

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 1965

"TONIC" WIN – BUT GLO'STER LEFT IT SO LATE

WASPS 8 PTS., GLOUCESTER 9 PTS.

It was a near thing. Still, a win is a win, whichever way you look at it.

And this one comes at a particularly opportune time for Gloucester, recent victims of London Scottish and Leicester.

On the face of it, Gloucester did not look in too healthy a position at the interval. Wasps were eight points ahead at this stage, having scored a goal and a dropped goal without reply.

They also had the wind behind them – a stiff, kick-stifling breeze which did nothing to help the Cherry and Whites break the home side's grip.

It wasn't so much wind advantage, though, as a combination of opportunism and handling errors which let Gloucester in for their first try.

Keith, the Wasps centre, elbowed the ball away, winger John Groves kicked it on, and went over for a try in the corner.

FINE KICKING

Half-time predictions by Gloucester supporters that the Cherry and Whites would overhaul the Wasps' score in the second half looked as though they might come true when Terry Hopson coolly dropped a goal from in front of the posts.

Booth and Hopson's kicking kept the Gloucester pack, with Ford, Smith and Teague fiercely prominent, in the Wasps' half.

The Wasps' scrum-half, Norris, was not allowed much room, and the potentially dangerous home threequarters, except for the brilliance of Arthur, did not present the threat they might have done.

Ken Taylor provided his side with plenty of the ball from the tight, and the experienced Gloucester pack generally dominated the opposite eight.

David Ainge kicked a beautiful penalty to put Gloucester in front; and there, in fact, they stayed – despite some pretty rousing stuff from Wasps in the last ten minutes or so.

The 'cliff hanger' excitement of the closing stages came to a head when Wasps were awarded a 30 yard penalty. Mettler, who in the first half had converted Norris' try, missed. And that was that.

Wasps' other first-half score, a dropped goal, came from the boot of Arthur.

UNITED, IN TAME DRAW, FAILED TO IMPRESS

John Bayliss, out for his first run since the throat injury received in a Gloucester match, can't have been very impressed by the United's performance on Saturday.

As full-back he could well have expected a light try out. Instead he found himself buried under a pile of forwards struggling for the ball where he had forced it into the Cleve half.

Mike Price, United's outside half, produced the only score for the home side in this tame draw, when he forced himself over for a try by the flag. His conversion into the wind failed.

FAIR RESULT

For Cleve, three points came from a penalty kicked by Bridgeman after he had missed a similar kick.

A three point draw was a fair result for a game in which both teams were at fault with handling and the kick ahead.

JC