

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1964

UNENTERPRISING GLO'STER ROCKED BY FLUKE JOHN UZZELL TRY  
NEWPORT 18 Pts., GLOUCESTER 6 Pts.

Gloucester were lulled into a false sense of security because Newport seemed content to imitate their policy of kick-for-touch and keep the game forward.

For threequarters of the game both sides played it cautiously. No enterprise, no open play, unless it was safe, no enjoyment for a large crowd at Rodney Parade.

In spite of the new laws and in spite of perfect ground conditions both teams contrived to give us the kind of Rugby which used to send us to sleep on muddy February days before Dr. Craven's laws reached the statute book.

Gloucester scored first – a good penalty kick by Don Rutherford in the first half, and crossed over with a slim three-points lead.

And they looked like holding onto the lead by means of kicking and mauling between the 25's.

## STROKE OF LUCK

Then Newport had a stroke of luck. You can't really call it anything else, for the try which resulted from it depended on the kind of situation you see less than once every five years.

Mogford, the Newport fly half had received from Prosser at the set scrum and kicked ahead. Don Rutherford sighted the ball and positioned himself just under the Gloucester cross-bar.

Possibly confused by watching the ball and wondering if it would hit the crossbar or land in his grasp, Rutherford half caught it and then dropped it – behind his own line.

Opportunist right centre, John Uzzell, got a hand to it as he rushed up in pursuit and Cheney converted it from an easy position.

### SUPERB TRY

It was no way to get a try, but it rocked Gloucester, who had scarcely recovered from the shock when they conceded another – a superb try by Watkins who dived over by the corner flag, grounding the ball single-handed with a Keith Miller action and rose again with the ball still in his hand.

Cheney's conversion kick from the touchline was excellent.

Bob Smith got a try by the corner flag which Rutherford did not convert, and then Bill Morris dribbled over for another try which Cheney also converted for Newport.

It remained for Mogford, a really fine deputy for Newport captain Watkins at fly-half, to drop a goal for Gloucester's goose to be well and truly cooked.

### LACK OF THRUST

It was a game in very marked contrast with Gloucester's performance against the Harlequins. There seemed to be no real determination and thrust in Gloucester's play.

Outstanding for the Cherry and Whites was Mickie Booth, who several times saved further Newport scores with his excellent last-minute clearance shots.

In the pack Ken Taylor – when you could see him – played a fine game and damaging work was done by McDougall who replaced Roy Long.

I wonder if Newport intended lulling Gloucester into believing they could carry on with the tedious mauling game until the end ?

### CRASHING ATTACKS

I wonder if they planned to come back at the last minute with crashing speedy threequarter attacks ?

If it had not been for the extremely lucky nature of Uzzell's try, I would be tempted to believe that this was the case for with players like Watkins, Uzzell, and Mogford, Newport would be foolish to settle for displays of unrelieved forward strength.

Gloucester deserved to lose this match.

### UNITED WERE SHORT OF ROOM

GLoucester UNITED ..... 5 Pts.  
Newport UNITED ..... 21 Pts.

Gloucester United never seemed to have enough room to move in. The ball never seemed to be around at the appropriate moment.

There were very good reasons for this. Newport United were not, on the whole, particularly keen to give Gloucester any room.

Neither were they inclined to let Gloucester have the ball very often. Indeed, when the home backs did get it, they seemed a trifle surprised.

Gloucester's new winger, John Groves, gave every indication of being a useful chap to have around.

On Saturday, unfortunately, his wings were clipped – he was rarely in a position to do much.

Gloucester United's handling was uncertain, even ragged. One felt grateful when Sparey, for instance, made a defence-splitting break to sting the game into life.

Apart from incidents such as this, it was the steady, remorseless persistence of Newport which held sway.

Newport's scorers were Harris, Skerving, Burch, Evans, and Boulter (tries). Mainwaring kicked three conversions.

Osman scored a try for United which Sparey magnificently converted.

JC