

# THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1952

## CHELTENHAM GAIN SECOND WIN IN 17 YEARS

For only the second time in 17 years, Gloucester Rugby Club had their colours lowered yesterday evening by Cheltenham.

Meeting a Gloucester Fifteen who bore an unfamiliar look, the Town side won a somewhat undistinguished game by two tries (6 points) to one penalty goal (3 points).

Weakened by late changes, Gloucester had considerable difficulty in raising a full side when they reached the Athletic Ground.

The big tragedy for the Cherry and Whites was that they hardly smelt the ball in the set scrums. And this was not altogether Gloucester's fault, for Cheltenham's scrum-half, Iltyd Pearce, was a frequent offender in the matter of not putting the ball in properly.

## PREFERENCE FOR KICKING

Even with their monopoly of the ball, Cheltenham made surprisingly few attempts to really open up the game. Halves and centres alike seemed to prefer kicking to indulging in handling movements. Gloucester's pack played up well in the loose and some of their tearaway rushes had Cheltenham in serious difficulties.

As the game progressed it became a question as to whether the city pack's efforts in this department could eventually give Gloucester the upper hand.

But Cheltenham beat off their attacks, full-back S. T. J. Walter giving a particularly useful performance.

## HALF-BACKS HARASSED

Gloucester's hardest working forwards included Hastings, Parry and Peter Ford, whose quick breaking from the scrum often harassed the Cheltenham half-backs.

Although scrum-half John Hobbs had the disheartening experience of making his debut for Gloucester behind a pack who seldom saw the ball, he sent out a nice service when it did come his way.

Howard Terrington, captaining the side in the absence of Bob Hodge, made heroic but unsuccessful attempts at outside-half to initiate scoring movements from Gloucester's few opportunities.

Dennis Ibbotson, making his second appearance in the centre, had practically no chance to shine in attack.

His flying tackles, however, often proved disconcerting for the Cheltenham centres.

## CAUGHT IN POSSESSION

Cheltenham opened the scoring just before half-time when Halls was caught in possession and, following a loose scrum near the Gloucester line, Pearce crossed for an unconverted try.

Wing-threequarter M. Fisher increased their lead in the second half, scoring a try in the corner after Cheltenham had heeled from a scrum five yards out from the Gloucester line.

The Cherry and Whites fought back strongly in the closing stages, but their only reward was a penalty goal landed by Trevor Halls.

Weakened Gloucester were beaten but not disgraced. The game was sufficiently close for the result to have gone either way.