

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 1952

GREAT RALLY EARNED GLOUCESTER'S LONDON SUCCESS

Failing to make the game safe when they had the opportunity, Gloucester came very close to losing their fixture with London Scottish at Richmond.

Then, a minute from the end, Gloucester's desperate attempts to score were rewarded and they finished up victors by a goal (5 pts.) to a dropped goal (3 pts.).

It was a game in which Gloucester had had much more of the play than their opponents – particularly in the first half, when London Scottish were on the defensive practically the whole time.

During that half, Gloucester's reserve hooker, Brian Lane got the ball back well and with their pack also having the better of the exchanges in the loose and in the linesout the visitors were able to mount a series of attacks.

In at least two of these movements, the London Scottish line escaped only by a hairsbreadth.

HANDLING MISTAKES

The home team's resolute defence was helped at times, however, by slowness and handling mistakes on the part of Gloucester's backs.

Lane's good hooking was also nullified to a certain extent by a tendency to slowness in heeling on the part of the rest of the pack; which sometimes handicapped Gloucester's halves.

After the interval the Scottish forwards offered a stronger challenge to Gloucester's pack, both in the tight and the loose, and a dropped goal by their international outside-half, Logie Bruce-Lockhart, gave them the lead.

SCOTS WIN INITIATIVE

Inspired by this score, the Scots wrested the initiative from Gloucester for a time and Bruce-Lockhart – always a potential danger to Gloucester – started some good attacking movements.

But Gloucester came back with a great rally in the closing stages of the game.

When Hodge crossed for a try, Halls added the winning points with a beautiful kick from near the touchline.

Hodge's try came about as the result of a movement in which six or seven payers took part, and was an example of good teamwork.

Outside-half John Teakle took Davies' service well, but was sometimes inclined to be slow in getting his threequarters away.

Taylor, Gloucester's right-wing, was again in good form and the Scottish had difficulty in stopping him whenever he had anything like a reasonable chance.

Gloucester continue to show good teamwork, but their attack needs to be spiced up.

GLOUCESTER UNITED WERE THE MASTERS

Enterprising rugby earned dividends for Gloucester United in their match with Newport High School Old Boys, at Kingsholm.

Their all-round superiority was particularly noticeable in the second half, and after holding an interval lead of 13 pts.–3, they ran out winners by 32 pts.– 3.

For Gloucester, George Cummings worked hard at the base of the scrum, and gave Wally Burrows plenty of good passes. The outside half, in his turn, showed initiative and created many openings, but he was at times inclined to hang on to the ball too long.

In the centre, R. Blair, a newcomer, played well and full-back D. Heath gave a splendid exhibition of tackling and kicking.

Gloucester, particularly in the closing stages, were the complete masters, and well-deserved winners.

Scorers: Gloucester; R. Blair (2), E. Turner, J. Embling, D. Hill, G. Cummings (tries), and D. Heath (2 penalties, four conversions).
Newport H.S.O.B.; J. Holland (one try).