

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1937

GLOUCESTER 13 Pts., BLACKHEATH 11 Pts.

CITY'S HARD WON VICTORY IN THRILLING FINISH

BOUGHTON'S MAGNIFICENT GOAL AGAIN WINS MATCH

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester achieved another splendid performance to-day, when they defeated Blackheath at the Rectory Field. This was the City's fifth successive victory over the famous London club.

Gloucester fielded as selected, and Blackheath had a strong side, including Grahame Parker at full-back. The afternoon was dull and cold and the attendance about 2,000.

GLOUCESTER

BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: C. C. Tanner, 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.

BLACKHEATH

BACK: G. W. Parker.

THREE-QUARTERS: W. C. Barton, J. G. W. Davies, H. Rees, and R. C. A. Brandram.

HALF-BACKS: J. L. Chambers and J. E. Mallett.

FORWARDS: N. J. Newton, G. F. Smith, T. R. Spencer, W. R. C. Houston, E. J. Offord, D. T. Kemp, L. F. Bailey, and J. E. Ridsdale.

Referee: Mr. W. T. N. Pearce.

THE GAME

Blackheath kicked off, but the ball failed to travel 10 yards, and a scrum followed at the centre. Gloucester heeled, and Meadows put in a clever screw punt, which found touch on the Blackheath 25. The home backs replied with a passing bout, and Brandram was sent away on the right. He cross-kicked nicely, but Gloucester saved.

Meadows again put the City down with a good touch-finder, and then in some loose play Tanner picked up and put in a dashing run and passed to Hook, who was forced over the touch-line as he was getting clear.

Gloucester pressed severely with loose play, but offside by Day gave away a penalty, and Parker punted to beyond the halfway. Finally Boughton returned to touch.

Clever combination by the Gloucester outsides promised well, but Phillips' kick ahead was nicely taken by Parker, who raced away down touch and punted to the line, where a Gloucester defender managed to touch down.

PHILLIPS NEARLY THROUGH

Fast play followed, Gloucester opening out well, but Bown's pass to Tanner went astray.

Blackheath moved ahead a few yards, and Chambers, gathering, forced himself through a bunch of opponents, and secured a fine opening. A forward pass spoiled the movement.

Gloucester regained the ground by the aid of a penalty, and later Parker fielding a high punt by Meadows found touch at the centre. Gloucester heeling, the ball came to the three-quarter line to Tanner, who however, was unable to do much.

Gloucester had now obtained a position in the Blackheath half, and the City worked hard to gain the desired opening.

Phillips with a sharp dash was nearly through when he was collared from behind.

He managed to get the ball away to Bown, but the movement was held up by the Blackheath defence, and Parker came into prominence with a smart run round and pass to Brandram. Tanner effected a smothering tackle.

Play after this favoured Blackheath, who attacked strongly from the right, and Boughton brought off a splendid save at the critical moment.

Some fine stoppings by Tanner and Bown occurred on the right wing.

BLACKHEATH GO AHEAD

Gloucester eased the pressure with neat passing, Phillips shining. Boughton helped appreciably with a fine clearance, and the mid-field was again the scene of operations.

Blackheath, however, returned to the attack, and following a fine break through by Mallett, DAVIES scored a good try. Parker converted with an excellent kick.

This score was well merited, but the Gloucester defence was at fault in allowing Mallett to travel so far.

Play was fast at the centre, and Gloucester working nicely together the forwards made ground with useful footwork.

Bown kicked through to Parker, who had his return charged down by Tanner. There was every chance of a score as the ball rolled to the goal-line, but Tanner stumbled a few yards out and Blackheath gained the touch.

GLOUCESTER EQUALISE

This was a lucky escape for the home team.

Gloucester resumed with great determination and the Blackheath defence was severely tested. It held out and the home forwards eventually brought relief with a splendidly combined dribble.

Rain began to fall, and on the slippery surface players found it difficult to control the ball.

A great burst by the City front took the ball past Parker, who was collared in possession, and a scrum followed 10 yards out.

Following a loose rush A'BEAR crossed for a try which Boughton converted, placing the sides on level terms.

Half-time :

Blackheath 1 goal

Gloucester 1 goal

It had been a splendidly contested game with the forwards well matched. Both sets of backs had displayed a good deal of smartness, Gloucester experiencing bad luck on two occasions.

On the general run of the play, however, the half-time score was a fair representation of the merits of the rival teams.

When the game restarted there was a slight fall of snow and rain, and conditions were difficult.

Gloucester started off with a bang, the forwards using their feet to advantage forcing Blackheath to defend.

Twice the City went very close, but infringements cost them penalties, and Parker gained good ground with his kicks.

PARKER'S FINE PENALTY

A knock-on by Boughton in attempting to gather a punt ahead by Mallett gave Blackheath a position in the Gloucester half for the first time since the resumption.

Then offside at the scrum cost Gloucester a penalty, and from a place kick, 30 yards out and in front of the posts, PARKER kicked a goal to give Blackheath the lead again.

Gloucester had a little the better of the exchanges on the restart, but they were beaten off, the home forwards dribbling well. Parker gathered, and with a clever bit of work found touch. From a kick ahead Hook got across just in time to save the situation.

EXCITING PLAY

Blackheath were dangerous for a couple of minutes, but the defence was equal to the occasion. Good kicking by Phillips and Meadows changed the position of play, and a strong run by the former put Gloucester on the offensive.

It was hard going for both sides, with the City making desperate efforts to get on terms. Twice the home line nearly fell, and relief eventually came from touching down. Blackheath had a short spell of attacking, but Gloucester quickly changed the position through Hook who brought off a fine run and cross kicked.

Exciting play followed, each side in turn gaining the advantage. Hughes made ground for the City with a splendid run, but his pass was not accepted, and Blackheath went away to the other end. Inside the Gloucester half Hook gathered from a loose dribble by the home forwards. He ran across to the centre of the field and attempted a punt. It was a poor effort and Blackheath dribbled through.

Tanner tried to save, he lost the ball, and BRANDRAM carried it over for a try. Parker hit the upright with his shot for goal.

BOUGHTON'S WINNING GOAL

On the restart Gloucester went away with a grand rush and Blackheath were pressed on their 25. Here Meadows fed BOWN, who with a smart run beat the defence and scored a good try.

Boughton missed the goal and the score was 11–8 in favour of Blackheath.

Gloucester resumed in great style, the forwards working grandly.

The home players were swept aside in one terrific dash and a wide pass ended in HOOK being served, and with a brilliant dash, beat Barton to score a fine try.

Boughton took the place, not an easy one, and landed a magnificent goal to give Gloucester a two points' lead.

The closing stages were contested with tremendous spirit, the Gloucester forwards performing admirably. The Blackheath line had several narrow escapes but there was no further score.

RESULT :

BLACKHEATH 2 goals (1p.) 1 try (11 pts.)
GLOUCESTER 2 goals 1 try (13 pts.)

REMARKS

A splendid win for Gloucester in a very exciting finish.

Following Blackheath's second try Gloucester were irresistible, and their magnificent effort in the last 15 minutes thoroughly deserved their hard-won triumph.

Conditions for three-parts of the game were very bad, and before the finish the ground was covered with mantle of snow. Both teams put up a good fight, and there was a lot of excellent play.

Forward the Gloucester pack wore their opponents down, and in the end were clearly superior all round.

Behind the scrum Day and Meadows did capital all-round work, and all the three's shone well at times.

At full-back Boughton and Parker were at their best, and each gave a wonderfully good display.

JC