

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1983

BOYLE BOOST FOR GLO'STER

HARLEQUINS 3 Pts., GLOUCESTER 16 Pts.

Although deprived of a host of regulars because of the County game, Gloucester effectively ended their losing streak with a convincing defeat of the high-flying Londoners.

They ran in three well-engineered second half tries and dominated so strongly in the forward exchanges that the 'Quins had no chance to reply.

Two men in particular will be well-pleased with the display – Steve Boyle and Paul Ford. Boyle marked his return to the first team with a show of strength and determination that grew by the minute in the second half.

And Ford staked a strong claim to become the regular full-back again, even though he missed four of his six place-kick chances.

Despite these failures, he dealt well with the blustery conditions at the Stoop Memorial Ground and showed flair in attack. Indeed, he was the key link in sending over Derrick Morgan for his second try – and Gloucester's third – in injury time.

As well as adding greatly to the forcefulness of Gloucester's scrummaging, Boyle worked energetically in the loose and did surprisingly well in the line-outs against the 'Quins international skipper, Bill Cuthbertson.

Holding the whole thing together admirably, as he has done well in recent games, was scrum-half and stand-in captain Steve Baker who had another game to be proud of.

Gloucester's back-row was also a major factor with Mike Teague in good form despite having to leave the field briefly for treatment to a leg injury in the second half.

Against the wind in the first half Gloucester did well to contain Harlequins to a lead of a single penalty by fullback Ray Dudman. He missed two other penalty shots, as did Ford.

It took Gloucester about 10 minutes to gain the upper hand after the changeover and as the possession started to flow the Cherry and Whites' way, Baker sent a flying pass to Morgan in front of the 'Quins posts. The winger dived over in the corner but Ford missed the conversion.

Six minutes later Boyle made a spirited charge forward, drawing the Harlequins' cover before sending the ball along the threequarter line.

So effective was the Boyle charge that Gloucester had a two-man overlap but centre Paul Taylor did not need it and had time to run round and ground behind the posts, giving Ford a simple conversion.

Ford missed a long penalty a few minutes before the end but with the last move of the match the ball moved cleanly along the line from a scrum 15 yards out and Morgan was clear for the final try. Again Ford converted from a wide angle.

Harlequins may have been short of most of the players who have beaten Swansea and Llanelli in recent weeks, but as Gloucester were almost as badly weakened this was a display they can be pleased with.

Harlequins: Pen.: Dudman.

Gloucester: Tries: Morgan (2), Taylor. Cons.: Ford (2).

Man of the Match : Steve Baker: For inspiring captaincy and a sharp and unruffled service.

UNITED IN GOOD FORM

GLOUCESTER UTD. 24 PTS., RICHMOND VIKINGS 9 PTS.

United played with a lot of character to record their best win of the season.

Outweighted in the forwards they still managed to gain enough possession for the backs to cause the Richmond defence problems.

Committee man Fred Reed, drafted back into action at hooker, held his own while lock Dave Watling and flankers Jeremy Bennett and Ray Wood grafted hard.

Acting skipper Rob Wilmott forged an effective link with Paul Webb at half-back and they helped create some good openings for the backs.

Richmond opened the scoring with a penalty but United went ahead with a good try by winger Pdraig Conway, converted by Roger Fowke.

Fowke was on target again after Webb burst over for another try and a Richmond penalty made it 12-6 at half-time.

United added further tries from Fowke and Ian Miller with Webb and Mark Durkin kicking conversions.

Outweighted in the forwards they still managed to gain enough possession for the backs to cause the Richmond defence problems.

Man of the Match : Rob Wilmott.