

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1938

GLOUCESTER'S RECORD AGAINST WELSH TEAMS

THREE NOTABLE PERFORMANCES LAST MONTH

SECOND VICTORY OVER LLANELLY WELL DESERVED

FROM W.B.'S NOTEBOOK

SUCCESS of Bown and Dibden – Hughes' Brilliant Work – Keen Forward Struggle – Welsh Full-Back's Polished Display – United's Splendid Record.

Gloucester added to their notable performances of the season with a brilliant victory over Llanelly at Kingsholm, thus achieving a long delayed ambition – a double success at the expense of their old rivals.

On the season's results the City are level pegging with Welsh opponents – three wins each, with only a few points difference in the respective aggregates.

Newport captured Gloucester's ground record by a narrow margin (8–5), and the only other home defeat so far was to Cardiff by 11–9. In the six fixtures the City aggregated 55 points to 61 credited to the three Welsh teams.

There have been occasions when Gloucester triumphed over the four leading clubs of the Principality – Cardiff, Newport, Swansea and Llanelly – but this season's performances will compare with the best, with wins at Llanelly and Newport the outstanding events.

Llanelly, serious challengers to Cardiff at one period for the unofficial Welsh club championship, have experienced a bad time recently, a heavy casualty list and the migration of players to the Rugby League seriously affecting the playing strength of the side.

For the return fixture with Gloucester several young players new to first class football were called on, and although the recruits played gallantly the odds against the visitors were too great and they fell to a stronger combination.

The City, too, were below strength, but Dibden and Bown, who substituted Phillips and Hook at three-quarter, were players with considerable experience and had figured in several of Gloucester's most important victories this season.

### BOWN AND DIBDEN

And in this match Dibden and Bown enjoyed more direct success than in any previous game – a distinctly encouraging feature, both for the individual players and the club. Bown scored both tries and Dibden dropped a goal, and were credited with 10 of the 14 points obtained by the winners.

Since his appearance at outside-half in the county re-play with Devon – a game which did not run at all kindly for the Old Wycliffian – Bown lost form and was relegated to the United team. On Saturday he was afforded the opportunity of getting back into favour, and in the position of left wing displayed a smartness and dash that suggested a welcome "come-back."

With Dibden at centre the pair worked well together and showed a better appreciation of the possibilities of combined attack. This was especially noticeable in the first half, in which period Gloucester did all their scoring.

Dibden is always a trier, and in some of his progressive movements last week he disclosed real ability in beating an opponent. One effort in the second half emphasised this point, but the finishing was not so good, and it is this lack of quick perception of openings that has lost Gloucester a number of tries this season. Dibden is such a keen footballer and anxious to do well that a little concentration on weak points would, I am certain, prove very helpful to him.

## BURKE NEGLECTED

As an attacking force the Gloucester backs have not fully utilised the opportunities provided them, and while there was an improvement against Llanelly, better results should have been forthcoming.

Manning was resolute and forceful in his methods and kicked well, but Burke, on the right wing, was not given sufficient aggressive work to do. In the four matches I have seen him he has waited in vain for a pass with anything like a chance of showing his speed or cleverness in attack. And I am afraid his predecessors were little better served. Of Burke's defence, he gave further evidence of his accomplishments in this department on Saturday. Again opposed to W. H. Clement, the Welsh international, he never gave the Llanelly wing a moment's respite, and brought off some of the best tackles seen in the game which was featured by deadly collaring on both sides.

Gloucester had the pull at half-back, where Meadows was at his best and especially shone with some beautiful touch-kicking. Gough, behind a good heeling pack, was workmanlike, but he has not developed anything special in individual artistry, and there is still a difference of opinion as to the respective merits of the ex-Gordon League player and Day. The latter has recovered from the injury he received earlier and is fit again.

## BRILLIANCE OF HUGHES

The Llanelly forwards had the inspiring leadership of Ifor Jones at Kingsholm, and Cliff Williams strengthened the pack as hooker, but in a desperate struggle the Gloucester eight more than held their own. The superiority of the City was clearly pronounced in the set scrums, but the Welshmen were the more effective in close dribbling. It was in this direction the visitors threatened most danger, and in the second portion of the game Gloucester were subjected at times to very close pressure. The defence, however, was remarkably sound, and the relief kicking of Meadows and Boughton was of immense value.

Carpenter, Morris, Harris and Price were amongst Gloucester's best performers in the heavy exchanges, Morris being particularly prominent with powerful bursts and took a lot of pulling down. In the more finished football Hughes stood out by himself, and he contributed several brilliant dashes which, properly supported, might easily have brought tangible reward. The old Oxford Blue, however, was too quick away and too speedy for his colleagues to keep pace with him, and he had to do the best he could on his own.

### A SOLID PACK

Barrow was a fast worker when the ball was in the open, and on his play fully merited his return to the pack. Mustoe, keen and determined, pulled his weight, but as I remarked last week, he would be better suited to a position in the second row of the scrum.

John A'Bear shared in yet another club record, and the popular captain must be mightily pleased with the continued success of his team and the part played in those triumphs by the forwards he leads with so much keenness and enthusiasm.

Not, perhaps, a unit of brilliant individuals, but a pack of solid worth, every man doing his bit and doing it well, and inspired with that team spirit, doggedness and will to win which has carried the team to victory in so many important games. Well done, forwards. Keep it up; Harlequins next week will be another special occasion, and so much will depend on your combined efforts !

### POLISHED FULL BACK

Llanelly have always been well served at full-back, and in Gwyn Thomas the Scarlets possess a player fully up to the standard of past custodians. Against Gloucester Thomas staged an almost perfect exhibition, and it was due largely to his remarkable efforts that Llanelly escaped with only a nine points defeat.

Only once was Thomas at fault in fielding the ball; there were many times when his clearances under the severest pressure bordered on the marvellous. A beautiful kick with either foot, Thomas was the polished exponent throughout, and for him the match, despite his side's defeat, was a great personal success.

### BOUGHTON'S GOAL POINTS RECORD

Boughton was also in his best form for Gloucester. The City vice-captain was not subjected to such an exciting time as Thomas but all he did was of the highest class, and his two goal-kicks from difficult angles were in keeping with his reputation.

Boughton has to-date aggregated 90 points this season (19 tries converted, 16 penalty goals and one drop goal). With six matches remaining he should top the 100 mark for the fifth time.

His best season for Gloucester was 134 points in 1934-5; the other three-figure years were : 133 in 1928-9; 121 in 1929-30; and 110 in 1933-4.

Boughton's grand total of points for all matches since he first appeared for Gloucester A in 1926-7 is 1,147, made up of 387 converted tries, 111 penalty goals, and 10 drop goals – a truly amazing record.

### RECORD AND FIXTURES

PLAYED 30 – WON 23, LOST 6, DRAWN 1

				Points.	
				F.	A.
SEPTEMBER					
11	v. Lydney	...	W	30	3
18	v. Moseley	...	W	9	0
25	v. Bristol	...	W	6	3
OCTOBER					
2	v. Old Cranleighans	...	W	5	0
9	v. Cardiff	...	L	6	20
16	v. Torquay Ath.	...	W	23	0
23	v. Bedford	...	W	9	5
30	v. Richmond	...	W	3	0

NOVEMBER

6	v. Leicester	...	W	14	9
13	v. Old Blues	...	W	23	3
20	v. Bath	...	L	0	3
27	v. Oxford University	...	W	10	8

DECEMBER

4	v. Blackheath	...	W	13	11
11	v. Cheltenham	...	L	3	8
18	v. Newport	...	L	5	8
27	v. O.M.T.'s	...	W	29	3
28	V. Cheltenham	...	W	3	0

JANUARY

1	v. London Scottish	...	L	3	15
8	v. Leicester	...	D	6	6
15	v. Bedford	...	W	9	8
22	v. Bristol	...	W	3	0
29	v. Guy's Hospital	...	W	11	3

FEBRUARY

5	v. United Services	...	W	8	7
12	v. Cardiff	...	L	9	11
19	v. Bath	...	W	10	0
26	v. Devonport Services	...	W	17	4

MARCH

5	v. Llanelly	...	W	13	11
12	v. R.A.F.	...	W	6	0
19	v. Newport	...	W	8	6
26	v. Llanelly	...	W	14	5

308    160

APRIL

9	v. Harlequins	...	H		
16	v. London Welsh	...	H		
18	v. Universities A. U.	...	H		
19	v. Lydney	...	A		

THE LAST "LAP"!

To-day Gloucester opened their brief tour in Devon for the first of six fixtures remaining in the programme. Following the engagement with the Services, the City will oppose Torquay Athletic on Monday, and the Harlequins, London Welsh and the Universities' Athletic Union will be met in succession at Kingsholm, with Lydney winding up the season at Lydney on Easter Monday.

Llanely attracted a splendid "gate" last week, the receipts amounting to £147. The Harlequins should draw another big crowd to Kingsholm next Saturday. Spectacular Rugby is always certain with the famous Londoners engaged.

#### UNITED'S SUCCESSFUL RUN

Like the seniors, Gloucester United have enjoyed a splendid run of success in the second half of the season, and have only lost two games (Cardiff Athletic and Chepstow), as against 11 wins. The First XV's record during the same period is : Won 10, lost 2, drawn 1.

The United followed up their win over Newport United the previous week with another good performance at Cinderford, the Foresters being defeated 12–9 after holding a lead of three points at the interval. I have heard excellent accounts of the attractive football displayed by the United, despite changes in the combination necessitated by the calls of the Premiers. That there are amongst the local clubs players of proved efficiency capable of satisfactorily filling vacancies is a most encouraging feature.