

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1913

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. BATH

CITY'S BIG CALL ON RESERVES

After a lapse of many years Gloucester renewed fixtures with Bath this season, and the first match was down for decision at Kingsholm this afternoon. Unfortunately the fixture clashed with the county's engagement with Hampshire, and as a result Gloucester had to field practically a reserve team. No fewer than nine City players were engaged for Gloucestershire, and Halford and Hamblin would also have been at Bristol but for injuries.

Bath, who have done well this season, were short of Coates, Shewring, and Lear, the International not taking any risks in view of next week's game.

There was a fair attendance when the teams lined out as follows : –

Gloucester. – C. Cook; A. Hudson, S. Sysum, W. Wilkes, and T. Powell; W. Wootton and T. Burns; J. Meadows, J. F. Lawson, A. Cook, W. Parham, A. H. Williams, W. Dovey, L. Smith, and C. Mumford.

Bath. – C. Whittaker; Dr. Beck Cluckie, T. Pyatt, R. Husbands, and A. Blanchard; A. Hatherill and H. Vowles; F. Cashnella, E. Russell, D. Fisher, W. F. Warde, G. G. Powell, A. Ford, B. Hurst, and F. Froude.

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

## THE GAME

Owing to the late arrival of the visitors the game was delayed twenty minutes. Meadows started and an exchange of kicking followed, neither side being able to find the touch-line. Then Bath got to Gloucester's 25, where they were penalised, but the kick gained little ground. From a scrum Bath came away, but Burns picking up sent to touch nicely under difficulties.

Wootton secured from a scrum, and handing to Burns, who transferred to Wilkes; the latter ran well and reached the centre before being tackled. The forwards carried on the good work, but Bath returned, and Hudson relieved with a neat punt. Then Wootton burst away and carried the ball right to the line before handing to Cook who, however, was pulled down before he could quite cross.

Bath now took up the running and a forward picking up he handed to Cluckie, who punted over Cook's head and raced for the line. Wilkes, however, got back in time and saved. Following the drop out the home forwards went away with a great burst, carrying the game to the visitors' 25. Here the City were awarded a penalty, and Cook cross-kicking a score seemed likely, but the forwards overran the ball.

Sysum was next prominent with a punt to touch under difficulties, and then the Bathonians indulged in a passing bout. This was, however, nipped in the bud, and Gloucester by the aid of a penalty again got within measurable distance of the line. The home forwards were playing a splendid game in the loose, and time after time carried the ball with them. Wootton sent out from the scrum and Burns fumbled, but he recovered cleverly and sent to touch.

Then there was a scramble among the forwards which ended in Wootton punting over the line. On the drop-out the ball was sent to Cook, who found touch with a lovely kick. Then Lawson went away with a beautiful burst, but he was overhauled and pulled down when within a few yards of the line.

Bath worked out of danger, and a forward rush looked like causing anxiety, but there was no need, for C. Cook picking up dodged several opponents and got in his kick. Then Vowles opened out for the visitors, but A. Cook affected a grand tackle. A promising bout of passing was initiated by Wootton, and the ball travelled right across the line, but with only the back to beat Powell fumbled, and a beautiful opening was lost.

Bath relieved, and Pyatt fielding from a kick he sprinted down the line, but Sysum was successful in touching his ankle with the usual result. Then Wootton, with the ball at his feet, went away on his own until he reached Whittaker, who gathered and punted to the centre. Hudson secured with Sysum in attendance, but in trying to elude Pyatt the old International was pulled down. Sysum, however, relieved, and the visitors did not gain any territorial advantage.

An exchange of kicking between the backs left Cook with the advantage, and subsequently after a melee the Gloucester forwards burst away, but from a punt Whitaker marked. The same player put Bath in an attacking position with the kick, and maintaining this Vowles and a homester went over the line together. A minor only was given, and the 'Cestrians worked out of danger.

The Somerset men, however, by means of short passing and forward bursts came back again, and the play for a few minutes was contested in the home 25. Bath. however, continually infringed the off-side rule both at the scrum and in the loose, and from the ensuing kicks Gloucester got to midfield where the game remained until the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester ..... Nil  
Bath ..... Nil

Bath started, and the opening exchanges were fought out at the centre. Then the Gloucester forwards came away with a grand burst nearly to the line, but Bath saved by punting to touch. From the ensuing line Sysum gathered and handed to Hudson, for the latter to hand off Pyatt beautifully and ground in the corner. Cook failed with the kick.

On the drop out Bath attacked, Whittaker with a lengthy touch-finder putting them well up. The visitors opened out, and Blanchard, when tackled, sent neatly to touch. From a scrum in his own 25 Burns received and cut through nicely, eluding several men, but he was brought down before he could pass. Gloucester continued to gradually gain ground, until Cluckie, who had received, ran through prettily, but his pass to Pyatt, who had a lovely opportunity, was fumbled.

From the next scrum Bath again got possession, but Hudson effected a grand tackle of Pyatt when he looked dangerous. The exchanges were desperately fought out, both packs putting in all they knew, but a slight advantage rested with the Gloucester boys, especially in the loose.

Vowles again started the visiting three-quarters going, but their efforts seemed to lack dash and accuracy, and Blanchard fumbled with a good opening. Wootton completely changed the venue with a beautiful dribble, but Whittaker gathered and sent to touch. Then Blanchard got away, but Burns effected a deadly tackle. Wootton was penalised for off-side at the scrum, but the visitors did not gain much from the kick.

Bath eventually got away from a scrum, but Cluckie absolutely threw the ball away when his colleagues were well placed. From an exchange of kicks Wilkes got possession, and racing round he handed to Powell, who had a splendid dash for the line. He, however, succumbed to numbers, a Bath forward being temporarily knocked out in the attempt to stop him. Then the Gloucester backs attacked again and again, and at last their efforts were rewarded. Sysum caught the ball from a long line-out and cleverly beating the opposition scored near the posts. Cook converted.

On the resumption eight points in arrears the Bath forwards attacked strongly, and the homesters being penalised the ball was sent to the line. Sysum, however, relieved. Then Burns shone with a beautiful run, beating practically the whole of the opposition. He picked up in the loose in his own 25, and cutting through brilliantly took the ball almost to the Bath line before handing to Wilkes.

The latter similarly attempted to cut through instead of passing outside, and he was brought down – a glorious opportunity being lost. The 'Cestrians, however, stuck to it gamely, and a couple of minutes later the ball came to Hudson, who, running as in the days of yore, handed off a couple of men and scored in the corner. Cook failed with the kick.

Immediately upon the drop-out Lawson broke away, and was only pulled up just in time by Whittaker running into touch with the ball. Continuing the pressure Gloucester gained a penalty in a favourable position, but Cook's shot went just wide of the posts. The homesters were now completely dominating the game, and there was not long to wait before another score was registered. The forwards this time broke away, and one of them picking up near the posts he handed to Meadows, who had no difficulty in slipping through. Cook made no mistake with the kick.

Almost directly after the restart Hudson completed his "hat trick." Sysum sent him out the ball, and the old International again made for his favourite corner. Pyatt partially tackled him, but Hudson rolled over and touched down with a grand try. The Bathonian had to be taken off the field as the result of the encounter. Cook failed with the kick.

On the drop-out the visitors worked to the centre, but they did not hold the advantage for long, the final whistle sounding with Hudson having a go for the line.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester .... 2 goals 3 tries (19 points)

Bath ..... Nil

#### REMARKS

It was a truly magnificent win for the Gloucester boys, and the score exceeded the wildest hopes of their most sanguine supporters; although the opinion was freely expressed that they might just about pull it off when it was known that Vincent Coates, Shewring, and Fear were absentees from the visiting side.

The Seconds – for it was none other than a Reserve XV. doing duty – rose to the occasion nobly, and even exceeded the triumph gained on a similar occasion against Cardiff last season. Bath had great hopes of annexing Gloucester's ground record to-day, but their expectations were doomed to disappointment, and if in this match they really gave of their best, then they must be a very second-rate side indeed. They could do absolutely nothing right, and although they had plenty of opportunities they did not appear to know how to take advantage of them. Their knowledge of the off-side rule, too, was very poor. On the other hand, the Gloucester lads – all of whom were on their mettle – were quick to snatch up any likely chance that presented itself, and utilise it for all it was worth.

The first half was not particularly interesting, both teams being at fault on several occasions; but on the change of ends the homesters woke up and gave a glorious exhibition of football. Time after time they left the opposition standing, and as the points piled up the more energy and dash did they put into their work.

The reappearance of Hudson gave the necessary stiffening to the third line, and he apparently has lost none of his old prowess at the game. The three tries he scored were all beautiful ones, and a man with less knowledge of the art of going for the line would have been easily tackled. Of the other three-quarters it would be hard to individualise, for each played a really class game. Wilkes and Sysum were always prominent, both in attacking and defence.

Burns, at outside half, was great, and time after time he gave opponents the "dummy," and cutting through set his backs in motion. His tackling, too, was very deadly. Wootton was sound at the base of the scrum, while he was prominent at times with clever dribbles.

The Gloucester forwards throughout played a hard and sound but dashing game. They scrummaged well, and at times heeled smartly; while in the loose they were all over the Bathonians.

There was not much to choose between Cook and Whittaker at full back, both kicking a good length.

Scorers : Hudson (3), Meadows and Sysum; Cook kicked two goals.

JC