

## THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1952

### GLO'STER GAVE NEWPORT AN 'EYE-OPENER'

Like near neighbours Cardiff, Newport Rugby Club will remember their 1952-3 home game with Gloucester as one of their toughest battles of the whole season.

Gloucester's performance against one of the strongest club sides in Britain must, in fact, have been an eye-opener for Newport supporters. It was a fine display.

This time it was not a Gloucester XV with their backs to the wall, but a Gloucester who met their formidable rivals almost as equals.

Newport's powerful back division got two tries – one of which was converted – in the earlier part of the game, and there the scoring ended so far as the Usksiders were concerned.

Before the interval Dennis Ibbotson reduced the arrears with a most enterprising drop goal, and from then until "no side," neither team could find a hole in the other's defence.

If Newport had the more dangerous outsides, forward honours went to Gloucester's eight, who only had to play second fiddle in the set scrums.

The city club's wing forwards, Ibbotson and Ford gave a very effective display.

### NOT DISGRACED

Though it was the pack who stole the limelight for Gloucester, the backs by no means disgraced themselves.

With a reasonable supply of the ball in the first half they were not afraid to throw it about, and seriously threatened Newport's line.

John Taylor was a particularly strong runner when in possession.

The match was played in damp, murky conditions and visibility became so poor towards the end of the game that the ordinary ball was exchanged for a white one.

Newport's tries were scored by threequarters Wills and Lane, the first being converted by Bridle.

Gloucester held the Usksiders so well that Newport could hardly have complained if their visitors had forced a draw.

#### NO. 11 FOR UNITED

The festive season is still several weeks off, but Ivor Jones, popular Gloucester United skipper has had an early Christmas box – the defeat of Newport United 9 pts – 3 !

And the well-earned victory had a double significance. It was the first time Gloucester United had beaten their powerful opponents for many years. In addition, this 11th successive victory kept that hundred per cent record intact.

The virile winners' pack, among whom Stower, Daniels, House and Gordon Hudson were outstanding, kept the Welshmen well in check, while behind the scrum, Sutton, who scored the only try of the match, gave a grand display at centre.

Halls added Gloucester United's other points with two penalty goals, Pryer also landing one for Newport.