

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1962

RIP-ROARING STRUGGLE – AND WHAT A CLIMAX !

GLOUCESTER 14 Pts., HARLEQUINS 17 Pts.

Despite splendid efforts by Mick Booth and the Gloucester "Eight" to keep the game close, the home side were finally beaten in the last two minutes of what must have been the lustiest and most intermittently exciting game at Kingsholm this season.

Granted that Harlequins had the better open-playing backs it was up to Gloucester to keep the inferior Harlequins eight occupied for as much of the game as possible.

This was plainly the home plan and, in the first half anyway, it seemed that Quins were rising to the occasion. For, on all-round performance, they deserved their interval lead.

Eden, who was given much more chance than co-winger John Young, opened Quins' scoring with a try to which Gloucester's ever-reliable full-back, Russell Hillier replied with a penalty goal.

England full-back Wilcox put Harlequins ahead again with a fine kick and again Hillier equalised with his boot.

Eden again scored a try and the two teams changed ends, Gloucester facing a tougher second half with the last of the March winds against them. As ever, when they are loaded with such disadvantages the home pack decided to make a fight of it.

It was presumably after an interval tactical discussion based on the form so far that Mick Booth, the intelligent home scrum half, decided to play for line-outs.

If he did not do this he tried to do much of the work himself.

## SURPRISE BREAK

In fact it was when he decided to dodge through the Harlequins that Gloucester secured the equalising try. Booth's surprise move and quick pass eventually sent Bob Timms over on the left wing.

The visitors went ahead again when their fly-half, Read, crossed for a try while the forward battle still raged.

Wilcox stepped up to take a penalty to consolidate the lead, but struck the upright.

That master of quick reaction, Peter Ford, was positioned ideally to collect the rebound and dive over for a try. The roar of approval rose to a crescendo as Russell Hillier kicked the goal points.

At last Gloucester were ahead – with only a few minutes to play.

And it was at this stage that one really noticed Gloucester's superiority forward. For the home pack dictated terms in all departments of endeavour and sensibly Booth worked the line, ensuring the continuity of that endeavour.

If by some chance Ken Taylor did not succeed with his heel – he had a good second half by the way – then quick-breaking Peter Ford was always on hand to smother the Harlequins' scrum-half, Williams. In fact part of the game's interest lay in watching these two clash !

## FITTING

A three-point deficit was perhaps fair, considering the overall run of play, but a certain section of the crowd felt that the referee's watch was slow.

Indeed my own timepiece showed three minutes' extra play and I can't recall any injury time, Which is surprising in view of the fierce spirit in which the game was played !