

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1922.

FOOTBALL.

SPLENDID WIN OVER BATH AT KINGSHOLM.

SPECTACULAR TRY BY DAVID.

CLEVER PLAY BY THE CITY BACKS.

Owing to a sprained ankle, sustained in the match at Ross on Thursday, Frank Ayliffe was unable to lead the City team against Bath at Kingsholm this afternoon, and his place was taken by S. Bayliss.

Otherwise the side was the same as defeated Lydney in the opening match by 11 pts. to nil.

Bath, who were beaten at Leicester after a strongly contested game but succeeded last week in gaining a triumph over Newton Abbott at home, were short of Considine of the advertised Fifteen, but the side included several players new to Kingsholm.

With recollections of the splendid fights put up by Bath the past two seasons – Gloucester won by 9 pts. to 6 in 1920-21, and were lucky in escaping with a draw last year – another very keen and close contest was expected to-day.

The weather, though dull remained fine, and there was a capital attendance including a contingent of enthusiastic supporters of the Bath Team.

Teams : –

### GLOUCESTER.

BACK : R. James.

THREE-QUARTERS: S. A. Brown, E. H. Hughes, A. M. David, and N. Daniell.

HALF-BACKS: W. Dix and T. Millington.

FORWARDS: S. Bayliss, T. Voyce, G. Holford, S. Smart, J. Harris, Major Roderick, A. Hall, and M. Evans.

### BATH.

BACK: H. J. Comm.

THREE-QUARTERS: W. J. Gibbs, J. Russell, H. Richardson, and A. E. Anderson.

HALF-BACKS: H. Vowles and R. West.

FORWARDS: L. J. Richardson, R. S. Chaddock, W. H. Sheppard, G. Woodward, N. Blake, C. Mannings, L. W. Bisgrove, and C. E. Carruthers.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis.

### THE GAME.

The toss favoured Bath, and Holford, who led the pack in the absence of the captain, started the game from the Worcester-street goal. The ball bounced into touch, and from the throw out a Gloucester forward secured and passed out. David, Hughes, and Brown in turn handled, but no ground was made, and a kick being charged it went out of play at the centre.

A short spell followed at mid-field, and then Bayliss led a fine loose rush for 20 yards before it was checked. Keen tackling by the Bath forwards stopped the home men well, but off-side by Voyce gave the visitors a penalty. Comm took the kick and found touch with a nice effort. Neat play by Hughes sent down to Comm, who put in a big punt to James, but the latter gathered well, and got in an equally good return to touch. A free followed to the City, but little ground was made.

Following some loose play Roderick picked up on the left and cross-kicked to the centre of the field. Millington dashed up, but knocked on trying to gather, and though he proceeded and got near the line he was called back.

Richardson was prominent for the visitors just after with a zig-zag run, but he was borne back towards his own line and lost ground. Gloucester made good headway and got close to the line, where Dix secured and scrambled over with a try amidst cheers. Millington missed the goal points,

David received from the restart and attempted to break through, but he stopped and was brought down. A strong effort by Chaddock from a line-out gave Bath a possible opening, but the pass was knocked on and a scrum was ordered. Gloucester cleared from this position, and Russell fumbling the City made further progress. From a penalty at half-way Millington had a shot for goal but though the direction was all right the shot lacked the necessary length. Richardson punted out but Gloucester, through Evans and Voyce, gained a nice position in front of the Bath posts. The City forwards heeled, but Millington failed to accept Dix's transfer and Richardson kicked out of danger.

So far the back play attempted had not been attended with any success, the players appearing too anxious. Richardson, however, was in fine kicking form, and aided his side greatly on several occasions. Frees followed to either side in quick succession for scrum infringements, which left the game in a pretty even state. Brown came into prominence twice with strong efforts, but though very keen the play lacked skill and finish.

Bath profited by an exchange of kicks which left operations in the Gloucester half, but loose forward play removed the game to the centre. Here Bayliss opened out to Dix, who punted ahead, but a visitor saved. A penalty to Gloucester was well taken by James, and Bath were forced to their 25. The City tried passing, but the visitors (who were playing Woodward as extra back) checked successfully.

Voyce and another from a line-out broke away splendidly, but the passing went astray. Then Bath handled cleverly from inside their 25, the ball coming along nicely to Anderson on the left. David, however, came along with a beautiful tackle which effectually checked further headway. From out of some loose play Daniell picked up and ran, but his pass went astray when there was a likely opening.

Subsequent play was keenly contested, with very little in it. Both teams put plenty of vigour into their work, but the Gloucester tackling was too high at times, and visitors were allowed to clear when they should have been brought down. Play was near the centre when the interval was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
GLOUCESTER ..... 1 try  
BATH ..... Nil

Bath restarted, and at the first scrum Vowles was penalised, the resultant kick landing the ball into touch well inside the visitors' half. Some scrambling play ensued, and then the ball got amongst the backs. David receiving, the Oxonian darted through the defence in great style, and beating the opposition finished a splendid effort by scoring in a favourable position. Millington again missed the kick at goal.

Six points up, Gloucester resumed strongly, but Bath replied with some clever work, and Woodward narrowly missed a dropped goal from long range, a minor being conceded. Bath had the better of the exchanges on the drop out, the backs accomplishing some smart work. The Gloucester players still tackled too high and allowed opponents to get away.

By dint of dashing footwork and fast following up the City carried operations to midfield, and Daniell further improved with a nice punt to touch. Then Dix started Millington on the move, and David, Hughes, and Brown passed effectively. The wing man raced away to the full-back, when he threw the ball inside. It was captured by an opponent, who ran back, and with subsequent transfers the centre line was reached.

Bayliss, who had previously shone with a strong effort, again came into the picture for good work in the lines-out but Gloucester could only about just hold their own[sic]. The City forwards were getting the ball better in the scrums, but judgment behind was not always of the best.

Millington at length put the home side well down with a touch finder, and working well together Gloucester attacked strongly. The defence set up, however, was very sound. The City, however, were not to be denied, and following a fumble by Vowles, Voyce snapped up the ball and dodging Comm beautifully went over with a try. Millington failed at goal.

With a lead of nine points Gloucester had established a winning position, but the City did not relax their efforts. From a round of passing the ball got across to Daniell, who raced down touch and put in a lovely cross-kick near the posts. Harris, who had run up, gathered the ball and touched down for a try, which, from the easy position, Dix goaled.

Play on the resumption was of a bright and open description, the Gloucester men taking part in more capital exchanges. The Bath defence looked like being pierced once or twice, but the situation was saved with dashing loose play and useful kicking. Bath gained a footing in the home half, but strong play by Hall sent them back.

Clever handling by the home backs, started from the line-out, gave Brown a chance on the left, but his pass inside was captured by an opponent. Gloucester went very close after this, but the attacks were beaten off, and Bath gained breathing space once again.

The City, however, with a well worked-out movement, in which Dix, Millington, Brown and again Dix took [part] ended in the veteran scrum half romping over with a try. Millington took the shot at goal, but failed with his fourth attempt. In the last few minutes some combined forward play by the visitors took them right down to the home line, where a touch in goal was recorded.

Gloucester came again, but right at the end some wild passing by the home backs gave Bath an opening, and H. Richardson taking full advantage scored a good try. Woodward converted, and the final was then called.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal 4 tries (17 pts.)  
BATH ..... 1 goal (5 pts.)

REMARKS.

Gloucester carried too many guns for Bath to-day, and though the visitors put up a good fight, working manfully to the final whistle, the City's pronounced win was clear evidence of the superiority of the Kingsholm men. Gloucester's form this afternoon showed a distinct advance on last week, especially forward. The only complaint I have to make was the weak tackling, which was very feeble at times. Fortunately disaster did not follow this defect in gripping powers, but I do not want to witness a repetition against other strong sides to be met.

With the wind in the first half Bath had little, if anything, the worse of the exchanges. The forwards displayed rare dash and keenness, and the backs, even with limited opportunities, showed creditable attacking powers up to a point. But there was an absence of finish, and with the City's watchful defence they failed to score.

In the second portion Gloucester took the game well in hand, forwards and backs combining in a number of clever movements which often had the defenders in a tangle. David's fine individualistic try gave the home men a good lead, and they never looked back after this spectacular effort. The football after the change of ends was particularly bright and entertaining, and with tries following to the home side in quick succession the crowd had plenty to engage their attention.

Bath's "one and only" came at the finish, and was due to the opportunist of H. Richardson, who all through the game kicked strongly and was the soundest man in the visitors' third line.

The other players did good work occasionally, but they were not such a dangerous division as last season. Bert Morgan, I understand, has returned to Newport, and with Considine laid aside with a strain the absence of such experienced players was bound to be felt. Vowles, up against Dix at the scrum, was not unduly prominent, and West did not get many chances of opening out.

Forward, the visitors were outweighed, but they were not lacking in determination, and Chaddock, Blake, Sheppard, and L. Richardson were frequently noticeable for sound work in the lines-out and open. Comm kicked a splendid length at full-back, and though Voyce beat him when the International scored, he was not often at fault.

The Gloucester forwards were better together in all respects this afternoon, and entered into the contest with all their old abandon. Holford kept his men at it in fine style, and the old International once more proved his worth as a leader. He was accorded whole-hearted support, and I was pleased to note the splendid form of the two young members of the pack – Evans and Bayliss. Both were clever in out of touch play, and in the open they exhibited initiative and judgment that promises well for the future.

Hall was full of fire as usual; Voyce, always in the van, was ever handy if a scoring opportunity presented itself; Roderick, Harris and Smart fitted in the scheme admirably. As I have previously remarked the only fault was the tackling, and this weakness must be seen to at once.

Dix and Millington got through a lot of smart work at half, and the former displayed his resourcefulness repeatedly in initiating attacking movements. "Father" scored two of the tries, and he must have been very pleased with himself.

At three-quarter the City quartette accomplished some delightful work in the second half. David's try was the "tit-bit" of the match, and the Oxonian showed himself a master of tactics. His collaring, too, was of the right sort, and in this respect Hughes, too, knows how to bring his man down.

Both Brown and Daniell came through the test with every credit, the former playing one of his best games. James, at full back, appeared to be up too close at times, but this was a minor fault in a display which was highly meritorious. His fielding and gathering of the ball was particularly clean and accurate, and there was little to complain about his kicking either as to length or direction.

Gloucester's handsome victory was fully appreciated by the home supporters, but Bath were by no means disgraced, and the visitors can take credit for giving a bright and sporting game.

Next week : Cross Keys, at Kingsholm.

W.B.

#### GLOUCESTER A v. BATH A.

#### CITY SECONDS WIN HANDSOMELY.

At Bath. Blake kicked a penalty goal for Bath soon after the start, and Gloucester lost a try a little later through Crowther trying to ground the ball. For a time Bath defended, and Adams missed a long drop at goal. After Crowther had been tackled, Lawson scored a try from a line-out, Adams converting. Collett put on another try after lovely passing. Adams kicking a magnificent goal.

In the second half Crowther and Collett scored further tries, and Adams goaled one by Rea.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 3 goals 2 tries (21 pts.)  
Bath A ..... 1 goal (p) (3 points.)