

## THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1951

### GLO'STER BACKS WERE AGAIN WEAK LINK

For the second time this season Gloucester Rugby Club travelled across the Black Bridge to suffer defeat, Newport winning a hard game by two penalty goals and three tries (15 points) to nil.

The Usksiders were undoubtedly the cleverer team, but in one way the margin of victory flattered them.

Apart from a try scored by outside-half Roy Burnett after only six or seven minutes' play, Gloucester successfully resisted all other Newport attempts to cross their line until quite late in the second half.

Both sides were without a number of their best players, but Newport were still able to put a very strong, hard-running three-quarter line on the field.

It was in this department that they showed their superiority, making good use of opportunities provided by the wily Burnett, and throwing the ball about in a lively manner – particularly in the second half.

### LITTLE UNDERSTANDING

The Gloucester threequarters put up a tenacious defence but were seldom seen as an attacking force. Compared with their opposite numbers they showed little co-ordination.

Bill Cartmell, Gloucester's stand-off half, was closely marked but he never gave up trying and one or two of his efforts deserved a better reward.

There was a very keen battle between the forwards – the exchanges being rather too vigorous at times. The Gloucester eight more than held their own in the loose, the back row trio of Ford, Hodge and Ibbotson showing particularly good form.

#### SET SCRUMS FAILURE

But, after getting the bigger share of the ball in the earlier stages they later allowed Newport to get on top in the set scrums. Newport also had the better of the lines-out.

Trevor Halls, Gloucester's deputy full-back, had plenty of work to do and, on the whole, stood up well to a severe testing. On one occasion in the second half he saved an almost certain try by diving at Graham Ross and forcing him into touch when the fast wing-man was practically clear.

#### TWO PENALTIES

After Burnett's try had given Newport an early lead, Bob Hughes kicked two penalty goals to put the home side nine points up at the interval. Newport's two second half tries were both gained by threequarters after good runs, the scorers being Ken Sergeant and A. Rowland.

Gloucester came nearest to scoring when Crabtree made a determined effort to force his way over towards the end of the game.

Although the ground was on the heavy side for open rugby, it did not churn up in the way that might have been expected in view of its reputation as a "mud bath" after wet weather.

Gloucester fought pluckily, but Newport's threequarter line was too strong.

JC