

# THE CITIZEN

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1955

## GLO'STER ADD SWANSEA TO VICTORY LIST

### FORD'S TRY WAS THE MATCH-WINNER

In a thrill-packed ending at Kingsholm last evening Gloucester gained a narrow three points lead over Swansea, defended magnificently in the face of furious counter-attacks by their Welsh opponents, and finished up winners by six points to three.

The crucial point in the game was reached barely 10 minutes from the end at a time when both teams were level – each with a penalty goal to their credit – and when most of the 4,000 spectators had resigned themselves to the match ending in stalemate.

Suddenly, in the gathering gloom, three of Gloucester's outstanding forwards – Hodge, Ibbotson and Ford – were seen to burst away in a devastating foot-rush which drove the ball over Swansea's line.

Ibbotson, diving for the ball, just failed. A defender lost it when trying to fall on it, and Peter Ford, with one of his terrific follow-ups, plunged on the ball for a try which sent the crowd wild with delight.

Michael Baker, who had earlier landed Gloucester's penalty goal with a beautiful kick from wide out, just missed with his conversion attempt.

### THROWN BACK

Gloucester's score was the signal for an all out effort by Swansea to try and batter a way to the home line. But the Red and Whites' defensive work was first class. Swansea were held at bay, thrown back, and before the end Gloucester had again threatened danger with another grand foot rush.

One of the Red and Whites' stars in this match was full-back Brian Sibery. Not only when Swansea were really "turning on the heat" in the closing stages but throughout the whole match he always inspired confidence. His positioning, kicking and tackling were exceedingly good and on more than one occasion Gloucester had to thank him for saving their line.

Though tremendously hard, the match failed to produce much in the way of brilliant football. Rain had made the ball slippery and much of the game was fought out between two well-matched packs.

Thanks to some effective heeling from the loose scrums and superior lineout work, the visitors saw more of the ball than Gloucester and their backs could look very dangerous.

#### WEAK LINK

But a weak link in the Swansea side was their deputy scrum half P. Stone, who filled the breach due to Vivian Davies's indisposition.

Gloucester's threequarters had few chances and the ball hardly ever reached the wingers. Lewis Morgan, playing at outside-half was none too happy with Hobbs' service during the earlier part of the game. But later the two halves settled down better together and Morgan shaped more promisingly with some useful tactical kicking.

In addition to the back row, D. A. Jones was a particularly outstanding member of Gloucester's pack, and Ieuan Sheen gave a good account of himself in the centre – especially in defence.

Swansea's penalty goal was kicked by E. Prosser-Harris.

It was Gloucester's third consecutive victory at the expense of the Welsh All Whites.