

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1931

GLOUCESTER 13 Pts. HARLEQUINS 10 Pts.

GLOUCESTER'S BRILLIANT FINISH

SPLENDID WIN IN FAST GAME

CITY'S SCORING ALL DONE IN SECOND HALF

For their wind-up match of the season, Gloucester were engaged with the Harlequins at Twickenham this afternoon, but unfortunately the City were unable to command anything like a representative team. This was especially the case at three-quarter, Roy James, McCanlis, and Tanner all being unable to play. The wing positions were filled by Abbey (who has been out of the team for several weeks owing to illness), and Loveridge, and it was hoped to secure the services of Graham Davies, who is now in London, to partner Sheppard at centre.

Forward, Carpenter and J. Davies were also missing, and with the weakened ranks Gloucester were placed at a great disadvantage in meeting the powerful side fielded by the Harlequins. The Londoners were strongly represented in the back division, where F. R. Ievers, the R.A.F. and Army outside half, made his first appearance for the Club.

GLOUCESTER

FULL-BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : L. Abbey, Graham Davies, V. Sheppard, and R. N. Loveridge.

HALF-BACKS : Don Meadows and F. Fifield.

FORWARDS : F. Wadley, F. G. Merrett, E. Comley, Dr. Steele-Perkins, K. Smith, L. Franklin, L. E. Saxby, and H. J. Hyett.

HARLEQUINS

FULL-BACK : J. E. Ronald.

THREE-QUARTERS : J. R. Reeve, D. Bader, H. V. Style, and P. Hodge.

HALF-BACKS : F. Ievers and G. Dean.

FORWARDS : A. Prescott, P. Dunkley, P. Adams, M. Jackson, C. Hinds-Howell, D. Duder, C. Thompson, and B. Reynolds.

THE GAME

The vagaries of the weather had left the ground soft, but the turf, nevertheless, was in fine condition. At the time of starting the sun was shining, and the wind had dropped. There was promise of a great struggle between the solid Gloucester pack and the enterprising and skilful 'Quins' back division, and it was thought that the conditions would favour the former.

There was a good crowd when Wadley, who was captaining Gloucester, kicked off against the wind. The 'Quins started well, and a nicely-judged kick by Dean found touch near the Gloucester line. Reeve put in a good run near the touch line, but was pulled down.

GOOD FORWARD WORK

Play continued for some minutes in the visitors' 25 until Boughton relieved with a fine kick to touch. Reeve was again prominent with a strong run until pushed into touch. In the tight scrums Gloucester were doing well and heeling quickly, but the 'Quins were smart on their men, and caused Boughton to relieve several times, which he did very effectively.

REEVE SAVES 'QUINS

The 'Quins were putting up their usual enterprising game, and continued to press. It was not until the game had been in progress for 20 minutes that Gloucester, by energetic play, carried the ball down and crossed their opponents' line.

Reeve, with a great sprint, won the race for the touch down. In a passing movement by the 'Quins three-quarters, Sheppard cleverly intercepted and made a good run, but was pulled down.

LONDONERS' CROSS

Twenty-five minutes from the start there was some loose play near the Gloucester goal, and DUDER gained possession and went over for a try, which Dunkley converted.

Loveridge was hurt in a rush, but quickly resumed. The 'Quins were beaten for possession in practically every scrum, but outside were greatly superior.

They continually initiated passing movements, which spelt danger, but the Gloucester defence held out.

HALF-TIME :

HARLEQUINS	1 goal
GLOUCESTER	Nil

GLOUCESTER TAKE THE LEAD

On resuming, some energetic play in mid-field saw DAVIES emerge with the ball, and, sprinting hard, he evaded the opposition and scored under the bar. Boughton had no difficulty in converting.

Three minutes later Gloucester again scored. FRANKLIN, from a pass by Davies, cut out a clear opening, and ran over for a try, which Boughton failed to convert.

Gloucester were now putting on all they knew, and the 'Quins had a bad ten minutes. After they got through this period they exerted considerable pressure.

BOUGHTON'S FINE PLAY

For a time play was confined to within a few yards of the Gloucester line. Boughton was in great form, kicking a good length, and invariably finding touch. Reeve was also in great form, and several times got his side out of a threatening situation. The forwards on both sides were excellent, especially in the loose.

ATTACK AFTER ATTACK

Smart play by Gloucester left SHEPPARD in possession, and out-pacing the defence he went over for a try, which Boughton easily converted.

Almost immediately the 'Quins attacked, and DUDER went through and crossed near the posts for Dunkley to convert.

The 'Quins went all out for a win, and they started attack after attack, but the energetic defence of Gloucester held out to the end. In fact, Gloucester were in the 'Quins' 25 in the last few minutes.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ... 2 goals 1 try (13 points)

HARLEQUINS 2 goals (10 points)

COMMENTS

It was a capital game played fast and furious throughout. There was little to choose between the sides, for while the 'Quins were smarter in the back division, the Gloucester forwards were splendid. Sheppard, Davies, Wadley and Boughton were particularly good, and Duder for the 'Quins put in a lot of good work.