

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1924.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER'S ONE POINT VICTORY.

KEEN AND WELL CONTESTED GAME.

CLEVER BACK PLAY BY ST. BART'S.

The visit of the Hospital Cup winners to Kingsholm proved a strong attraction, and spectators looked forward to a fast, open game as a result of the meeting with the City team. St. Bart's, apart from their success in the Cup final, had previously triumphed over the powerful Guy's side, and recently gained a well-deserved win over Bath on the latter's ground.

Gloucester fielded short of Hughes at outside half, a position again filled by Meadows; Sid Brown was moved to centre three-quarter, and Crowther appeared on the wing. The Hospital were deprived of the valuable services of five of their Cup Fifteen. G. W. C. Parker, the captain, was injured; Carnegie Brown and G. S. Vergette were engaged in examinations; Row was down with influenza; and Bettington missed his train. In place of the latter P. Carter (Gloucester's ninth forward) played as substitute.

Teams : —

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : R. James.

THREE-QUARTERS : N. Daniell, T. Millington (capt.), S. Brown, and S. R. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS : W. Collins and F. Meadows.

FORWARDS : T. Voyce, A. Hall, S. Bayliss, F. Coulson, J. Merry, F. Ford, H. Collier, F. Ayliffe.

## ST. BART'S.

BACK : W. F. Gaisford.

THREE-QUARTERS : M. Thomas, P. O. Davies, N. Fitzgerald, and L. C. Neville.

HALF-BACKS : T. P. Williams and H. McGregor.

FORWARDS : A. G. Beith, J. W. Buttery, W. S. Morgan, C. R. Jenkins, Colenzo Jones, J. A. Edwards, J. D. Allen, and P. Carter (sub.).

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis (Cheltenham).

## THE GAME.

The ground was in splendid order, and the conditions generally were ideal. The Hospital started with the sun in their faces, and the ball being carried to touch, a line out followed in the home half.

From the first scrum the visitors opened out, McGregor taking a low pass from his partner and starting his threes in motion. Davies was well tackled, but he passed back inside to a colleague, who found touch at the home 25.

Play favoured the Londoners, and Williams, taking advantage of a mistake by Meadows, dribbled clean through. He kicked across, but the ball went into the arms of Daniell, who relieved. A fine punt and follow up by Brown saw Gaisford tackled in possession, and the game settled at the centre.

The Gloucester forwards heeled, but Meadows again missed from Collins, the ball going wide. Fortunately Millington recovered and sent to touch. A clever dodgy run by Daniell was heartily applauded, and then the ball got out to Millington, who cut through and passed to Voyce. The International dashed ahead and went straight for the corner, but Gaisford just got him to touch a yard outside. From this point Gloucester attacked strongly, and following a feint by Collins, the latter served MEADOWS, who scored a good try. Millington failed at goal.

Resuming, Gaisford showed up with a couple of fine returns, and Davies executed a capital run, but his pass was knocked on. Gloucester then broke away, and Millington punting up the field Gaisford was at fault. He tried to recover, but was pounced upon, and the City gained a footing in their opponents' half. A penalty fell to either side, but nothing resulted.

Splendid kicking by the visitors, and later a clever combined movement amongst the backs and forwards, led to play being transferred to the other end. For off-side James was penalised, and Gaisford took a shot for goal, but his kick was very wide. Millington received and punted clear, and Gaisford failing to field from a knock back by Davies Gloucester had a fine opening. Thomas, however, ran across and effected a good relief.

Scrappy play ensued in the Bart's half, but some weak tackling by Gloucester players allowed Beith and later Thomas to make headway. Gloucester worked back, but though the game was keenly contested and fast there were no brilliant incidents. On the left Crowther got in a smart dribble and was joined by Voyce, who tried for a corner try, but touch-in-goal was given.

On the drop-out a long kick down by McGregor forced James to run back to recover, and before he could clear, Neville, who had followed up fast, tackled him. Gloucester were seriously pressed for a couple of minutes, but a lucky flying kick brought relief.

Further progress was made by the forwards, and James, with a fine return to a kick by Thomas, enabled his side to maintain their position.

A cross-kick by Daniell right in front of the posts saw Gaisford tackled in possession over the line. A scrum was ordered five yards outside, and the Gloucester backs being given possession a series of exchanges ended in CROWTHER dashing over in the corner. Millington's kick for goal, though a capital effort, failed.

The Hospital restarted, and though some smart work was witnessed on both sides, finish was lacking. Daniell was called back for a knock-on when there was a good opening, and next Voyce was cheered for a wonderful, though unsuccessful drop at goal from a penalty from near half-way.

In some loose play a visiting forward picked up and punted high. A colleague dashed up and secured, finally punting past James. There was a good chance of a score, but the ball bounced awkwardly for the Londoners, and the City relieved.

Play of a give-and-take character followed, but there were too many mistakes in handling to give either side a real chance. Once Voyce broke away, and amusement was caused by his being tackled by Carter, who was carried a few yards before both fell to the ground.

The Gloucester forwards shone in a loose dribble, and Voyce sent the ball across to the right, but Thomas just beat Daniell for possession and kicked to touch.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
GLOUCESTER ..... 2 tries  
ST. BART.'S HOSPITAL ..... Nil

Gloucester were somewhat flattered in holding a six points' lead, for their football had been nothing special, and the Londoners had experienced hard lines in not scoring on two or three occasions. Play on the restart opened at a fast pace, the visiting backs opening up in smart style and playing with great determination.

Ford was distinguished with a sharp burst, and later James and Crowther showed up with some good kicks to touch. Picking up in the loose, Meadows cut through nicely, but his pass to Hall was missed, and a promising movement was checked.

Williams and McGregor, at half, were combining well for the visitors, and had the passing been clean behind a score must have resulted.

The Hospital front were holding their own well, and Gloucester were confined to their half. A big forward rush, with Ford leading, brought the city to the centre, but when the ball got amongst the backs nothing was done. On the other side Williams and Thomas displayed clever combination on the short side of the scrum, and from a punt by the Welsh International the home team only saved by making a mark.

Gloucester worked out of danger, but the Londoners were soon back again. McGregor opening out from the loose, the ball was got across quickly to NEVILLE, who, sprinting hard, beat James, and raced over behind the posts for a fine try, which was loudly cheered. Gaisford converted, and only a point separated the teams.

Gloucester restarted with vigour, and some keen exchanges were witnessed. The City, however, could do little of an effective nature when the ball came out. A fine touch-finder by Voyce and a dashing forward burst tested the Hospital defence, which held out. The home forwards, however, again got on the move, and Coulson was only stopped on the verge of the line. Carter effected relief with a touch kick, and then the Hospital got to safer quarters.

The City forwards took the game into their own hands, and by furious assaults gave the Hospital defenders a warm time. But a great defence was set up, and Gaisford twice eased the pressure with left-foot kicks to touch from off his own line. Gloucester worked back again through Brown, but a wild pass by Collins lost the position, McGregor dribbling away to James, who cleared effectively under great pressure.

A minor soon followed to the City, and afterwards Voyce led a loose rush to the visitors' line, where Daniell made a big effort to get up, but touch was given. Ten yards out scrums took place, ending in the Londoners being penalised for off-side. Millington had a shot for goal, but just missed, and Gaisford ran around and punted out to beyond the 25.

For the last ten minutes, play had been confined to the Hospital half, but the City were not clever enough to beat the defence. Voyce twice tried hard to push his way through for an opening, but he had to succumb to numbers, to the amusement of the crowd. Gloucester still attacked, but an attempt at passing failed at Millington, and Fitzgerald, picking up, punted to beyond half-way. Crowther, Coulson and Collier led Gloucester back, and the contest continued to be waged with great keenness.

Faulty play by the home team lost a good position, Neville getting in a kick which landed the ball to touch within ten yards of the home line. But over-eagerness by McGregor got his side penalised, and with a well-judged punt Voyce found the touch-line 40 yards up the field. The end was near, but just on time the Gloucester backs attempted passing, only to find Millington throw forward with Brown and Daniell well placed.

#### RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ..... 2 tries (6 points)  
ST. BART.'S HOSPITAL ..... 1 goal (5 points)

#### REMARKS.

Gloucester on the play were rather lucky in gaining winning points, for though the City exerted more pressure than the Hospital men, the visitors displayed the better football, especially behind the scrum. It was a fine, sporting game, and thoroughly enjoyed by the large crowd.

It was unfortunate for St. Bart's that circumstances prevented their fielding full strength forward. With Bettington, Row, Carnegie-Brown, and Parker in the pack, the probability is that Gloucester would have been more severely tested in the scrummages, and had honours here been more evenly divided, it is pretty safe to assume the Hospital backs were strong enough to carry the day.

There was far too much in the way of "head" tackling to-day on the part of the City team – a weakness that has brought disaster to the side on more than one occasion this season.

Time and again this afternoon opposing players shook themselves free and were allowed to progress, pass to a colleague, or foot the ball to touch. Thomas especially was particularly clever in eluding would-be tacklers, and had the Welsh International and Neville, two speedy and elusive wings, been given more chances in attack, it would have gone pretty badly for Gloucester.

The City were greatly indebted to the forwards for their success, though it must be said the Kingsholm men by no means had things their own way. The Hospital had several fast men in the open, and they followed up and tackled with great keenness. It was in the massed attacks Gloucester were so dangerous, and but for the strong defence and clever clearances of Gaisford and his colleagues the Londoners' line would have been pierced more than once in the second half. For Gloucester, Voyce, Coulson, Ford and Collier were the more conspicuous. The International had some rare tussles at times with several opponents, but they all seemed to enjoy it.

The home pack gained possession more often than their rivals, but Collins and Meadows were not a happy combination at half-back. The scrum-worker could not seem to find his partner with his service of transfers, and several went very wide of the mark. The result was that McGregor and Williams snapped up openings and initiated several dangerous attacks. All-round the Hospital pair were the smarter players, being quick off the mark and accomplishing a lot of good work, individually and in combination.

At three-quarter, too, St. Bart.'s were by far the more impressive side. They made mistakes, it is true, but there was danger every time they were in possession. The centres had the correct idea of cutting up the field, and there was always someone backing up. Neville displayed his ability when he scored, and it was just as well for Gloucester that the right wing was not over-burdened with scoring chances. Thomas, too, proved a big handful to look after.

Of the Gloucester four, Crowther performed creditably, and the other players did good work at times; but they were not forceful enough in attack, and few openings accrued.

At full back, both Gaisford and James kicked a fine length. The City custodian was "left" by Neville when he scored, but this was his only real mistake. He cleared very smartly under severe pressure, and his fielding generally was first-class. Gaisford was a trifle slow in getting to the ball at times, but somehow he managed to get the ball away. When Gloucester exerted so much pressure in the second half the Somerset full back was seen to great advantage with relief kicks to touch.

Next week : Pontypool; away.

#### GLOUCESTER A v. OLD BOYS.

#### CITY SECONDS BEATEN.

At Bristol-road. Gloucester A kicked off with only 13 men. After 20 minutes play the Old Boys broke away, Norman taking the final pass and scoring a try, James goaling.

Stung by this reverse, Gloucester A began to press, and after some good passing amongst the three-quarters Hyam scored, the kick failing.

Some mid-field play ensued, and although both ends were visited in turn neither side could add to their score.

#### HALF-TIME :

Gloucester Old Boys .....	1 goal
Gloucester A .....	1 try

Gloucester commenced the second half still two short. The visitors early began to press, and after a good round of passing Mullens secured and scored a try under the posts, Williams kicking an easy goal.



Some good play was now witnessed with the Old Boys and some pretty passing saw James score a try, the kick failing.

The Old Boys were now having most of the play, and from some good footwork Birmingham secured and scored a try, the kick failing.

RESULT :

Old Boys ..... 2 goals (1p) 2 tries (14 Pts.)

Gloucester A ..... 1 goal 1 try (8 Pts.)

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