

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1937

GLOUCESTER 5 Pts., OLD CRANLEIGHANS NIL

SPLENDIDLY CONTESTED GAME AT KINGSHOLM

GLOUCESTER'S IMPROVED FORM

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Old Cranleighans, who put up such a splendid fight against a strong International XV. in mid-week, were beaten to-day at Kingsholm, this being Gloucester's fourth successive victory. Last year the City defeated the Old Boys by a solitary point – 11 to 10.

Gloucester made experiments forward in the hope of strengthening the pack, and introduced R. A. Carter and W. Barrow for E. Bayliss and Welshman.

Carter was played in the front row, and Cyril Harris was given a trial at wing-forward, with Barrow and Welshman as his colleagues.

Hook's injury in the County match on Wednesday also necessitated a change at left wing three-quarter, where J. H. Bown was called upon to fill the vacancy.

The Old Cranleighans brought a splendid team, which included some dozen players who appeared in the corresponding match last year. Alan Key, capped for England in 1930 and 1933, was still at scrum half and other well known players were Wallis (Ireland), and Suter and Couchman (England trial players). J. C. Stevens (centre), who is going up to Oxford, greatly impressed with his deadly tackling and strong running against the International XV. on Wednesday.

## TOM VOYCE AND RIDICULOUS RUMOUR

Previous to the match I had a chat with Tom Voyce relative to certain rumours in circulation regarding his future.

The old International assured me he has no intention whatever of leaving his present occupation – a definite statement which should effectively put an end to the ridiculous reports.

Weather and ground conditions favoured fast, open football, and with the reputation of the Old Cranleighans for playing attractive Rugby, a splendid game was anticipated.

The attendance was between 4,000 and 5,000 when the teams lined out five minutes late.

### GLOUCESTER

BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: W. H. Hopkin, C. J. Dibden, E. L. Phillips, and J. H. Bown.

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

FORWARDS: T. Price, A. Carpenter, R. A. Carter, J. G. A'Bear (capt.), R. Morris, C. Harris, Dr. Dick, and W. Barrow.

### OLD CRANLEIGHANS

FULL-BACK: C. W. Suter.

THREE-QUARTERS: R. R. Reeve, J. C. Stevens, E. P. Hindley, and C. E. J. Lambert.

HALF-BACKS: W. E. Vesey, and A. Key.

FORWARDS: A. J. Goodall, C. O. N. Wallis, C. J. Allsup, S. R. Couchman, K. Cuthbert, G. C. Reeves, I. E. Watson, and R. J. Durrant.

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

## THE GAME

Gloucester started the game, and with Reeve collared in trying to run round, the home team at once secured a good attacking position. Day at once served Hopkin on the short side of the scrum, but there was a knock on, and the ball was called back.

Gloucester opened out through Day, but Phillips fumbled his pass, and the visitors gained ground. Immediately after the City backs were on the move again, and Dibden went ahead smartly, but good tackling caused a check to the movement.

Fast football followed, Day showing good individual work.

The Old Boys, however, kept play well out of danger. Well judged kicking by Suter gave the Londoners a position at mid-field, where Phillips picked up a dropped pass by Hindley and punted up the field. Barrow ran hard for possession, but was tackled directly he collected the ball. A penalty well taken by Suter, brought relief to the Old Boys, but Meadows ran back cleverly, but stumbled and fell after clearing several opponents.

## KEEN PLAY

Play was keen at the centre, but though both sets of backs tried hard combined movements did not travel far, the marking being very close.

Suter was kicking extremely well for the visitors, and Couchman, too, shone with a capital touch-finder when things looked ugly for the Old Boys. Boughton was not called upon for five minutes, but his first kick did not find touch, and Suter made headway with his return.

The Old Boys were doing well in the scrums, and Key served out some nice passes, but the three-quarters were well marked.

The football so far had been delightfully entertaining, and Gloucester were showing better form than previously. Stevens cut out a possible opening for the Old Boys with a strong run, but his transfer inside went astray.

The Cranleighans kept up the attack, but a fruitless drop at goal was fielded by Bown, who ran down and passed to Boughton, the latter finding touch 40 yards upfield. The position of play quickly changed, Suter and Vesey helping appreciably with some grand kicking.

#### CLEVER RUN BY LAMBERT

Gloucester broke away through Dibden, but the passing went wrong, and Lambert securing he brought off a fine dodgy run and pass.

Matters looked bad for the City, but a smashing tackle forced a forward transfer, and a scrum was formed on the Gloucester 25.

Phillips brought about relief with a good kick, and then followed a spell of play at midfield. Barrow was prominent with a good dribble, which tested Suter, and later Meadows executed a brilliant zig-zag run which took him to Suter. A'Bear, to whom he passed, however, was pulled down immediately.

Gloucester went strongly to the attack after this, but splendid kicking served the visitors admirably.

#### HOPKIN'S DASH

Gloucester, playing well together just now, asserted superiority, and the forwards heeling better the third line was nicely served by Day and Meadows. Phillips was in the fore with a splendid dash and pass to Bown, but the wing man was forced to kick to touch.

Twice the ball was got across to Hopkin on the right, but though making determined efforts to break through he just failed. Once Suter just touched Hopkin's ankle to bring him down a couple of yards from the line.

The Old Boys continued to work with great intensity, but Gloucester maintained their advantage, the forwards being seen to advantage in loose work.

Meadows, cutting through in great style, beat Suter, and headed to the line, but being pressed from behind he punted. Bown raced up to gather, but was robbed of the ball by Lambert, who retrieved smartly.

Gloucester tried hard to open their account and after passing Hopkin put in a splendid effort, but was stopped just in time.

Half-time :

Gloucester ..... Nil

Old Cranleighans ..... Nil

The football had been very entertaining, with Gloucester displaying more dash and keen appreciation of possibilities. The defence of both sides, however, was the distinguishing feature.

A slight knock-on by Day from the visitors' restart gave a scrum well inside the home half, and the Old Boys, with a combined movement made a strong bid for a try; Lambert, however, was pushed to touch close in. Boughton relieved with a good touch finder, and keen centre play followed.

#### HARD LINES FOR MEADOWS

The City at length broke away with a strong burst, and Meadows, with a high punt, caused Suter to knock on 20 yards in front of the posts.

From the ensuing scrum Day sent out to Meadows, who dropped for goal, but a fine attempt missed by inches.

Following the drop out the Cranleighans, taking advantage of a mistake in passing by the Gloucester backs, Lambert picked up and dodged through smartly but was stopped in time.

Away came Gloucester with sharp forward work and useful kicks, but the visitors had equal pace behind and prevented any openings.

Phillips had to retire for a few minutes while he changed his boots, and during his absence Bown went centre with Barrow on the wing. Play rather favoured the Cranleighans who put in one sharp combined movement, but Lambert was overwhelmed. A well-judged cross punt by Bown forced Lambert to run back to gather, and with Price well up he passed back to Suter to do the needful.

#### GLOUCESTER OPEN THE SCORING

Subsequent play was of the keenest, two sets of forwards battling with great earnestness.

Gloucester asserted a superiority in the loose, and from a kick ahead Suter stumbled and was collared in possession. The ball going loose, Dick dribbled on over the line, where Hopkin dashed up and secured the touch for a try. Boughton kicked a fine goal, and Gloucester led by five points.

Encouraged by this success Gloucester played with great dash, the forwards especially doing splendidly in the loose. For some infringement the Cranleighans were awarded a penalty kick, but the decision did not meet with the crowd's approval. The shouting while the goal kick was being taken was to be deplored.

#### GLOUCESTER PACK DISTINGUISHED

The Gloucester front was seen to advantage again with some fine footwork, and Bown was distinguished with a splendid solo run, but his short punt ahead was stopped by Suter, and Lambert relieved.

After this the game took a turn in favour of the 'Cranleighans, who worked desperately to wipe off the deficit. The Gloucester defence, however, proved equal to all occasions.

The concluding minutes were fought out with great vigour. The Londoners were dangerous when in possession, but the tackling continued to be exceptionally close. Key and Vesey once tried the reverse pass to beat the defence, but it was checked in the nick of time.

The Cranleighans pressed hard at the close, but right at the end Boughton cleared.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal (5 points)  
OLD CRANLEIGHANS ..... NIL

REMARKS

Gloucester showed greatly improved form to gain a meritorious victory. Play all through was bright, keen and attractive, and the Old Boys added to their reputation with a fine all-round display.

The revised City forwards revealed a better combination in every particular, and Barrow was always prominent in the open. The tackling, too, was far in advance of anything previously seen. Behind the scrum, except at half-back, where Day and Meadows got through a lot of splendid work, the advantage rested with the Cranleighans, who possessed speed, combination and individuality. Lambert and Stevens were exceptionally good. Boughton's display was an advance on previous performances, but Suter was the more distinguished, his touch-finding being a feature. But in this department all the visitors were good.

WORCESTER v. GLOUCESTER UTD.

Facing a brilliant sun Gloucester kicked off and dominated the opening stages of the game. Awarded a penalty for a scrum infringement, Gloucester took the lead after 10 minutes through a penalty goal well taken by Stephens.

Gloucester's work in the set scrums was superior to that of Worcester and the play was mostly confined to the home territory.

Gough was playing a fine game for Gloucester and he cut through cleverly to score a neat try. Stephens failed by inches to convert.

Another brilliant move by Gough enabled Walden to score between the posts. Stephens added the points.

Burke, who was playing against his old club, twice gained ground with well-timed touch-kicks.

Just on the interval Walden scored for Gloucester after a great solo run, and Stephens made no mistake with the kick.

Half-time :

Worcester ..... Nil  
Gloucester .... 3 goals (1p.) 1 try

RESULT:

WORCESTER ..... 1 try (3 points)  
GLOUCESTER UTD. ... 4 goals (1p.) 2 tries (24 points)