

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1937

GLOUCESTER 15 Pts., LONDON WELSH NIL

BRIGHT, OPEN FOOTBALL AT KINGSHOLM

WELSHMEN HAVE GOOD SHARE OF THE PLAY

THREE GOOD TRIES FOR GLOUCESTER

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester opened their Easter holiday programme with a victory over London Welsh, who were beaten in the corresponding match last season by 32 points to 13.

Gloucester were short of Carpenter, Edwards, Harris and Bayliss, but Parker and Hordern, who were on tour with the Barbarians, were released for this match.

A. L. Warr was available for the vacancy at three-quarter, and Carter, Rose and Barrow appeared in the forwards.

London Welsh had several alterations, the absentees including Vivian Jenkins, Ray Thomas, H. M. Hughes, and W. Gascoigne.

The ground was in capital condition for fast open Rugby, and there was an average attendance of about 4,000.

GLOUCESTER

BACK: G. W. Parker.

THREE-QUARTERS: A. L. Warr, R. E. Hook, E. L. Phillips, and R. E. Early.

HALF-BACKS: D. Meadows (capt.) and E. R. Day.

FORWARDS: T. Rose, K. Smith, R. A. Carter, J. G. A'Bear, R. Morris, A. Welshman, P. Hordern, and W. Barrow.

LONDON WELSH

BACK: D. W. Knight.

THREE-QUARTERS: J. L. Powell, I. R. Jones, Hywell John, and Tudor Evans.

HALF-BACKS: H. M. Bowcott and H. F. Burt.

FORWARDS: W. Phillips, D. T. Williams, J. M. Collier, C. Pettiford, V. Davies, J. Harry, P. J. Lowe, and P. Sheppick.

REFEREE: Mr. C. Gilbert.

THE GAME

Hook played centre to Warr. Gloucester kicked off against the sun, and opening play was contested in the home half. An attempt to open out by the City broke down before any ground was made, but a penalty resulted in 30 yards' advance, John failing to make the catch. The visitors immediately replied with a smart bit of work by Burt, and later clever handling saw John go through nicely, but he was held up by Parker and his pass smothered. Gloucester cleared, but the Welsh with neat . . .

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. . . back to Meadows from a scrum 10 yards out and the captain punted high to Knight, who gathered and dropped for goal, but missed his object.

Hook followed up the drop out sharply and Evans had to run to touch inside his own half. Here the City backs were set going nicely by Day, but Hook, who tried to break through, was well tackled and nothing resulted. Keen forward play followed with little in it, but a penalty to Gloucester was well taken by Parker who found touch splendidly.

Faulty back play by the home team lost ground, and the visitors were afforded another opening, but passed forward. Gloucester were showing very moderate form to-day, and play was all in favour of the Welsh. Still the defence held firm.

GLOUCESTER'S FINE TRY

Inside the Gloucester half Day threw a wide pass across the field, which was missed at first. Warr, however, picked up, and darted ahead in fine style.

The forwards were well up, and A'Bear, Barrow and MORRIS in turn handling, the latter put the finishing touch on a splendid combined effort by scoring in a good position. Parker landed a fine goal, and Gloucester were five points up.

ON THE AGGRESSIVE

Gloucester restarted in aggressive style, and more clever work placed the Welsh in danger. Good kicking brought relief, but Hordern, always in position, marked from one high punt, and put in a big reply.

Fast play followed at midfield, but with keen tackling the backs could not find an opening. The Welsh backs were the more effective as a combination, but failed to time their transfers accurately with possible chances.

A fine effort by Warr, who cross-punted, looked dangerous for the Welsh, but Knight just managed to gather in time. The City forwards with a big burst went very close, being checked five yards out. For off-side the Welsh were penalised, but Parker missed the kick at goal.

PARKER SCORES

The Welsh, thanks to good work by John, reached mid-field on the re-start, but Parker, fielding in the open burst through and punted high.

The bounce of the ball beat Knight, and Parker, who had followed up, collected and raced home between the posts – a splendid individual effort. The same player converted.

HALF-TIME :

Gloucester	2 goals
London Welsh	Nil

Gloucester had utilised their two opportunities of scoring – two splendid efforts – but the Welsh had displayed the more attractive football as a whole.

On the restart, Bowcott and John were at once distinguished with smart runs, and there was some good play on both sides in midfield. Warr and Hook had now changed places, and there was one promising effort on the left which was stopped by Knight.

Morris and A'Bear led the City forwards in a dashing burst, and the ball being directed to the right, Early was served. The wing man made a determined bid for the corner, but he was tackled and thrown to touch just outside. Later, from passing, Warr took a drop for goal, but sent too low, and only a touch-down resulted.

CLEVER WELSHMEN

Subsequently play was keenly contested, the visitors' backs, with Burt and John continually prominent, showing flashes of brilliant work.

The Gloucester forwards were missing the services of Carpenter and Harris in the front row, the ball coming back too slow when heeling, but in the loose some splendid work was accomplished.

Gloucester got going with a sweeping rush, and Morris fielding, ran and passed to A'Bear. The latter ploughed his way ahead, but when ten yards from the line he was tackled from behind and brought down.

CITY FURTHER AHEAD

Gloucester were doing far better now, and a sparkling movement sent Early away on the right. He tried hard to clear Evans, but stepped into touch. The City continued their pressure and went very close, but failed to cross the line. The Welsh worked out with useful kicks, but an attempt at passing broke down. Warr nipped in and dashed ahead, finally sending to HOOK to score behind the posts. Parker easily goaled and the City were 15 points up.

Warr was to the fore again immediately on the resumption, but sandwiched between two opponents he fell heavily and was temporarily laid out. He was able to resume and Gloucester took charge of the play again. The Welsh ran back with a fine passing run, but they were stopped before getting dangerous.

COMBINED ATTACK

Gloucester, with combined movements, in which Hordern shone, took up the attack, but the finishing was not good enough. Hard and fast play ensued for the next few minutes, each side in turn gaining the advantage.

One dashing thrust by the Welsh took them past the 25 line, where a series of scrummages followed. A fine touch-finder from a penalty by Parker sent play to the centre, where Meadows and Hook tried the reverse pass, but the latter was well tackled.

Gloucester put in several sharp attacks, but met with no success. An interception led to Jones running 40 yards with a splendid opening in view, but there was a tackle outside, and a penalty for not playing the ball. The end came soon afterwards.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 3 goals (15 points)
LONDON WELSH Nil

REMARKS

Bright, open football marked Gloucester's first holiday fixture, and the City had a good win over a side who did not deserve to be beaten pointless. Although Gloucester held a lead of 10 points at the interval, the scoring was hardly in accordance with the run of play. The Welshmen displayed extreme smartness behind the scrum, and with a little more care in judging transfers might easily have been on level terms.

It was a keen fight forward, with Gloucester very distinguished in the loose, where Morris, Barrow, Welshman and A'Bear put in a lot of tremendous work. In the scrums the City were not so successful as usual, but the reformed front row were getting a better hang of things in the later stages, and did remarkably well. Rose and Carter, with Barrow, the United players, all had a very good match.

There was some brilliant play by both sets of backs, even if at times the combination suffered owing to misjudged or reckless transfers. Hook tried his hand at centre in the first half, but with no great success, and he changed with Warr after the interval. Both players contributed strong runs, and the first try was a remarkable one following Warr's initial burst.

Phillips was handicapped with a damaged arm and was unable to do much in the last twenty minutes, and Hook, just before the end, also injured his shoulder in a tackle. It is hoped both will be available against Sale on Monday. Hordern came out at intervals to assist the three-quarters, and was invaluable both in attack and defence. Early was not overburdened with chances, but he made a couple of resolute runs, and was a trier all through.

Parker, who kicked five goals the previous day for the Barbarians, was on the mark again to-day with three more. The Old Cryptian gave a finished all-round display, kicking a fine length, and his try showed the value of keen following up and enterprise.

The Welsh were splendidly served behind the scrum by Burt and Bowcott, and Hywel Jones, at centre, was extremely smart in attack, beating opponents very cheaply at times.

Knight played creditably at full-back and the best of a keen, hard-working pack were Lowe, Harry, Davies and Phillips.

Next week : Monday, v. Sale; Tuesday, v. Universities Athletic Union, both at Kingsholm.