

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1955

## COME-BACK ENDED HOPES OF A GLO'STER WIN

A Gloucester team, half composed of reserves, sent the hopes of supporters soaring during the first part of their New Year's Day clash with London Scottish at Kingsholm – only to dash them in the later stages of the game.

The Red and Whites led at the interval by 8 points to nil and seemed all set for a great victory over their international-studded opponents.

But it was not to be. The Scotsmen became increasingly dangerous in the second half and in the end celebrated Hogmanay in fitting style by winning 12-8.

## MAN SHORT

Their come-back was all the striking in view of the fact that they were a man short for the last 20 minutes, and for a brief time were even reduced to 13 men.

The player who had to go off for good was wing threequarter J. M. Sutherland, who suffered a broken bone in his face.

The three quick tries which sealed Gloucester's fate were all scored in the last ten minutes, when the Red and Whites suddenly seemed to crack.

Gloucester were perhaps unlucky to have at least one of these scores allowed against them – but defensive lapses which helped to present the visitors with victory ought not to have occurred.

## FIRM DEFENCE

Reserve hooker John Lowe won Gloucester so much of the ball – especially in the first half – that the powerful Scottish threequarter line had only limited scope to show its paces.

And for much of the game Gloucester's tackling was so keen that the attacks which the visitors did succeed in launching floundered against a firm defence.

Gloucester half-backs Billy Nield and David Jones again worked hard, but it was once more left to the forwards to play the leading part in most of the Red and Whites' attacks.

And so strongly did the Red and Whites battle that they were well on top in the first half.

Bob Hodge, leading the side in the absence of George Hastings and Roy Sutton, was one of Gloucester's outstanding forwards. Others who showed up well included Peter Ford and Peter Hosea.

## REVIVED PLAY

In the second half, however, the efforts of Gloucester's pack were largely nullified by a new-found liveliness on the part of London Scottish, who made greater use of their chances of getting the ball to their backs.

Gloucester opened the scoring when Ford charged down an attempted clearance kick near the Scottish line and gained a try, which David Jones converted.

Jones also landed a nice penalty goal from a fairly wide angle.

London Scottish gained their first score when Elgie – who had bad luck to strike an upright with two other good shots – landed a long penalty goal.

Right wing J. S. Swan was awarded a try after a quick-moving attack by the Scottish, and then scrum-half A. A. W. Waddell slipped over for another try, which gave the visitors the lead.

Almost on time right centre D. A. Sloan showed a great turn of speed to win a race for the touchdown and bring Scottish a further try which was also unconverted.

### UNITED WERE JUST A LITTLE UNLUCKY

Had they not succeeded in winning the set scrums with regularity Cheltenham United might have suffered a resounding defeat at the hands of Gloucester United at the Athletic Ground; instead they emerged as somewhat fortunate winners by 6 points to 3.

The visitors certainly had by far the better of exchanges generally and at one period in the second half pounded away at the Town line ceaselessly for ten minutes. Still the ball would not come out cleanly to the more polished and speedy Gloucester backs and Cheltenham survived, almost miraculously.

An indication of what could happen when the visitors' back division got moving came early in the game. Half-backs Meadows and Terrington combined effectively, centres Holder and Russell – both from Spartans – carried on the good work, and the Town defence was split wide open.

### CAUGHT NAPPING

Twice this happened in the opening stages, only for minor infringements to rob Gloucester of seemingly inevitable tries, before Terrington, with a beautifully-judged cross-kick caught the Cheltenham defenders napping for Lewis to gather and dive over wide out.

Robinson put the Town on level terms with a prodigious 50-yards penalty; then the home side took the lead against the run of play when a defensive lapse enabled Mullins to race over by the corner flag.

The second half developed into a tough but clean struggle but no further score resulted.

JC