

## THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1928.

GLOUCESTER SURPRISE 'QUINS

A DESERVED 3 POINTS' VICTORY

VISITING FORWARDS IN GREAT FORM

BUT SCORING CHANCES MISSED

Gloucester visited Twickenham to-day for their annual fixture with the Harlequins. The City did remarkably well against the famous Londoners in earlier games, but the last four engagements were all won by the Harlequins. Form pointed to another success for Wakefield's team this afternoon. Gloucester were fully expected to extend their opponents forward, but the Harlequins had the stronger back division, and their superior pace and cleverness in this department were likely to settle the issue.

### GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : I. Storrie, M. A. McCanlis, J. Stephens, and R. James.

HALF-BACKS : L. Abbey and E. Tomlinson.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby (capt.), F. Wadley, A. Carpenter, E. Comley, T. Hiam, J. Davies, L. C. Meadows, and F. Russell.

### HARLEQUINS

BACK : J. C. Hubbard.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. Alexander, J. M. Rice Evans[sic], J. R. Cole, and P. E. Hodge.

HALF-BACKS : H. C. C. Laird and V. G. Davies.

FORWARDS : P. A. Macdonald, L. de M. Thullier, E. H. Fouraker, C. R. Hinds Howell, H. L. Price, W. W. Wakefield, J. S. Chick, and A. N. Other.

Referee : Mr. J. Hughes.

## THE GAME

There was drizzling rain, and with only a few hundred spectators present the vast enclosure presented a somewhat different appearance when International and other big events are staged.

Wakefield kicked off for the Harlequins, and early on the home forwards brought off a combined rush, which Boughton checked cleverly. Useful kicking enabled Gloucester to clear nicely and Saxby and Davies led the City pack in a splendid dribble which carried play well inside the Harlequins' 25.

The London backs worked out with passing but it broke down and Stephens dribbled back cleverly. Gloucester made further progress with bristling forward tactics, and the Harlequins were forced to defend. Laird with a strong burst looked dangerous, but he was finely tackled, and James was instrumental in giving Gloucester the advantage again. The Londoners getting the ball out, there was some nice passing, but a smothering tackle of Hodge by Stephens prevented the wing man getting away.

Loose forward work gave the Harlequins a good slice of ground and Gloucester were pressed with a great rush. The City went right away and Saxby with a big punt tackled Hubbard. Good tackling by Gloucester kept play in the 'Quins half and twice the visitors went very close.

From a cross-kick by Hodge Stephens broke through but passed forward to James and the ball rolled away. Play was keenly contested but the greasy state of the ball and the ground caused many mistakes in handling. Boughton was applauded for a magnificent touch-finder from a penalty which gave the City a good attacking position.

Twice the visiting backs opened out but the passing went astray. By loose dribbling the Londoners worked past the centre and were looking dangerous when Stephens picked up and kicked to touch. Reece Evans with a darting run tried hard to clear the defence but he was pulled down in time.

Even play followed, Gloucester holding their own splendidly. Boughton came into notice with a clever mark and grand following up by the City forwards saw Hubbard collared in possession.

This gave Gloucester a footing in the Harlequins' half, and the City made strong attacks. Stephens, upsetting Reece-Evans, caused the latter to lose the ball, and the Gloucester centre dribbled on to Hubbard, who was lucky in saving. The City were having all the game just now, and the backs showed up with pretty work. Once McCanlis got well away, but his pass was too high to Storrie. Gloucester made another attack on the left, and again it failed owing to failure to handle correctly.

Abbey and Tomlinson were working well together at half-back, and the forwards held their own splendidly at all points. A kick through by Stephens caused the Harlequins to be closely pressed, and the City struggled hard for a score before half-time.

The ball getting loose there were mistakes in handling by the home backs. Hubbard was well collared under his goal, and passing to a colleague the latter missed. Wadley and Davies were in close attendance, and taking full advantage rushed over the line, WADLEY scoring. Boughton missed the easy place.

HALF-TIME :  
GLOUCESTER ..... 1 try  
HARLEQUINS ..... Nil

Gloucester well deserved their three-points lead, for they had had three-parts of the game and only bad luck prevented a couple of tries. The City re-started with vigour, and there was a sharp attack on the right. The forwards, however, lost the ball and Cole sent to touch at the centre.

Stephens and Abbey had changed places, and the former was early prominent with a good effort. The Harlequins, however, retaliated, and a kick by Boughton being charged down, the Londoners had a fine opening, but it was spoiled by a knock-on.

A penalty fell to the 'Quins, but Hubbard failed to place the goal. It was a rare struggle forward, in the loose both packs dribbling with great effect. Gloucester once looked like going clean away, but they lost the ball, and Wakefield securing dashed ahead only to fall to a glorious tackle by Boughton.

For a minute the 'Quins were dangerous, but they were beaten off, thanks to fine work by the City forwards. Davies, Wadley and Saxby were particularly in evidence, and they had splendid backing up.

With a combined burst Gloucester went to the line in fine style. Hubbard was closely pressed, being pulled down in possession twice in quick succession. The Harlequins gained temporary relief but Gloucester got back, and Storrie following up keenly charged down Hubbard's punt. The ball rebounded over the line, but Storrie was slightly stunned and was unable to take advantage of his effort, Hubbard getting back and kicking dead.

Some very hot work ensued on the resumption, the Gloucester forwards playing in great style. Saxby, opening out the game, brought off a capital run down touch but was collared by Cole.

Though lacking in spectacular incident the play was exceedingly keen with Gloucester continuing to hold the upper hand. James went off with a cut head for a few minutes and during his absence the Harlequins set up a sharp attack. Laird and Rice Evans[sic] both tried hard to beat the defence but the tackling was pretty sound.

Boughton, too, made no mistake and the crowd were very appreciative of his good play. Fouraker retired hurt but the Harlequins got on top and made desperate efforts to get on terms. Attempting passing, it broke down and the City gained the necessary relief. Keeping the ball close, the City forwards excelled in brilliant dribbling and they carried play half the length of the ground. The Harlequins replied with a round of passing, Alexander finally kicking dead; another minor followed soon afterwards.

In the closing stages the Harlequins exerted pressure to snatch a victory but Gloucester held onto their lead. It was hard gruelling work forward but Gloucester were superior.

Play to the end was vigorously contested but Gloucester held the territorial advantage and finishing strongly gained a notable victory.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER .... 1 try (3 points)  
HARLEQUINS ..... Nil

REMARKS

The City's triumph was in every way thoroughly deserved and to the whole team great credit is due for a splendid performance.

It was to the forwards much of the success was due. Opposed to a powerful pack they rose to the occasion in magnificent style, beating their opponents continually in the loose and more than holding their own in the tight. It was a grand all-round display in which every man worked heroically.

If Saxby and Davies were the more conspicuous their colleagues lacked nothing in dash and determination and the teamwork throughout was excellent.

Behind, the play lacked incident but the conditions were against correct handling.

The Harlequins frequently tried to open out but the marking of the City men was too close and sure.

Stephens played a far different game from that at Gloucester last week and the others had their good moments.

Boughton completely eclipsed Hubbard at full-back.

CITY SECONDS WIN  
EVEN GAME WITH CHEPSTOW  
DROPPED GOAL DECIDES ISSUE

There was only a moderate attendance at Kingsholm this afternoon, when the City Seconds entertained Chepstow. The home team made three changes in their selected side, Gladwin deputising for Glyn-Thomas at full-back, and K. Smith taking the place of L. Franklin, who was transferred to the three-quarter line, where W. N. Hoare was absent.

Chepstow kicked off a quarter of an hour after the appointed time, but Benbow replied with a good kick into touch, giving the home side a slight territorial advantage. Within a minute of the start the visitors were penalised, and Benbow narrowly missed giving Gloucester an early lead. For a few moments the visitors' line seemed in imminent danger, but the Chepstow forwards rallied and brought play back to the home quarters. The visitors' attack was only transitory, however, for Gloucester quickly returned to the visitors' 25.

Six minutes from the start Gloucester heeled from a scrum five yards from the visitors' goal line, and Loveridge gathering seized the opportunity to drop an easy goal.

After this set-back Chepstow replied vigorously and forced play to the home territory, but the City defence was sound and the invaders were soon beaten off.

Fast, open play ensued, but the home team were unable to overcome the visitors' resistance, play being once again transferred to midfield. In rushing to tackle one of the visitors, Loveridge received a kick in the jaw, but was able to continue. The ball was now receiving plenty of air. The Gloucester forwards made a determined onrush, but effective tackling by the visitors checked their career.

Chepstow now pressed strongly, and for a time made matters warm for the home defence. From a scrum Gloucester heeled, and the three-quarters brought play back to midfield, where a knock-on spoiled a good movement.

Half-time :  
Gloucester A ..... 1 goal (d)  
Chepstow ..... Nil

In the first half neither team showed any marked superiority, and play was particularly even. On the resumption, Gloucester made a raid on the Chepstow 25, but smart tackling by the visitors again frustrated their efforts, play being transferred to mid-field. Neither side could obtain any great advantage, and though Gloucester had the better of the majority of the scrums, the greasy state of the ball and the clever tackling tactics of the visitors robbed them of success.

In the later stages of the game, the City were forced to defend, and fast and exciting play followed near the goal-line. Several times the City line seemed in danger, but fortune was not favouring the visitors, who were repeatedly repulsed only to return again. Gradually, however, the City defence got the upper hand, and bit by bit Chepstow were beaten back to their own 25. A fine bout of passing by the homesters nearly brought its reward. The game ended with Gloucester pressing strongly.

Result :  
Gloucester A .... 1 goal (d) (4 pts.)  
Chepstow ..... Nil

#### COMMENTS

Throughout the game both sides played keenly, but in spite of their vigorous efforts neither could show any marked superiority.

The Chepstow forwards played a good game in the loose, but the visitors' halves and threes did not give them the support they really deserved.

Benbow and Price played well, and were very much smarter than the opposing halves, but the home three lacked polish to their movements, and lost many opportunities to score, the Chepstow line not being crossed once.

Chepstow were unlucky not to score, and probably a draw would have been a fairer reflex on the game.

JC