

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2004

MELVILLE ON MONDAY

A WIN – BUT IT WAS NOT PRETTY

It was a cold, wet and miserable afternoon at Welford Road on Saturday, a poor crowd by Leicester's standards, and two teams who had given their all in the last two weeks competing for Heineken Cup glory.

The records will show that Gloucester beat Leicester 20-13, and the in-form Tigers' Powergen Cup run came to an end with a home defeat.

Gloucester moved into the quarter-finals and, as a result, are two games away from Twickenham and three wins away from European qualification.

Whatever the rights and wrongs, the merits of the Cup and European cup qualification, we must take every opportunity that comes our way.

We don't make the rules we just play the games.

Yes, it was a pretty awful game, a flat atmosphere and two teams who, for whatever reason failed to take their chances. But believe me, both teams wanted – and expected – to win.

For Gloucester, I was really pleased with our latest signing Mefin Davies.

He may have struggled to get all the calls right in four days, but his work around the park and particularly in defence was outstanding.

Seti Kiole showed that he has great potential, and Brad Davies produced a much more composed performance than his previous visit.

When you read this article, you will no doubt know who we have drawn in the quarter-finals as the draw is later to-day – a home tie would be nice, but we seem to be making a pretty good job of doing things the hard way at the moment.

This week, we are back to Premiership action. Wasps away is not an easy fixture, but it is one we are desperate to win.

Everyone asks what the players do over Christmas – but it's just a normal week, we will be training on Christmas Eve, and Boxing Day before travelling to Wycombe for the game.

To be honest, the best Christmas present we could give ourselves and our supporters would be a win at Wasps.

This will be followed by the visit to Kingsholm of the Leicester Tigers, not the rather tame variety we met last Saturday, but the real thing.

If 2005 is going to be the year we all wish it to be, another win against Leicester would be a great start.

Have a fantastic Christmas and we all look forward to seeing you at Kingsholm on January 2 against Leicester.

JC