

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1963

SPARKLING RUGBY IN KINGSHOLM THRILLER

GLOUCESTER 14 PTS., COUNTY PRESIDENT'S XV 14 PTS.

This was the sort of fixture which the "man in the stand" could look forward to with some reasonable hope of seeing fast, open Rugby.

Certainly, no one could cavil at the free-throwing, fast running brand of rugger served up at Kingsholm last night. It was just the sort of stuff likely to warm a rugger man's heart during those long, empty summer months!

At any rate, the game brought the 1962/63 season to a pleasant, painless close, and, no doubt, left many a spectator wondering whether he would see this particular type of Rugby when the season resumed in September.

Although not at full strength last night, the Gloucester XV played very creditably, and did extremely well to hold the County President's XV, which included two internationals, to a 14 pts.-all draw.

The result was in doubt at one time, but a tremendous, bulldozing run by Gary White, Gloucester's mobile wing-forward, ended in an equalising try for the Red and Whites a few minutes before no side.

FAIR RESULT

It was fitting in a way, perhaps, that Russell Hillier failed with the conversion. A draw, in the circumstances, was a very fair result.

Peter Ford, as usual, seemed to be everywhere at once, and his example did not go unnoticed.

The Gloucester forwards played havoc in the loose, and put in some good work in the lines-out – although here they were made to work hard by that tireless line-out specialist, international John Currie.

Both sets of backs ran with the ball, threw the ball, kicked the ball. They did everything with it: they sold dummies, and executed lightning reverse passes. Although these moves didn't always come off, the thought was there; and the crowd were with them to a man.

THE SCORING

The County President's XV opened the scoring with a nonchalant try by Weaver, which Nicholls converted, and increased it with a splendid try by Bassett.

Terry Hopson reduced the arrears with a try near the posts which Hillier converted, and shortly afterwards dropped a penalty goal.

The Red and Whites actually took the lead early in the second half when Hillier kicked a penalty, but Wright levelled the scores with an unconverted try.

The County President's XV snatched the lead for the second time when Collins scored an unconverted try, but Gary White's 'unstoppable' try restored the equilibrium.

The game was in aid of charity and among those at Kingsholm last night was – of course – the County President, Mr. Ted Parfitt.

LINE-UP

Teams : –

Gloucester : R. Hillier; R. Timms, R. Pitt, G. Mace, A. Osman; T. Hopson, M. Booth; F. Fowke, K. Taylor, A. Townsend, A. Davis, B. Hudson, P. Ford, D. Owen, G. White.

County President's XV : P. Colston; J. Hampton, A. Wright, M. Collins, R. Bassett; T. Nicholls, C. Kimmins; K. Wilson, J. Pullin, M. Peglar, J. Currie, D. Neate, A. Murphy, D. Rollitt, A. Weaver.

Referee : Mr. H. King (Gloucestershire Society).

JC