronald brought off a smashing tackle, although at the expense of being temporarily knocked out.

After a couple of minutes he recovered, and Gloucester immediately shone in a sharp movement. Hook made a gallant effort to elude Tilling, but the latter judged his tackle nicely. The City went very close after this, and Meadows had a drop for goal, but just missed.

#### HARLEQUINS FIVE POINTS UP

Gloucester continued on the aggressive, but the defence was equal to all occasions. In the loose the 'Quins were very fast on the ball, and from a kick down, Meadows had to run back to save. He gathered and threw to the middle of the field, but a visitor picked up and passed to Cross on the left wing.

After a short run he cross-punted and HAMILTON-HILL fielding had an uninterrupted run over and behind the posts. Ronald converted, and this was an opportunist try and showed the Harlequins at their best.

Gloucester resumed with determination, and Meadows put the home team in a favourable position with a well-judged touch-finder. The 'Quins quickly relieved, and smart passing between the forwards gained a lot of ground. Gloucester, however, retaliated, and clever play brought the game to midfield.

Here the City worked out a clever opening, but Price failed to accept an inside pass from Hook with an open goal line and 25 yards to go.

#### HOWARTH'S HARD LINES

The Harlequins gained the upper hand again through failure to handle by home players, and Edwards was lucky to get a mark in the face of keen opposition. Well-judged punting enabled the Londoners to reach the home 25, where Howarth had hard lines with a drop at goal. The ball struck the upright and rebounded into the field of play, a Gloucester man fielding.

Hook and Edwards had now changed places, and subsequently play was rather close, the marking of either side being very keen. Gloucester were getting more of the ball in the scrums, but the backs were unable to make any impression. At the interval play was in the Gloucester half.

#### HALF-TIME :

Harlequins ..... 1 goal  
Gloucester ..... Nil

Gloucester had had more of the play territorially, but the City attacks lacked finish. The Harlequins were a very dangerous lot in the open, and behind they had the speed of the home players.

The City opened the second half with some clever passing, but Phillips could not break through. Then slackness allowed the visitors to become dangerous, but Meadows brought splendid relief with a touch-finder.

#### GLOUCESTER EQUALISE

The City progressed with good kicking, but Tilling returned well. From a long punt from a penalty by Boughton the 'Quins 25 was visited, and Gloucester were now on terms.

The visitors started passing in their 25, but Phillips broke it up and punted over the line. HOOK raced a Harlequin for possession, beat him, and scored near the posts, for Boughton to level the scores.

There was an element of luck in the scoring of the try, but Gloucester deserved reward for their previous hard work.

#### GRAND TRY FOR HARLEQUINS

Play on the resumption was fought out in the Harlequins' half, but the Gloucester attacks were not good enough, and there was a lot of fumbling at times.

After being subjected to severe pressure Dean sneaked away on the blind side of the scrum and passed to Cross. The left wing was well backed up, and after a couple of exchanges HUDSON received to finish a grand movement by scoring between the posts. Ronald easily added the goal points, and the Harlequins had regained the lead. The try was the result of a perfect movement, and the crowd applauded most generously.

On the restart, play favoured the Harlequins who at once initiated a sharp attack. Hook was knocked out in stemming a rush, but was able to continue.

Immediately Meadows shone with a lovely run, but with Phillips nicely placed he punted ahead, and the ball rolled to touch.

#### MISSED CHANCE FOR GLOUCESTER

Play showed no slacking off in pace, but Gloucester, though working hard, especially forward, could not find a clear opening. The Harlequins twice cleared by the aid of penalties, but Gloucester worked back, and Hook raced over from a short pass, but forward was ruled, and he was called back. The Harlequins carried the following scrum, and a high punt took them to the centre. Here Meadows broke away and punted. Phillips followed up, gathered neatly, and raced away. Early was on his right waiting for the pass, but Phillips short punted and Dean was able to clear on the line.

Gloucester had another possible opening a little later, but it was frittered away. In the last few minutes the City put on pressure to save the game. Phillips made a great effort to burst through, but he was smothered by numbers on the line under the goal posts and hurled back into play.

The Harlequins' defence continue to be hotly assailed, but the defence held out.

#### RESULT :

HARLEQUINS ..... 2 goals (10 points)

GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal (5 points)

#### REMARKS

Harlequins' opportunism was the deciding factor in a game keenly fought, but none too brilliant. Gloucester had by far the more chances of scoring, but the City players did not find their best form to-day, and failed frequently, both in judgment and finish, at the critical moment.

The Harlequins had the speed of the home team all round, and the fast-moving forwards especially were a menace whenever mistakes were made in handling. Behind, too, the tackling of the visitors were very sound, and Ronald was far in advance of Boughton at full-back.

The City forwards did their best work in the scrums, where they had the better of the heeling, but in the open the sprightly Harlequins were decidedly superior. Their passing was far more effective, and the back up splendidly consistent. This was very marked when Hudson score the winning points – a perfect movement which carried over three . . .

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JC