

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1962

RUGBY IN A LIGHTER VEIN – AND IT WAS SO REFRESHING

GLOUCESTER 17PTS., BEDFORD 13PTS.

Bedford certainly always produce the kind of Rugby the Kingsholm fancy enjoys and Saturday's strong, clean game was in the good old tradition.

Indeed it was good to see a team in Gloucester whom the Cherry and Whites could meet in the spirit of sporting enjoyment; rather than in the spirit of too-keen rivalry.

The local derbies this year have been undistinguished games – Lydney, Cheltenham, Stroud and Bristol – and Gloucester have only won one of them.

Perhaps now local tensions are past the Gloucester players will settle down to play that kind of Rugby we saw in the matches against "foreign" teams such as U A U and Moseley. For it is significant that the Cherry and Whites have played best against "foreigners" this season.

HOLDER GREAT

To leave the general preamble and get down to the particulars I must say first of all that it was not the threes, nor the halves who really shone against Bedford.

It was full-back Alan Holder (once again he never put a foot or hand wrong in defence or attack) and the home eight, in which Ken Wilson, Hal Simmonds, Peter Ford and Alan Townsend were all pillars of strength.

Three of Gloucester's four tries came from the pack (two by Wilson and one by Ford). The fourth was scored by winger Tony Osman. Holder added goal points to one in an unlucky place-kicking afternoon and scored a penalty goal into the bargain.

DIAGONAL KICK

Osman's try opened Gloucester's scoring from a diagonal kick by Ron Pitt, in the centre, which gave Osman a pretty clear field in front of him. If Osman had made the centre placing, the home score could have been a goal. As it was the score gave the home side the edge they needed and soon that great forward Ken Wilson (working overtime in this match) had scored another.

The trickery which gave Gloucester this try was originally tried on the home team by Moseley – unsuccessfully.

Gloucester have learned the lesson well and put it to good use. The trick, by the way, is for a tap penalty to be taken; Mick Booth receives the ball and shapes up for a long-armed toss. Instead of throwing the ball, Peter Ford wrests it from his grasp and charges ahead.

On Saturday it was this subterfuge and Ford's pass which sent Wilson over for his first try.

SIX AHEAD

Holder notched his penalty goal just before the interval to give Gloucester a 9pts. to 3 lead. Bedford's splendid wing forward D. Coley had notched these points with a penalty kick to open the scoring.

Bedford did well to come back from three to 13 points in the post-interval period. Their renewed vigour encouraged L. Matthews to cross for a try which he converted.

Then came Ford's insolent masterpiece.

The king of anticipation Ford collected a Bedford drop-out while the Bedford forwards calmly waited to receive possession. He squeezed between their two catching experts and crossed after collecting the drop out first bounce !

Then the two packs – Gloucester's was great in the loose and in the lineouts – clashed hard and enthusiastic in the Bedford 25.

PAID OFF

Their pressure just had to pay off and finally it did when Ken Wilson snapped up the ball and barged over. Holder converted.

It remained then for Bedford to reply with a goal. Wing forward R. Slaughter scored the try and Coley kicked the points.

Gloucester now have scored 110 points against 71 and have won five of their eight games.

Neath next Saturday will not be an easy fixture but at least it will not have the slightest whiff of "local derby" about it.

UNITED RIGHT ON TOP – YET STILL BEATEN

NEWPORT HSOB 8PTS.
GLOUCESTER UNITED 6PTS.

Right on top throughout from hooker to full-back, yet still beaten; that was the galling experience of Gloucester United in Newport on Saturday.

Ken Taylor saw to it that United enjoyed a complete monopoly of the ball from the set scrums; Gary Mace and Terry Hopson combined perfectly at half-back; Russell Hillier did everything expected of him at full-back – and still nothing went right for United !

Their own complacency; a ball that bounced awkwardly at the crucial moment; annoying, if minor, handling infringements when a score seemed inevitable, all these combined to defeat a frustrated United.

Two unconverted tries in the first half by Terry Hopson and Bob Smith seemed sufficient to clinch the issue for the visitors, particularly as the Old Boys had not scored.

But Newport grabbed thankfully at their few chances after the interval to snatch a victory that must have puzzled them as much as it did Gloucester United !

JC