

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1964

MICHAEL DINEEN'S OPEN LETTER TO THE CRITICS

GLOUCESTER GAVE THE FANS VALUE FOR MONEY

GLOUCESTER 33 Pts., LYDNEY 0

Dear Alf – You were saying you couldn't work up much enthusiasm for rugger this season. Well let me tell you that this was a game to get enthusiastic about.

I know you'll say it was just exhibition stuff and too one-sided to be a really great match. And I agree.

It was. But think of the entertainment value! If rugger goes on like this, there will be no more talk about league being a better spectator's game.

And think about the influence this new chap Don Rutherford had on the game.

He seems to be an inspiration. Quite apart from the 12 points he scored – valuable though they were – he seemed to give Gloucester that extra confidence.

## UNDENIABLE CLASS

I'm one of these chaps who believes that if a player of real and undeniable class like this ex-England full-back can make one or two players on the opposite side look silly with some smoothly executed dummies a few side-steps and a jink or two then it has an enormous psychological value.

Remember these runs he did? Remember the way he could seem to pick up speed although he'd just switched directions?

Remember that try shortly after fly-half Terry Hopson had scored a drop-goal? That was copy-book stuff, Alf.

Admittedly he missed more place-kicks than he scored from.

But this was probably due to a slippery boot and ball, polished like army "bull" on the dry grass. But still he managed to kick a goal and convert tries by John Bayliss (he scored two tries) Nick Foice and Peter Ford.

And what about these surprise changes of direction Foice seems to specialise in?

This winger played an intelligent game, scored two good tries and thoroughly justified his selection.

Of course, all this handling was bound to have an influence on the forwards eventually.

#### RUNNING AND PASSING

Second row man, Hal Symonds scored a nice try and then there was that splendid forward attack, way out in the open with running and passing going on like nobody's business.

It was Brian Hudson who gave Peter Ford the pass that put him over for the last breathtaking try of the match. Whew. What a game!

I'm afraid poor old Lydney were not in it at all.

But the thing I find most encouraging about the whole match was that it showed Gloucester could measure up to the faster pace the new laws demanded.

## PENETRATING

Dick Smith was an outstanding example of this when he lined up with the threes during a "small" line out. A very penetrating player, Dick. One of the best.

But I wonder how the "Cherry and Whites" will fare against some of those nippy Welshmen they have to meet. Cardiff, on September 23, and Pontypool, on the 30th.

And I'm just a little worried about Rutherford's tendency to show perhaps a little too much attacking spirit, at the expense of absolute safety.

But he was safe enough on Saturday and the question of very last Welsh threequarters is in the future, anyway[*sic*].

In the meantime I've got a glowing memory of some absolutely splendid rugger. Alf – thanks to Lord Danie of Craven!

I should make Kingsholm a regular date, this season.

Yours – Michael Dineen.

## UNITED DISAPPOINT AT CWMBRAN

CWMBRAN ..... 6 PTS.

GLOUCESTER UNITED ... 3 PTS.

What should have been a fine game of Rugby between two strong teams on Saturday, turned out to be a disappointment.

Gloucester, playing their first game of the season, lacked the rhythm that one would expect on a hard, dry ground, and although they had several good players, they did not knit together as a team.

United's strongest asset lay in their pack, to whom full marks must be awarded. The excellent hooking of Ken Taylor, ably supported by skipper Alan Townsend was a credit to the visitors.

The threequarter line also showed great promise, and in future games they should prove a force to be reckoned with.

Mention should be made of the newcomers, Roy Morris, Keith Picton and Mike Burton. The former pair were both internationals and the latter was capped as an English schoolboy international.

Picton and Burton proved their worth in the pack, and although Morris did not give too fine a performance at centre, this could be accounted for by nerves.

JC