

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1953

AIRMEN WERE FLATTERED BY WIN OVER POLICE XV

Though a weakened RAF team put up a good performance in beating British Police by 17 points to 10 at Kingsholm yesterday, the Airmen were rather flattered by the size of their victory.

For much of the first half the RAF – often playing sparkling rugby – looked the more dangerous side but after the interval most of the attacking was done by the Police.

Flying Officer M. F. Channer, playing at outside-half for the Air Force, served his side exceedingly well both in attack and defence. His kicking brought the team 11 of their points and he also initiated the movement which produced one of their tries.

With the RAF pack winning a good share of the ball in the earlier part of the game the Servicemen's speedy three-quarter line was able to show its paces on several occasions. Flying Officer T. R. Beatson and Flying Officer G. Rowlands on the right flank looked particularly dangerous.

In the second half, however, the powerful Police pack gained the upper hand in all departments and the RAF outsiders saw comparatively little of the ball.

STRONG IN LOOSE

The Police forwards were particularly strong in the loose and gradually wore down the opposition by their vigorous tactics. Welsh international Bill Tamplin was again a tower of strength, and other prominent members of the Police pack were D. Steer, M. Williams and Jack Watkins.

Behind the scrum the Police were not so thrustful as the airmen, though Hughes and Clark both had some good runs.

For the RAF, Channer dropped two goals, kicked a penalty goal and converted a try scored by Len Shelley. The other try was scored by Rowlands.

Tamplin and Smith scored tries for British Police, Tamplin converting both.

GREAT THRILL

After the game a dinner arranged by the Police Athletic Association, was given for the players at the Midland and Royal Hotel.

The Mayor of Gloucester (Ald. G. A. H. Matthews) and leading officials of Gloucester Rugby Club were among the guests.

The toast of "The RAF XV." was proposed by the Chief Constable of Gloucestershire (Col. W. F. Henn), who told the players: "I think it must have been a tremendous thrill for those of you who have not been here before to play a game at Kingsholm."

Col. Henn thanked the officials of Gloucester Rugby Club for allowing the game to be played at Kingsholm, which, he said, was known wherever rugby was spoken of and was indeed the cradle of rugby in the West.

Group Captain C. L. Troop (chairman of the RAF Rugby Union) toasted "The Police Athletic Association and the British Police XV." and thanked the Police for given the Air Force such a good test before their inter-Service games with the Navy and Army.

He also stated that the RAF were looking forward to playing Gloucester later in the year.

The health of the guests was drunk at the bidding of Col. H. Rawlings (Chief Constable of Derby), chairman of the rugby sub-committee of the Police Athletic Association.

Col. Rawlings, who presided, expressed thanks to everyone who had assisted with the arrangements for the game and the dinner, particularly the members of the Gloucestershire Police Force.

THE RIGHT SPIRIT

Responding on behalf of the visitors, the Mayor praised the rugby spirit of "playing the game" and emphasised that it would be a better country and a better world if this spirit was instilled into the minds of everyone.

Dr. Arnold Alcock (president of Gloucester Rugby Club) and the two captains, W. E. Tamplin (Police) and Flt. Lt. P. C. Yarranton (RAF) also spoke.

Others present at the dinner included Air Commodore A. D. Warrington-Morris, Group Captain A. V. Rogers, Squadron Leader N. Cameron (hon. secretary of the RAF Rugby Union), Mr. Arthur Hudson (vice-president and hon. secretary of Gloucester RFC), Mr. A. T. Voyce (vice-president of Gloucester RFC), Mr. H. J. Balchin (hon. treasurer of Gloucester RFC), Mr. J. Taylor (Chief Constable of Leicestershire and Rutland) and Mr. A. H. Carter (Assistant Chief Constable of Gloucestershire). Mr. Taylor and Mr. Carter are members of the police sub-committee which organised the event.