

# THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1953

## GLOUCESTER GAIN REVENGE IN ABOVE-AVERAGE LOCAL DERBY

GWILLIAM EXCELS

Gloucester gained ample revenge for their defeat at Cheltenham in October when they defeated their local rivals last night at Kingsholm by 8pts.—nil.

Although the game never rose to great heights there were occasional bright movements that gave promise of better things to come.

They rarely materialised, but the game was a big improvement on the usual slogging match expected from this "derby." In fact, it was well above average for a local derby.

### FULL-BACK THWARTED NEAR LINE

Gloucester made several praiseworthy attempts in the early stages to penetrate the defence. But close marking by Cheltenham broke up their attacks before they became too dangerous.

Both Taylor and Ford made thrilling break-throughs, and Baker was short with a prodigious penalty shot from inside his own half.

This was followed by a magnificent run by Halls, who dashed through after a kick-ahead and twice gathered two short punts before being thwarted near the line.

These incidents, plus occasional attempts by Cheltenham, with Pearce and Davies the instigators, were the only items of interest until shortly before the interval.

## FORD GAVE PERFECT DUMMY

Then, Gloucester opened their account with one of the best movements of the match. A spirited dash down the wing by Turner brought the try. When challenged he passed inside to Hodge. The Gloucester skipper handed on to FORD, who gave a perfect "dummy" before crossing under the posts.

BAKER had no difficulty with the easy conversion, and in the circumstances, Gloucester changed over with a valuable lead.

## TOO MANY SCRUM OFFENCES

The home side rarely appeared to be in real difficulty, yet one often had the feeling that Cheltenham might have sprung a surprise with a quick break-away or a penalty goal.

For there were far too many scrum infringements, chiefly because of the Cheltenham "prop" men's reluctance to pack properly. This earned them the disapproval of the 5,000 crowd.

Referee Goldsworthy was frequently forced to stop play and re-set the scrums.

Loose packing and both hookers' striking infringements caused many unnecessary stoppages, thus limiting the number of three-quarter movements from the set scrums.

## TRIED HARD TO KEEP BALL MOVING

Despite this, however, and a persistent drizzle shortly after the game started, both sets of backs tried hard to keep the ball moving when opportunities arose.

Davies, Cheltenham's international centre, made several attempts to pierce the home defence, but he was closely watched by Baker, and generally had little room to manoeuvre.

The second half found the game deteriorating. Rain and gathering dusk did not improve matters.

But after the burly Stan Walter, Cheltenham full-back, was wide with a penalty shot, George Hastings put the issue practically beyond doubt when he won the race for touch after a kick ahead from the loose. Baker's kick was just wide.

If the numerous scrum infringements can be discounted, Burford held the experienced Carpenter well, but we saw so little of a properly set scrum that a clean heel was a rarity.

In the lines-out, Cheltenham had a tireless worker in newcomer Shrub, but usually it was the master touches of John Gwilliam that gave Gloucester the advantage.

The Welsh international, too, excelled in the loose, where skipper Bob Hodge, Peter Ford and Dennis Ibbotson also caught the eye with fine work. Cheltenham's hardest grafters were de Nobriga, Herbert and Shrub.

#### CHECKED BY CLOSE MARKING

Halls and Walters both served their sides well, though the Cheltenham full-back appeared to find exchanges a little too exacting in the closing stages.

Fly-kicks were indulged in far too often by both sides, but Halls once averted potential danger by such measures.

Cheltenham earned praise for their close marking, which often nipped promising home movements in the bud. But Gloucester, playing their last home match of the season, fully deserved their win.

There was only one side dictating affairs and with fewer scrum infringements home supporters might have seen a bigger margin of victory.

Gloucester: T. Halls; J. Taylor, R. Sutton, M. Baker, E. Turner; H. Terrington, J. Hobbs; R. Parry, M. Burford, G. Hastings, J. Gwilliam, H. G. Wells, P. Ford, R. Hodge (capt.), D. Ibbotson.

Cheltenham: S. T. J. Walter; G. F. Crosby, W. P. C. Davies, R. Hosen, P. Todd; K. M. Walter, I. W. Pearce (capt.); R. Adams, A. D. Carpenter, F. Cherrington, L. Cunningham, R. S. Shrubbs, J. H. Jones, A. P. de Nobriga, A. J. Herbert.

Referee: Mr. G. Goldsworthy (Welsh R.U.).

JC