

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1963

BOOTH AND HOPSON ENGINEERS OF VICTORY FOR GLOUCESTER

GLOUCESTER 14PTS., NEW BRIGHTON 5PTS.

This was a very entertaining lightweight match, in which all Gloucester's points originated from the successful partnership of half-backs Mickie Booth and Terry Hopson.

Apart from the prodigious form of the old firm playing better together than since the beginning of the season, one of the most encouraging features of the match was the convincing display of Ron Pitt in the centre.

Since he went straight to the top at the very beginning of the season, Pitt has been in the doldrums. On Saturday, however, he showed himself again to be a runner so strong that he is unstoppable when he has the line in his sights. A virtue this, but it can be a vice if it means an over-long delay in passing.

Terry Hopson (2), and Pitt scored the first half tries which gave Gloucester a clear and completely unchallenged lead by the interval.

New Brighton had never once looked like scoring and rarely even entered the Gloucester half.

HEAVY ATTACKS

The second half was quite a different kettle of fish. Relaxing after a further score, this time it was Booth himself who nipped across after receiving a fast heel from Ken Taylor – against the head, by the way – for Peter Ford to convert.

The home side allowed New Brighton to stage a series of heavy attacks and permitted their lively backs – notably fly half Townsend and winger Edwards – to enjoy themselves no end.

Townsend it was who made the visitors' only score with the run of the afternoon, which took him more than 40 yards from his own half, past some dilatory Gloucester defenders, and to within a yard or so of the line when he passed to wing forward Billington, who scored.

The New Brighton skipper, Hart converted the try and when the whistle sounded one felt he was hoping for a few more minutes' play so that he could keep his lads at it.

Of the Gloucester forwards Jack Fowke was again outstanding – but when is he not? He is worth his place every week come RAF internationals or not.

Taylor hooked well and put in a terrific amount of only half-seen work in the rucks and Alan Townsend remains one of the best pack leaders in the county.

A nice little match this; good clean fun which deserved a far larger crowd to support it.

HILLIER'S CONVERSION CLINCHED VICTORY

HEREFORD 8Pts., GLOUCESTER UNITED 10Pts.

With only five minutes to go, Gloucester United seemed destined for defeat – and deservedly so, in their game with Hereford at Rockfield-Rd.

But United scrum-half Garry Mace stole away from the base of a scrum and the ball went out to centre Garry White who crossed near the posts. Full-back Russell Hillier converted easily to give Gloucester a two points win.

A great second-half recovery by Hereford had seen them take an 8pts.-5 lead after trailing five-nil at half-time.

Gloucester centre Bob Smith had given them the first half lead when he dribbled over and Hillier converted.

In the second half the Hereford forwards played powerfully despite an injury to hooker Mike Poole which made him virtually a passenger.

Only Tony Davies in the Gloucester pack matched their fire.

Hereford drew away with tries by wingers Alan Parker and Neil Powell, the second of which was converted by Jenkins.

Hereford battled away in the United half with their backs showing more idea than their United counterparts. Then Gloucester broke away and from a scrum on the Hereford 25 Mace made White's try.

Gloucester committeeman Sid Dangerfield had to play on the wing as Gloucester turned up with only 14 players.