

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1937

CITY'S LAST MINUTE WIN AGAINST OXFORD UNIVERSITY

GAME OF THRILLS THAT WILL LIVE IN MEMORY

BOUGHTON'S BRILLIANT DROP GOAL SETTLES ISSUE

Gloucester achieved their best performance of the season to-day, when they triumphed over Oxford University in the latter's final test before meeting Cambridge in the annual contest at Twickenham on Tuesday, December 7.

This was Gloucester's ninth successive win at Kingsholm, the two defeats (Cardiff and Bath) both being away engagements. In the other out match Bedford were defeated.

Oxford tried Freakes again in the centre, and W. M. Jackson and A. Garvey came into the forwards.

Blues have been awarded to H. H. Pennington and P. K. Mayhew, both forwards.

There was a good attendance, but drizzle was falling as play began.

## GLOUCESTER

BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: C. J. Dibden, J. H. Bown, E. L. Phillips, and R. E. Hook.

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

FORWARDS: T. Price, A. Carpenter, C. Harris, J. G. A'Bear (capt.), R. Morris, W. Barrow, S. Mabbett, and H. M. Hughes.

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY

BACK: F. M. Forster (Trinity).

THREE-QUARTERS: Prince A. Obolensky (Brasenose), M. M. Walford (Trinity), A. D. Freakes (Magdalen), and W. N. Renwick (University).

HALF-BACKS: I. H. Watts (St. Peter's Hall), P. Cooke (Trinity).

FORWARDS: P. K. Mayhew (Christ Church), C. T. Bloxham (Oriol), H. Pennington (St. Edmund Hall), R. G. P. Almond (Hertford), D. G. Coles (Trinity), R. J. Pollock Morris (Magdalen), W. M. Jackson (University), and T. A. Garvey.

Referee: Mr. J. W. Faull.

### THE GAME

Gloucester began against the wind, and from the first scrum the City got the ball away. Hughes handed off well, but his pass inside was knocked on, and the Dark Blues cleared.

Gloucester again tried passing when the ball came cleanly from the line, but the Oxford marking was too close. When Freakes punted ahead Boughton was in position, and a similar move by Gloucester saw Forster save.

### PHILLIPS NEARLY OVER

Gloucester got a strong attacking position when Meadows punted beyond Forster to the "wide open spaces," Renwick being tackled in possession, but from the ensuing scrum Bown missed his pass. Phillips, however, took an inside pass from Meadows, and when a yard from the line was brought down from behind, and a penalty against Gloucester for a scrum infringement brought Oxford grateful relief. Freakes was prominent with a cool piece of kicking a little later, and Gloucester had to touch down.

The Oxford backs got in a pretty passing movement, which left the ball with Renwick, but he was pulled down by Dibden, and a penalty against the 'Varsity for off-side eased the pressure.

The light ball was proving troublesome, and the handling was far from good. Oxford came near a score when Freakes tried to drop a goal with his left foot, the ball going wide.

The Gloucester forwards were doing magnificently . . .

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. . . the Gloucester posts but Boughton obtained possession and cleared brilliantly.

### OXFORD ON TERMS

Oxford were not long in arrears, for from a scrum on the Gloucester 25, RENWICK crossed. Freakes made the try, for he slipped Bown to give Renwick a clear run in and Bloxham made a poor effort at conversion, despite no charge being ordered.

The crowd were being given a delightful exhibition of open football. Hughes went through with a good rush, and the ball going loose the Oxford forwards were off-side.

Boughton kicked a good length ball from the penalty, but wide of the posts. Gloucester gained a good attacking position by fine forward work, but off-side lost them a big slice of ground, Freakes kicking to touch at half.

Meadows and Bown took Gloucester back, the latter cross-kicking, but off-side spoilt the move. Meadows tried the inside pass to Hook, but the City could do no more than get the ball to touch inside the 'Varsity 25, where Watts gave the visitors relief with a kick.

Freakes tested Boughton with along raking kick, but Boughton was there, and A'Bear carried on with a clever kick to touch on the Oxford line, but the Dark Blues took the game right to the other end with a fierce rush, and there Mayhew had very hard luck with a drop kick, the ball just going outside the posts.

Oxford frittered away a beautiful position almost on the Gloucester line, when Pennington was offside during a scrum and Boughton had no difficulty in reaching touch at half-way.

Freakes and Renwick were proving a tricky wing, but Dibden was stopping his man well.

### A GREAT TACKLE

There came a real thrill when the ball went to Obolensky at half way. He eluded Hook and ran hard to the 25, where Boughton stopped him with a great tackle.

But Obolensky was not to be denied. From a scrum in the Oxford half, Watts served Freakes. He ran through beautifully and gave a pass to Walford. OBOLENSKY was waiting, and he took his pass perfectly to run over with a great try. Bloxham converted the easy kick.

### HALF-TIME :

Oxford ..... 1 goal 1 try (8 pts.)

Gloucester ..... 1 try (3 pts.)

The greater speed of the Dark Blues had been the biggest factor in their scores. The backs knew where the line was, and never tired in trying to get there by the direct route. Their second try had been a glorious example of perfect understanding and the ability to seize a gap in the defence. Oxford, too, were having a slight pull in the scrums, Pollock Morris hooking very well indeed.

Obolensky gave another taste of his speed right at the outset of the second half. He shook off a tackle by Hook and cross-kicked but a knock on saved Gloucester.

Phillips and Hook combined in a nice move which saw the latter go away well, but having beaten his opposite number he stepped into touch.

Gloucester deserved a score a moment later when Bown gave the dummy, made ground and cross-kicked.

## DAY'S FINE TRY

John A'Bear gathered, but his final pass just outside was forward, and Oxford cleared their lines from the ensuing scrum. But DAY made amends when he got the ball from another scrum, shot round the blind side and dropped over for a try, a really fine individual effort. Boughton's kick from a wide angle just failed to reach.

Gloucester were full of fight and once again they got down to the Oxford line, thanks to a great touch finder by Boughton. But Oxford were not to be caught napping and a fierce forward rush carried them back to half-way. Here the 'Varsity backs tried passing, Walford going through strongly, but a forward pass stopped the effort.

Gloucester were unlucky not to go ahead when Bown cut through and passed to Phillips. He punted ahead and Hughes gathered on the line but lost possession and a scrum outside was ordered.

The 'Varsity defence was being badly rattled and when the visitors got away Boughton saved cleverly and sent them back. In the face of a determined Oxford rush he made a mark and for a time the game settled down at half way.

Still the football was of the best possible character with spectacular incidents crowding fast upon one another. Day in particular was very hard worked, and he had Cooke almost in subjection. It was Bown once more who with a well-judged kick to touch put Gloucester on the attack, but the 'Varsity marking was deadly. The crowd disagreed with the referee when he penalised Gloucester for off-side at the scrum, and it has to be confessed that the ball appeared to be well out.

There came a series of ineffective scrums in the Oxford half, and it ended when the City were penalised for "feet up." Meadows, however, sent Gloucester back with a long punt but Forster was safe and got a pass to Renwick, who kicked to touch. Gloucester lost a big slice of ground when Hook was off-side after a big boot by Boughton beyond Forster.

## A GLARING ERROR

The referee made a glaring mistake when he allowed Watts to carry on after intercepting a pass when lying off-side, and the crowd voiced their disapprobation in no uncertain manner. The ball went beyond Boughton after a kick, but he recovered well and found touch.

From a punt ahead by Walford, Hook made a good mark, but poor use was made of the kick, and Freakes had no difficulty in gathering and finding touch.

In the closing stages the Gloucester forwards swept down in a terrific attack on the Oxford line. Every man strove fiercely, and then Phillips tried to drop for goal.

The kick went wide, and Hook, who had been lying behind Phillips, sprinted hard and fell on the ball. To everyone's amazement the referee ordered a drop out from the 25.

Scrum after scrum followed on the Oxford line, and amid intense excitement Day was held up when almost over.

Then Gloucester tried passing and even Boughton came up into the attack; all to no purpose. Phillips tried to punt ahead and Oxford were forced to touch down.

## A BRILLIANT GOAL

Gloucester kept up the attack in one of the finest finishes seen on Kingsholm for years. Gloucester could do everything but score, and Meadows tried a drop at goal, but it was a feeble effort. Phillips, too, was forced into touch when he made a brilliant individual effort, and then BOUGHTON with a glorious kick from 35 yards, dropped a great goal to give Gloucester victory.

### RESULT :

GLOUCESTER .... 1 gl. (d) 2 tries (10 pts.)

OXFORD ..... 1 goal 1 try (8 pts.)

## COMMENTS

Gloucester won a well-deserved victory in one of the most thrilling fights ever seen on Kingsholm. If the City had lost after being disallowed a try when Hook crossed they would have been very unlucky.

The atmosphere of the game was reminiscent of the 'Varsity encounter at Twickenham. Excitement, and brilliant football there was in every minute.

Not a man on the Gloucester side did badly. They rose to the occasion in splendid fashion, and the 1937 game with Oxford will long be remembered in Gloucester football annals.

JC