

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1952

BLAIR GAVE SPARKLING DISPLAY FOR VICTORIOUS GLOUCESTER

Gloucester's traditional Easter Saturday game with London Welsh at Kingsholm was like the curate's egg – "good in parts."

Some lively exchanges alternated with periods of rather scrambling play, and penalties came thick and fast – London Welsh, who seemed to specialise in getting offside at the scrum, being the principal villains of the piece.

One of the most encouraging features of the match from the home team's point of view was the fine part played by reserve wing-threequarter, Roy Blair, in Gloucester's 12–8 victory.

Showing great determination and, on one occasion, a devastating hand-off, he got two very nice tries – his first scores for the premier side – which enabled Gloucester to build up a winning lead.

Another Gloucester reserve who did well was scrum-half Brian Reade but, just as in the Cheltenham match, he was not always able to give of his best because of slow heeling on the part of the forwards.

The Gloucester pack did, however, do a good job of work in ensuring that London Welsh found the ball elusive. In the loose, too, the home eight proved a big handful for the visitors.

Showing more co-ordination than in several of their recent matches Gloucester's backs handled attractively at times, but the Welshmen's hard-tackling defence was a tough nut to crack.

A late "blitz" by the Welsh backs gave more than a hint that there might have been a different story to tell had they seen more of the ball.

On the run of play, however, Gloucester deserved their victory – the 25th of the season.

Six of Gloucester's points came from penalty goals kicked by Baker. Brewer and Dykins scored tries for London Welsh, Jones converting one.

THANKS TO PACK

The fact that Berry Hill managed to beat a strong, speedy Gloucester United side 9pts.–5 was almost entirely due to their forwards.

Another reason they won was because they had in full-back Trevor Jones a reliable place kicker.

He made no mistakes with three penalties to give his side victory.

In view of keen and accurate tackling by both sides, it was not surprising that only one try was scored during this thrill-a-minute game.

Gloucester United's try was scored by Daniells and converted by Heath.