

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1983

A BLACK NIGHT FOR GLO'STER

GLOUCESTER 16 PTS., NEWBRIDGE 36

It's a long time since Gloucester were given such a hammering on their own ground.

Lacklustre Gloucester, hampered by injuries to key players, were rarely in the hunt and were comprehensively outplayed by the confident and composed visitors.

The Welshmen came to play rugby – a happy contrast to some recent matches – and their enterprise and flair went well rewarded.

In outside-half Paul Turner they had the star of the match. He dictated the play with supreme skill and confidence, causing havoc to the beleaguered Gloucester defence.

Rarely did Gloucester lay a hand on him as he scurried to all parts of the field collecting loose kicks and using them to Newbridge's advantage.

Gloucester were well and truly outplayed in the forwards. A well organised Newbridge eight scrummaged well, rucked and mauled with drive and generally played with more purpose. Happily, in a well refereed match, there was no trouble.

To be fair, Gloucester lost prop Phil Blakeway early on with a recurrence of a hamstring strain and this unbalanced their scrummage with Nigel Scrivens, normally a lock, coming in at tight-head although he bravely held his own.

Mike Teague's effectiveness was hampered by a nasty leg injury and although he carried on, Gloucester's back-row a vital component of their play, was never a potent force.

Gloucester rarely made their tackles count, giving Newbridge the scope and room in which to operate.

Clearance kicking was also poor and the mercurial Turner seemed to draw the ball towards him like a magnet as he set up attack after attack.

Newbridge led 8-0 at half-time with the advantage of the wind, but their enterprising rugby paid dividends after the break with five more tries.

Gloucester's scores came late in the game. Steve Boyle, who had a solid match, crashed over from a tap penalty and David Spencer scored two tries late on to salvage something.

Gloucester's biggest problem was that they did not secure any worthwhile possession in the loose and from that point of view badly missed Gadd, Preedy and Orwin.

Gloucester: Tries; Spencer (2), Boyle. Cons.; Ford (2).

Newbridge: Tries; Davis (2), Phillips (2), Griffiths, P. Jones, Ransom. Cons.; Bow. Pens.; Bow (2).

Man of the Match : Newbridge outside-half Paul Turner. . . for his control and flair.