

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1951

## GLO'STER WON, BUT IT WAS A NEAR THING

In the later stages of a game in which fortunes fluctuated considerably, Gloucester had to fight hard to hold on to a slender two points' lead over London Welsh.

They managed to keep the visitors out, however, and finished up winners by two goals (10 pts.) to a goal and a penalty goal (8 pts.).

The strong wind often played tricks with the ball but even allowing for that, it was by no means one of Gloucester's best performances.

The forwards, although they did quite well in the set scrums, did not display their usual dash in the loose and found the lively Welsh eight something of a handful.

A Gloucester forward who did have a good game was Henry Wells. He was always ready to seize chances and on two or three occasions his opportunism might have been rewarded if Gloucester had been quicker at backing up.

## CLOSELY MARKED

Stand-off half Bill Cartmell has rarely been so closely marked as he was by the Welshmen.

Despite this he still managed to put in some very useful work for Gloucester, and took Humphris' passes extremely well.

The Gloucester threequarters were also closely marked. A good movement by the centres, Troughton and Sutton, produced one of the home team's tries but the two wing men, Crabtree and Terrington hardly ever had a chance.

## FULL-BACKS DID WELL

Gloucester's latest international full-back Bill Hook, was another player who had a good game, while his opposite number, J. D. Marshall, the Middlesex county full-back, also served London Welsh well in defence.

Both of Gloucester's tries – which were scored by Sutton and Hudson respectively, and converted by Hook – came in the first half.

But if Gloucester had slightly the better of things before the interval, London Welsh held the initiative in the second half.

The visitors replied with a penalty goal kicked by Jones and a try by Smith which Jones converted, and towards the end of the game their threequarters nearly put them ahead.

Gloucester did not produce their best form in this match. Although they managed to hang on to their lead it was a very near thing!

## UNITED SHOWED PACES IN SECOND HALF

When the official referee for the Drybrook–Gloucester United match failed to arrive, the breach was sportingly filled by R. (Digger) Morris.

Gloucester United were well deserving of their 17 pts. to 11 pts. victory.

United tries were scored by A. Spiers, R. Barton, I. Jones, B. Hudson, and R. Blair, T. Halls converting one.

B. Wilkes and R. Organ scored tries for Drybrook, W. Davies converting one, and F. Bevan dropped a fine goal.

Drybrook led 11 points to 5 at half time, but the United showed their paces in the second half.

This game was played in the best spirit, and despite bad conditions, some entertaining football was seen.

JC