

The Citizen

MONDAY APRIL 15 1940.

RUGBY

£2,500 TAKEN AT KINGSHOLM

16,000 SAW ENGLAND'S VICTORY

The official attendance figure at the International match at Kingsholm on Saturday was 16,000, and the takings were £2,500.

After the expenses had been deducted the balance will go to the Red Cross Fund.

Rugby Union officials were well pleased with these figures, and were delighted with the whole of the organisation, writes "R.C." They felt that it was far better from every point of view to have had slightly fewer spectators than the ground could hold, rather than the other way about.

A couple of hundred [or] so pounds more might have been taken if the capacity had been reached, but everything might not have gone so smoothly, it would not have been so enjoyable for those at the match, and the equipment of the ground might have suffered.

The Gloucester Club would certainly not have earned the good name which it now has for being able to stage a big match in comfort. There is

no doubt that the limited accommodation plan served its purpose rather better than was anticipated.

The organisation worked admirably, and all the arrangements went without a hitch. This was a well-earned reward for the long hours of work and worry which three old Internationals, Dr. A. Alcock (President), Mr. A. T. Voyce, the Chairman, Mr. A. Hudson, the Secretary, and other members of the Gloucester Club Committee have put in for many weeks past. They made the day a success.

A factor which largely helped things to go so smoothly was the efficient work of the police and special constables, who with the 160 extra men drafted into the city, did excellent work in controlling the crowds both inside and outside the ground.

The only damage to the ground was a hole in the asbestos roof of one stand made by a man who had climbed up there and nearly fell through to the ground, and some broken tiles on the roof of the office.

England Backs Superior

As for the game, Wales were clearly beaten behind the scrum. They had speedy three-quarters, but they lacked the understanding, combination, and clever handling of the England backs. Wales could not plead that they did not have the chances, for on balance they actually had more of the ball than England. Weaknesses at half-back, allied with the other troubles of the Welsh three-quarter line, and the deadly English tackling, lost the game for Wales. Wade and Tanner did not show up well against the quick-brained Ellis, and Kemp, who in both attack and defence, played a real captain's game.

Wooller was, of course, a marked man all the time, and it was his huge kicking rather than his long raking strides which helped Wales more, for he was seldom allowed to run far. Jack Matthews, too, generally managed to run straight into trouble, so that the wings had to make their own opportunities.

Contrasted with this was the precision of all the England backs, who seemed to be able to give and take a pass from every angle, and to bring a man down immediately he had the ball.

Heaton was the most effective, but this does no injustice to the others.

Edwards' Part

Edwards was often to be seen cutting through cleverly. Although once or twice he held on a shade too long he all but scored in the first half, and he atoned magnificently at the end by giving Unwin the last try. This score by England just before no-side was a splendid piece of work. Started by Kemp, with all the three's handling in turn, it swept the Welsh defence right out of the picture, and was the epitome of the English backs' superiority.

At full-back Wales probably held a slight advantage, for Cranmer marred generally neat fielding by losing the ball once or twice in dangerous places, and he was kicking short.

The Welsh forwards were easily a match for the England pack, especially in the loose, when they were hard to stop. England, however, were well served by such bustling players as Teden, Huskisson, Willsher, and Watkins, who attacked with vigour whenever there was a chance. Wales kept losing ground in the early stages by being off-side, but they managed to conquer this fault, and throughout the struggle between the

packs was so hard and fast that both sides tired considerably in the second half.

For this reason the first half provided the better spectacle, but it was all well worth seeing.

This game will probably end the season so far as Kingsholm is concerned. I understand that Gloucester are not likely to have another match.