

# THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 1963

## ANOTHER IDLE DAY FOR OUR LOCAL PLAYERS

Once again about 750 Gloucester rugby football players will be looking for something to do tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Harry Smith, secretary of the North Gloucester Combination – he is responsible for about 42 sides from 21 local clubs – confirmed today that no home or away fixtures would take place.

Gloucester's away match with Leicester is off and United's game at Clevedon is also cancelled.

Mr. Smith stated today that not since the big freeze of 1947 had so many matches been called off in the area.

## SOCCER: THE SAME, SAD TALE

And so far as soccer is concerned there are even more "unemployed" players.

About 75 matches in the Gloucester, Stroud and Forest of Dean areas will be called off. These include County Cup matches, 12 Northern Senior League games, North Gloucestershire League encounters and 15 games in the Stroud League.

All of which suggests that, at a conservative estimate, nearly 2,000 soccer players will be at a loose end on another sport-less Saturday.

"It is to be hoped the rugger players and soccer players don't decide to start up the old Rugby v. Soccer controversy in the pubs!" commented one local sportsman.

## 'THEY COULD HAVE PLAYED, BUT . . .

The only soccer club which reported that it was ready and willing to play, Tidenham, near Chepstow, had a disappointment last night.

Tidenham's match, with only two inches of snow on the pitch, was playable, club officials thought.

But a last inspection of the playing area before the final decision revealed that local contractors, working for the County Council, had tipped ten lorry loads of snow on the pitch as they cleared nearby roads !

JC