

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1953

GLOUCESTER NOT IN HOLIDAY MOOD . . .

UNITED COLLECT ANOTHER SCALP

If the 5,500 spectators who went to Kingsholm on Easter Saturday were hoping to find Gloucester in holiday mood they must have come away sadly disappointed.

The Red and Whites were unable to do more than draw 3–3 with London Welsh, despite the fact that they had far more of the play than their visitors.

Though Gloucester's forwards got plenty of good work in the loose and generally had the better of things in scrums and lines-out, the back division had an "off-day."

This was partly – though by no means entirely – due to the fact that rain showers made the ball slippery.

FUMBLING AND FAULTY HANDLING

Things rarely worked smoothly behind the scrum, and fumbling and faulty handling seriously reduced Gloucester's effectiveness as an attacking force.

The backs who showed the best form were those who saw least of the ball – wingers John Taylor and Ernest Turner.

Among the forwards who stood out were Dennis Ibbotson – whose crash-tackling saved Gloucester's bacon on more than one occasion – Peter Ford and John Gwilliam.

It was a breakaway by Ford which led to Turner scoring Gloucester's only try.

The London Welsh backs did not get many chances, but they generally looked dangerous when in possession.

C. James, the visitors' fly-half, levelled the scores with a dropped goal.

### UNITED STEP NEARER RECORD

Shortly before the Hereford–Gloucester United clash Gordon Hudson spent a diligent quarter of an hour cleaning and polishing his football boots.

It was time well spent, for 10 minutes after the interval he kicked the second of two magnificent penalty goals which took the last puff of wind from the gallant Hereford's sails and put United within striking distance of a record season.

And both goals were obtained despite a high wind, and in persistent April showers.

Yet it was not the kicks alone that made the match a great one for Hudson.

Both he and Alan Wadley gave superb displays, and Hereford hearts fluttered whenever these two gained possession.

Also well to the fore in forward exchanges were Solomon and Counsell, while new hooker Taylor proved himself a valuable acquisition.

Bace, a young Tredworth player, made a creditable debut at scrum half and struck up a happy understanding with Roy Sutton.

In comparison the Hereford half-backs were not so effective.

The home pack, however, were a sturdy, virile lot who gave United one of their hardest struggles of the season, and in Smith they had a tireless forager.

Beamish rounded off the scoring with an unconverted try to give United a well-deserved 9pts.–nil victory.

JC