

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 1952

TWO BRILLIANT TAYLOR TRIES PAVED WAY FOR GLO'STER WIN

A grand display by their pack, who showed splendid stamina in gruelling heat, and two brilliant tries by right-wing John Taylor, paved the way for Gloucester's heartening win over Exeter 13pts-8 in the first match of their Devon tour.

On this performance the City's prospects of winning the final two games to break the existing club record of 29 wins in a season are particularly rosy, for they are not likely to find Penzance-Newlyn or Teignmouth such formidable opponents as Exeter.

Exeter, for whom Brown kicked a penalty goal and converted a try by Harrison, were the more aggressive in the first half.

But they found themselves against a stout defence, in which Halls and Taylor played leading parts.

It was from a dangerous movement by the home side that Taylor scored his second try – a wonderful solo effort which gave Gloucester the lead at a time when Exeter were in threatening mood.

A poor pass by an Exeter player and the City winger was on the loose ball in a flash.

Rounding two opponents he made a bee-line for the corner 65 yards away and reached it with the defence trailing helplessly in the rear.

Taylor's other try, and Ibbotson's in the second half, both resulted from clever work by Davies, who once more proved himself to have few equals in the scrum-half position.

Halls, besides converting two tries, was cool and sure in everything he did and twice saved the line when all seemed lost.

But it was the work of the pack in which Hodge, Ford, Watkins and Hastings were always prominent, that finally took the edge off the keen Exeter attacks.

The Gloucester men lasted the pace better in a game, which despite a glut of penalties, often rose to splendid heights and was played at a fast tempo.

JC