

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1962

GLO'STER SHARED HONOURS IN A TEDIOUS GAME

BATH 8PTS., GLOUCESTER 8PTS.

Both teams crossed the other's line in the first 20 minutes, then the game died at Bath's Recreation Ground.

Had it not been for the duty to watch this match, an extremely pleasant hour could have been spent trying to think of more attractive grounds. There can't be many.

The elegant collegiate appearance of the buildings in the middle distance suggest more a university pitch than either Oxford or Cambridge grounds.

With these reflections one tries to whip up enthusiasm for a game, for which the fairest prediction and fairest result was a draw, with the scores obtained in identical fashion.

Peter Ford – one can rarely leave his name out of a report on Gloucester's matches – scored a try, which Russell Hillier converted.

SOON REPLIED

Soon Bath replied with a try by Farnham, which Drewett converted. Twenty minutes, and the best of the game had gone.

In the remainder of the game there were a score of unsuccessful place-kicks – many apparently easy ones, for both Hillier and Drewett, until the two booters both managed to put up three points each, Drewett just before the close.

But there was really no fire in the game after the first 20 minutes.

And too often one was forced to regret the injury of Mick Booth, the Gloucester scrum-half, who was once again forced to withdraw. One felt that he would have been better able to avoid the attentions of Beck and Hall, the Bath wing-forwards.

Talking of wing forwards it is worth recording that young Phil Lane, the former Longlevens player, made another convincing showing as Peter Ford's partner and it was Dave Owen's quick thinking which made Ford's try after one of Hillier's penalty kicks had rebounded from the upright.

#### GOOD EXAMPLE

For the remainder of the team it would have been as well if they had followed Ford's example – a simple philosophy, Ford's – and kept up with the ball. Possession is nine points of anyone's game.

In closing, however, one must mention Gloucester's two centres. Alan Holder was a bundle of energy and made some nice straight breaks, and John Bayliss was as conscientious as ever in defensive tackling and always a determined man in possession.

For once one can forgive the spectators for remaining at home in front of their television sets. It was a tedious match.

#### INGRAM'S VICTORY EFFORT

GLOUCESTER UTD. ....	11 PTS.
BATH UTD. ....	9 PTS.

Kingsholm spectators can rarely, if ever, have seen such a pathetic game as this uneventful scrabble.

Passes were dropped continuously and when there was any possibility of the ball getting out into the open, the threes generally either tripped, slipped, or fumbled the ball from hands back to feet.

But one Gloucester player who does certainly deserve some praise for quick-thinking and decisive play is full back Stan Ingram. He kicked a penalty in the first half and on innumerable occasions kicked Gloucester out of trouble with accurate touchfinders. Ingram was also an auxiliary to John Herbert's try.

This, and the all-out effort of Eric Stephens is almost all that can be commended – apart from the fact that Gloucester won.

### BATH'S WEAKNESS

Bath United were, at times, especially during the last ten minutes of the first half, showing perfect form in every department except the scrum half–fly half tie up which, had it been of the same standard as the rest of the team, would have taken them to victory.

Gloucester's two try scorers were Wilson and Herbert with Ingram converting once.