

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1951

GLO'STER OWED DRAW TO FORWARDS, HOOK AND TAYLOR

Five minutes from the end of Gloucester's game with Neath at Kingsholm, supporters had resigned themselves to the idea of seeing the city club lose their unbeaten record.

Then a splendid solo effort by left wing John Taylor – who dashed more than half the length of the field, beating many Neath defenders – led to Beamish getting a try which brought Gloucester to within two points of the visitors' total.

It all depended on Bill Hook, and, as he prepared to take the kick from more than half-way out, a silence that could almost be felt descended upon the ground.

The full-back made no mistake. He put the ball between the posts with a very nice kick, and thus Gloucester shared the honours with Neath, each side getting 11 points.

To a certain extent Neath were unlucky not to win – they crossed the Gloucester goal-line three times, whereas Gloucester crossed the visitors' line only once – and their backs served up rugby of a standard which should have brought better dividends. But Gloucester also deserve full marks for their very close marking of Neath's dangerous three-quarters and for the way in which they fought back to keep their record intact.

Gloucester's forwards gave another grand display in the loose and it was this as much as anything that helped to disorganise Neath's high-speed scoring machine in the second half. Much credit is due also to Bill Hook whose positioning and touch finding proved invaluable in helping to keep the visitors at bay.

THOMAS OUT-HOOKED

In the other departments, however, Neath generally held the upper hand. They had a particularly dangerous outside-half in D. Thomas.

Gloucester had less of the ball from the set scrums than in any of their previous games this season. In fact, it was the first time that Cyril Thomas had been noticeably out-hooked.

The Gloucester backs, although they did well in defence, showed little combination and the wing men were again starved of chances.

In the first half Hook kicked two penalty goals for Gloucester.

Huins (two) and Jones scored tries for Neath, Evans converting one.

Gloucester's forwards and full-back Bill Hook, plus Taylor's fine solo effort, were largely responsible for saving the game.