

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1984

GLOUCESTER SUFFER MORE WELSH WOE

NEWBRIDGE 17 Pts., GLOUCESTER 9 Pts.

This was Gloucester's Bridge Too Far. As valiantly as they defended and, late in the game, fought back with tremendous enthusiasm, Newbridge were a class apart.

The Gloucester forwards played fearlessly and won plenty of possession. They ran the ball as often as possible but without the conviction of the Newbridge backs.

Seasoned supporters at the Welfare Ground were predicting the result – correctly – at half-time when Gloucester were winning 4-9.

It must be a warm feeling inside to have so much confidence in your backs that you can argue with friends not when, but who, will score the second half tries !

Gloucester's scrummage went well, John Brain was outstanding in the line-outs and there was unshrinking effort by all eight in the loose.

But courage was never going to be enough. As soon as Newbridge put their act together there was never a doubt – it was just a question of time.

Newbridge are traditionally slow starters and Gloucester fans who temporarily forgot this were rubbing their hands with delight as the Cherry and Whites competently moved ahead.

Tim Smith kicked a couple of penalties and Mike Hamlin, who had a very good game, dropped a neat goal.

But from 10 minutes from half-time until 10 minutes from the end the Welshmen ruled the roost.

Accomplished half-backs Davies and Owen called the tune and all around them the backs and forwards led a merry dance with some superb running, only checked by stout-hearted tackling.

Scrum-half Davies was in great form and paved the way for the opening try by Owen who slipped through round the blindside.

Newbridge laid siege to Gloucester's line in the second-half and were rewarded when full-back Peter Goodfellow broke through for a try, again unconverted.

It was still Gloucester by a point but the inevitable breakthrough came 15 minutes from the end when winger Chris Phillips produced a brilliantly deceptive run to score in the corner.

Goodfellow converted, added a penalty and Gloucester had picked up their second defeat in five days in Wales.

JC