

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1964

TAYLOR'S TRY CLINCHED WIN FOR GLOUCESTER

GLOUCESTER 19 Pts., BEDFORD 9 Pts.

One can only echo Oliver Twist's immortal words and ask for more – in this instance, more – much more – of the sort of Rugby which spectators enjoyed at Kingsholm on Saturday.

On the face of it, Gloucester and Bedford were reasonably well matched – the first requisite of any good game of Rugby.

One always had the feeling, though, that Gloucester were the stronger side; an impression which they confirmed in the closing stages.

Would they have won at Bedford? That, I suppose, must remain one of the great imponderables, though in my mind that ground advantage helped to neutralise Gloucester's mistakes on Saturday.

At no stage in the match did the Red and Whites lag behind Bedford, although at one point – with only minutes to go – they led by only two points.

At that point, the game might have gone one way or the other, it was that close.

It was Gloucester's hooker, Ken Taylor, who settled the issue. He led an enthusiastic foot-rush on the far right, which ended in an unconverted – but nevertheless decisive – try for Gloucester.

One could almost see the scales tipping in the home side's favour. Certainly the sighs of relief from Gloucester supporters were audible enough.

The thought that Bedford might still have drawn level may possibly have lingered on in the minds of hopeful statisticians, but it did not appear to occur to the visitors. It was just not 'on.' The initiative had passed to Gloucester – and there it stayed.

### GOOD SHARE

Foice brought a cross-field manoeuvre by the backs to a successful conclusion, Don Rutherford's conversion assuming the properties of a triumphant epilogue.

Gloucester by no means had things all their own way, Bedford getting on the whole a good share of the ball from the scrums and lines-out.

Gloucester's power, as always, lay in the loose and it was here that their pack, with Dick Smith, Peter Ford and Alan Brinn particularly prominent, excelled itself.

The game, played in uncompromising fashion, produced an exciting brand of football that was good to watch – in my view, the ultimate criterion.

Who can blame Gloucester for relying occasionally on the safe defensive kicking of Booth and Rutherford ?

### SCORE LIST

Gloucester's points, amassed by Foice (two tries), Brinn (try), Taylor (try), and Rutherford (one penalty, two conversions), were not scored without a radical expenditure of energy. It would have been folly to have squandered them.

Bedford's scorers were Webb (try), Briggs (drop goal), and Philbrook (penalty).