

## THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 9, 1951

### WITH 14 MEN, GLO'STER FADED OUT IN THE SECOND HALF

After losing Charlie Crabtree with slight concussion at the beginning of the second half, Gloucester rather faded out in their match against Harlequins.

They had to be content with holding the visitors to a draw. Each side scored three points.

It was a game in which Gloucester had looked likely winners until the interval.

But once the home side were obliged to bring Ibbotson out of the pack in order to replace Crabtree on the wing, they lost the superiority which they had held in the scrums and this swung the scales in favour of Harlequins.

The conditions were too muddy underfoot for the play to reach a very high standard though both sides tried to open up the game when they could.

Gloucester's first-half advantage in the scrums enabled them to do most of the attacking before the interval and the visitors made only brief appearances in Gloucester's territory.

### KEPT AT BAY

On all but one occasion, however, Gloucester were kept at bay as a result of close marking by the Harlequins' backs and the spoiling tactics of wing forwards Horsfall and Williams.

Turner and Troughton laid the foundations of Gloucester's try which was scored by Ibbotson – one of the city's best forwards in the loose – after he had picked up the ball near the 'Quins' line.

Hook took the kick right in front of the posts but although the ball went over the bar it had been touched in flight and the conversion was disallowed.

In the second half Harlequins – faced by a depleted Gloucester pack – began to get more of the ball and left-wing N. E. Tovey put them on level terms with a try in the corner.

#### THREAT TO LINE

The strong running of the visitors' backs continued to threaten the Gloucester line but the home side defended valiantly until the end of the game.

Gloucester might well have won this match if they had not had to play a forward short in the second half.

JC