

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1962

ALL-ROUND STRENGTH CHEERS GLOUCESTER SELECTORS

GLOUCESTER 15PTS., MOSELEY 8PTS.

The Gloucester selectors must surely have breathed a sigh of relief when they saw the fine all-round form of the team who beat Moseley on Saturday.

For this was an all-departments victory, and the first time this season that skipper, Mickie Booth's, declared policy of open play seemed to be paying off.

Hitherto, Gloucester's various departments – either forwards, threes or halves – seem to have been playing independent games.

On Saturday, each part of the machine operated quite smoothly, but more important, it operated as a whole.

There were several encouraging features of individual play, too.

Fly-half Richard Clutterbuck continued to show fine form, and an ability to find a gap, draw a man and use his centres throughout and right up to the last whistle.

## CENTRES CAME OFF

Once again, too, the centres came off – particularly Ron Platt, who added evidence of great experience to the impression one already had of strength. A casual reverse pass of his was particularly eye-catching and reminded one that such antics are rarely seen in the Gloucester back division.

And finally praise is due to the splendid Alan Holder who – regaining his rightful place at full-back after a season in the centre – produced another blinder.

In addition to his three conversion kicks, two of which were taken from the touchline, he was always cool and safe in defence and added initiative to the threes with several attacking thrusts of his own.

### "RESTRAINT"

It is perhaps a little harsh to mention this, but, nevertheless, one feels bound to record the restraint with which the Gloucester "eight" dealt with certain over-enthusiastic Moseleyians – I nearly wrote Moseleyites.

In fact there was evidence towards the end that the visiting pack was beginning to get the edge of Gloucester.

Perhaps it was surprising that they did not get it earlier in view of the departure of Hal Symonds at lock to the wing. This move was necessitated by Bob Timms' injury in the first half.

Set scrums were equally divided between Mike Wetson, of Gloucester, and Don Lane, of Moseley, but the line-outs were largely Gloucester's, with Long, Hudson and Ford all contributing.

### THE BEST HALF

The first half was undoubtedly the best for Gloucester.

Clutterbuck started a fine attack which gave Tony Osman a good flying try in the first ten minutes and nearer the half-time whistle Hal Symonds – who deputised well at left-wing three-quarter – scored again.

His try came from a typical piece of Peter Ford opportunism. The Gloucester wing-forward wrenched the ball from a hesitant Moseley half-back and gave Symonds the chance to boot ahead.

### WON THE RACE

The lock-cum-winger won the race to the Moseley line and Alan Holder converted.

John Bayliss, the Gloucester centre, added a further try in the second half which Holder converted.

Moseley's lock forward David Ramsbottom scored from a maul for the visitors and centre Bill Ward converted. Winger Doug Curry also scored a try which was not converted.

Moseley were coming back towards the end but there were not enough Moseley forwards to humble the Gloucester "seven" who kept their end up despite the loss of Symonds and the increasing amount of work that the Moseley tacticians were dictating.

### UNITED MET THEIR MATCH

MOSELEY UNITED ..... 9PTS.

GLOUCESTER UNITED ..... 3PTS.

In this rather scrappy game, played for the most part in heavy rain, Moseley United gained a deserved victory, although both sides played with determination and some skill.

Gloucester United found the fierce Moseley forward play difficult to contain and although they were well led by Hawker their line was crossed three times and frequently threatened, despite a courageous and skilful display by R. Hillier at full-back.

Some lack of understanding at half-back combined with the wet ball to hamper Gloucester United's three-quarter movements, but Meadows crossed for a clever try. Moseley United's scorers were Smallwood (try) and Acton (two tries).

JC