

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1932

GLOUCESTER 8 Pts.; BATH 3 Pts.

SCRAPPY GAME AT KINGSHOLM

GAME OF MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

BY "W.B."

M. A. McCanlis and Dr. Steele-Perkins returned to the City team to-day, against Bath, but Saxby, Tanner, and James (reserve), were away at Swansea, where Gerrard (Bath) was also engaged for England.

Last season Gloucester won at Kingsholm by 13 points to nil, but lost the return game by 9 points to nil, the City being weakly represented on that occasion.

R. L. Baker was unable to take his place for Gloucester, and R. Hook succeeded to the vacancy.

Rain threatened at the time of the kick-off, and the attendance suffered, there being only about 3,000 present.

Teams : —

## GLOUCESTER

FULL-BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. Hook, M. A. McCanlis, A. E. Brookes, and G. W. Parker.

HALF-BACKS : F. Fifield and J. C. Brooks.

FORWARDS : F. Wadley, A. Carpenter, E. Comley, J. Hemming, A. Welshman, K. Smith, Dr. R. N. Williams, and Dr. Steele-Perkins.

## BATH

FULL-BACK : R. Banks.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. E. Merrett, J. St. V. Powell, E. J. Eastcott, and W. E. Hancock.

HALF-BACKS : W. G. Handford and C. E. Gough.

FORWARDS : M. V. Shaw, N. W. Matthews, D. Wilson, L. W. Moore, J. Jones, B. C. Barber, P. Moon, and I. Brooks.

REFEREE : Mr. R. I. Scorer (North Midlands).

## THE GAME

Bath opened with a couple of forward rushes, but they were beaten back with good kicking, Comley doing good service. Parker opened up a passing bout cleverly from the left wing, but Brookes sent a bad pass to Hook, and the visitors benefited.

A penalty against Gloucester saw play transferred to the home half, where Fifield fed Brooks. McCanlis and then Parker were served, and the wing man made good headway, only to send a forward transfer back to his centre.

## SCRAMBLING PLAY

Scrambling play followed at mid-field, both sides making mistakes in handling. Gloucester were heeling well, and Fifield again got the ball away nicely.

There was a series of exchanges, but McCanlis was tackled and lost the ball. Powell centred with a loose kick, but the ball was well taken by Brooks, who was tackled off-side. The City made ground with the penalty, but Bath quickly came back.

The visiting forwards, well led by Shaw, rushed some 20 yards before the ball went to touch, but Gloucester replied similarly and mid-field play, very scrappy at times, followed.

## BATH'S BAD LUCK

A missed pass by Brooks allowed Eastcott to break away and punt over Boughton's head. A knock-on, however, occurred with a certain try in view. Immediately after Handford started passing, and Hancock made a bold bid for the corner, but McCanlis effected a great tackle a couple of yards outside.

## FINE TRY BY PARKER

Gloucester relieved through Boughton, and good following up by Comley improved matters. The football, however, was lacking in incident. At length there was a bright movement by the home backs. Brooks cut through beautifully and sent to McCanlis, who after clearing Merrett handed to PARKER for the latter to race over wide out.

Boughton landed a fine goal from the touch-line and Gloucester were five points up.

Bath resumed in dashing style, but they were checked in time, and the home forwards got the better of some close footwork.

In subsequent play there were many mistakes in fielding, and judgment was sadly lacking on occasion. Hook with a run across and punt put Gloucester well down, but they failed to maintain the position.

The football continued of a poor standard, but Bath got on the attack through Powell and Merrett. Banks had a shot from a penalty in a favourable position but failed.

The visitors kept up the pressure to the interval but could not score.

## HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal  
BATH ..... Nil

Gloucester had deserved their lead, but it was poor, scrappy football at its best.

There was no improvement in the play in the opening stages of the second half. Parker was prominent with a good dash and cross-kick, and later Brooks adopted similar tactics, but the home team failed to profit.

#### CHANCES LOST

With loose forward rushes Bath secured an advantage, and Eastcott later made a splendid opening, but sent an impossible pass to Hancock. From a cross kick by Hook Gloucester travelled to the other end, where Wadley had practically an open line. He, however, was not fast enough, and a colleague to whom he passed was pulled down.

Immediately the game was transferred to the other end, where Bath had another opportunity presented to them, but missed. And so the play went on – a case of complete failure in attack.

#### GLOUCESTER ADD TO THEIR LEAD

After this Gloucester had another spell of attacking, and Brooks once had the opposition beaten with the exception of Banks. He threw a wide pass inside, but with every chance of a try the ball was fumbled. Then for off-side at the scrum Bath were penalised, and BOUGHTON kicked a good goal.

Play on the restart favoured Bath, who concentrated largely on footwork, but they were never really dangerous. Banks had another shot for goal from a penalty, but was short, and Gloucester cleared. Hook tried hard to round the opposition after a bout of passing, but was pushed to touch at the centre. Merrett responded for Bath with no better success. The City changed the position of play with good kicking, and Brooks further improved with a splendid dash and pass to Fifield. The latter, however, was immediately tackled.

Play fluctuated between the two halves of the ground first one side and then the other gaining the advantage. But constructive play on the part of both teams was very moderate. Gloucester had a chance of adding to their score from a punt ahead by Hook, but in the race for the ball over the line a visitor just won the touch.

#### BATH OPEN THEIR ACCOUNT

The City were aggressive in the closing stages, Bath being pressed severely. Taking advantage of a dropped pass, however, Powell broke clear, and passing to MATTHEWS, the latter, though hotly challenged, ran 40 yards to score a fine try. Banks failed at goal. The end came soon afterwards.

#### RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ... 2 goals (1p.) (8 Pts.)

BATH ..... 1 try (3 Pts.)

#### REMARKS

One of the most disappointing displays seen at Kingsholm this season. Gloucester, on the play, should have won much more readily, but the finishing was weak and many good openings were thrown away. The Bath forwards were capital in the loose, but were well beaten in the scrums.

Fifield and J. C. Brooks got through a lot of fine work at half-back, but A. E. Brookes was off colour at centre-threequarter. Parker again did well on the wing, and his try was a capital one. Boughton was far superior to Banks at full-back.