

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1931

GUY'S HOSPITAL 7 Pts., GLOUCESTER 6 Pts.

SURPRISE DEFEAT FOR THE CITY

HOME BACKS FAIL AFTER GOOD START

HOSPITAL'S KEEN TACKLING

An interesting feature of the return fixture between Gloucester and Guy's Hospital at Kingsholm this afternoon was the first appearance for the City of C. C. Tanner, the Cambridge and England three-quarter.

Graham Davies and Joe Davies also reappeared for Gloucester after several weeks' absence owing to injuries. The former replaced A. E. Brookes, who broke his collar bone in a College match at Oxford this week, and Joe Davies took the place of F. Russell, who injured his ankle against Plymouth Albion.

Guy's had several changes from the team which won at Honor Oak five weeks ago by 9 points to 3, Popplewell, Lashmore, and Hogbin being prominent absentees forward.

Gloucester won the corresponding match last season by 19 points to 3.

Teams : —

## GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : Roy James (capt.), C. C. Tanner, Graham Davies, and L. Abbey.

HALF-BACKS : F. Price and D. Meadows.

FORWARDS : F. Wadley, A. Carpenter, E. Comley, K. Smith, J. Davies, L. E. Saxby, Dr. Steel-Perkins, and L. Franklin.

## GUY'S HOSPITAL

BACK : W. Lewis.

THREE-QUARTERS : D. E. Ashdown, G. A. B. Clegg, J. E. Giessen, and A. G. Johnson.

HALF-BACKS : W. H. Lewis and J. Howell.

FORWARDS : J. F. Batchelor, J. P. O'Shea, J. Kunovsky, I. G. Robin, L. B. Hilton, T. Morgan, A. R. Clarke, and B. K. Robinson.

Referee : Major Partridge (Newport).

### THE GAME.

There were two late changes in the Gloucester team; McCanlis, who had been down with the "flu," cried off, and Roy James (who was not originally selected owing to a slight strain) was pressed into service, Tanner going centre. The other alteration was in the forwards, where Ken Smith took the place of Hemming.

After mixed weather in the morning – snow, hail and rain – bright sunshine followed with a cold wind. The attendance was about 4,000 when the teams took the field.

Saxby kicked off for Gloucester and opening scrums were contested at the centre. The Hospital were early penalised, and Boughton found touch well inside the Hospital 25 with his kick. W. Lewis later punted out well for the visitors, who reached the home half.

In some loose play the ball was got to Tanner, who shook himself free from a couple of opponents and brought off a brilliant run to the left. Abbey was well up and took the pass, but was collared from behind. He, however, let the ball go to Saxby, who plunged ahead for the line, but was tackled a few yards outside. The forward let the ball go, but it was luckily captured by an opponent, who kicked to touch. Play shifted out to beyond the 25, where Meadows started passing. G. Davies and Tanner made headway, but the latter's pass to James went wide.

## TRY FOR THE DOCTOR

Gloucester kept up the pressure, and good work by Wadley just failed in a score. The Hospital, however, failed to relieve, and with a strong burst STEEL-PERKINS forced himself over the line with the first try, which Boughton converted with a fine kick.

Following the restart, the Gloucester forwards, with Saxby leading, showed up with a splendid burst, which the visitors checked. Boughton shone with a good bit of work, and later Abbey and J. Davies, with some brilliant footwork, took play close to the visitors' line.

Fast play followed, the Gloucester forwards heeling well, and the backs continuing some clever work. A lovely run by Meadows and an inside pass to James saw the captain make a fine opening, but Franklin unfortunately knocked on with a clear goal.

Gloucester continued to have the better of the exchanges, but the backs did not get the best of luck.

## HOSPITAL DO BETTER

A movement by Windsor Lewis gave Ashdown a chance, but the visiting wing was beautifully tackled by Boughton, who smothered the pass. The Hospital, with well judged kicking, were doing better now, and play was confined to the home half.

Twice the ball was sent over the City line, but Meadows, and then James refused to touch down, and punted out to the 25. Meadows did some clever side-stepping on two occasions which brought relief to his side.

The struggle forward was very keen, with the visitors doing well in the loose. In the scrums, however, the City held the advantage, but the home backs were not doing so well as at the start. Wild passing twice lost Gloucester ground, and it was a dangerous proceeding with a fast man like Ashdown about.

## VISITORS SCORE

Play favoured the Hospital for the next few minutes, and Gloucester failed to make much headway. Tanner, from a pass by Meadows, made a big attempt to clear, but was brought down.

Some loose play followed, ending in Windsor Lewis picking up and dashing down touch.

A timely pass to BUTCHER saw the latter run hard for the corner, and score wide out – a good try. The goal-kick by O'Shea failed.

Gloucester had more of the ensuing play, but attacks were kept in hand by sound tackling. James and Tanner had now changed places, but this did not bring about any improvement in the play of the home backs.

Tanner once or twice ran strongly, but could not get clear.

## HOSPITAL TAKE THE LEAD

The Hospital worked back determinedly, and got in some sharp attacks. From a long kick down Abbey was forced to kick almost straight to touch.

Guy's got well down on the left, and the ball coming out to Windsor Lewis, the visiting captain dropped a beautiful goal, giving his side a two points lead.

Meadows put in some splendid individual work for Gloucester on the resumption, but there was no further scoring before the interval.

## HALF-TIME :

GUY'S HOSPITAL .... 1 goal (d.) 1 try

GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal

## THE SECOND HALF

Gloucester, after a splendid start, fell off, and in the second quarter the Hospital had shown better form.

Tanner shaped well early on with strong runs, but he was closely marked after the first ten minutes. Meadows had done well at outside-half, and Joe Davies displayed a lot of his old dash and resource.

With the wind, Gloucester were on the aggressive immediately after the resumption, and the Hospital defence was severely tested. Boughton had a drop for goal with a long shot, but sent wide and a minor was conceded.

With lively work in the loose, on the drop out Guy's worked to the centre, where Ashdown was served on the right wing. He beat a couple of opponents, but was pulled down before he could break clear. Meadows was prominent with a clever break-away, but slipped as he was going through. From a punt ahead Comley gathered nicely and kicked past the full-back, but Giessen came across and sent to touch.

### GLOUCESTER ATTACKS FAIL

Gloucester, though having the better of the play, could not find an opening, the backs failing to handle correctly. Play was rather scrappy at times, and there were few concerted movements which carried far. Meadows was responsible for all the clever work, but the defence was too strong to penetrate.

For over five minutes the City were in their opponents' quarters without doing anything. Then passing from inside their 25 by the Hospital gave Johnson a chance. The left wing raced away and punted, but Gloucester got back and saved. Davies dribbled back finely, and Gloucester, aided by Meadows, again secured a footing in their opponents' 25. The City worked hard, but their combined efforts failed to gain reward.

## POOR PLAY

The standard of football had deteriorated, especially behind the scrum, players on both sides making repeated mistakes. Guy's were keen on the defence to the extent of frequently getting off-side, but Boughton could not gain points with penalty shots.

The weather had turned bitterly cold and the play was not exciting enough to keep one warm. A touch-finder by Boughton put play a yard or two from the Guy's line, but despite strenuous efforts the City could not cross.

It was all Gloucester in subsequent play, the Hospital being continually under pressure, but their marking was very close.

From a penalty Steel-Perkins had a place for fouling, but his kick fell short, and Clegg receiving ran and punted beyond the centre. The game became a bit too keen in the concluding stages.

Gloucester made splendid efforts to pull off the game, and one passing bout right across the three-quarter line promised well but James had to cut inside, and in an attempt to drop a goal the ball was charged down. Price next made a praiseworthy attempt to beat the defence, but just failed.

Right to the end Gloucester persevered, but all to no avail, and the City had to retire beaten by two points.

### RESULT :

GUY'S HOSPITAL ... 1 goal (d) 1 try (7 points)  
GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal (5 points)

### REMARKS

After their recent run of successes the City disappointed this afternoon. The display at the start suggested a substantial win, but as play progressed the home team weakened in attack, and many good scoring chances were lost.

Guy's put up a great defence, and in the second half especially the visitors' tackling was very determined. But there were frequent occasions when the Guy's backs were allowed far too much licence by the referee in standing off-side, and this aided them considerably in putting a check to attacking movements.

The absence of McCanlis was a severe handicap to Gloucester, especially as Roy James was not fit, and only turned out under pressure. The captain and Tanner alternated at centre and wing, but though both had a good deal of the ball they failed to get through.

Tanner started off in brilliant style, and Gloucester in the first ten minutes might easily have had two or three tries. The backs were fast off the mark, ran strongly and showed clever combination. Graham Davies was equally prominent with Tanner in these bursts, and the opening certainly gave every encouragement. But Guy's adopted tactics which successfully countered all the moves of the home team, and taking full advantage of two scoring opportunities snatched their narrow lead, which they held to the finish.

Tanner slowed down after the first half-hour, and the Cambridge Blue was evidently short of practice. But he is a player of good class, and with more games should considerably strengthen the City attack.

Gloucester had chances of winning the game in the last quarter, but the best judgment was not always displayed, and a bit of bad luck checked players after good openings had been made. G. Davies and Abbey, on the left wing, were sound, and the centre was very aggressive at times.

Meadows had a good day individually, and made some of the best runs of the afternoon. He also kicked splendidly. Price put in a lot of hard work, but was inclined to lob his passes, and in the wind which prevailed the ball hung a good deal. This handicapped the movements of Meadows at the outset, and gave the opposition ample time to get on top of the home centres directly they received the ball.

Howell, who has assisted Gloucester, disclosed a clever reverse pass at the scrum for Guy's, and in Windsor Lewis the Hospital had a match winner. The visiting captain worked out the opening for the try, and his dropped goal was a smart effort.

Forward, Gloucester asserted superiority in the scrums and heeled splendidly at times. The front row – Carpenter, Wadley, and Comley – were clever exponents, and Joe Davies shone in those characteristic bursts for which he is distinguished. Smith was distinguished occasionally for good work, but the play in the open as a whole was not up to standard. Guy's forwards were exceptionally keen in the loose, and their tackling helped the backs appreciably.

The pick of the Hospital three-quarters were Ashdown and Johnson on the wings, though Giessen marked Tanner with telling effect. Boughton and W. Lewis both did well at full-back.

Next week : Gloucester v. Swansea, at Swansea. Gloucester United v. Berry Hill, and North Gloucester Combination v. Bristol Combination, at Kingsholm.

JC