

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1903

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. BATH

CITIZENS WIN EASILY

Gloucester had Bath for opponents at Kingsholm. Last season at Gloucester Bath suffered defeat to the tune of 2 goals 4 tries to nil, and at Bath the homesters were again beaten by 4 goals 2 tries to nil.

The Gloucester Committee to-day tried an experiment in the re-arrangement of the back division, with the hope of effecting an improvement, George Romans playing at centre three-quarter, with Lindsay Vears at full-back.

It is a curious coincidence that Romans played in the centre against Bath at Bath last season, and scored a try.

The home team were fortunate in being able to get J. Stephens, who was unable to make the journey to Weston, to partner Keys at half.

Thorne was originally picked as half, and had promised to play, but his services were requisitioned for the County.

F. Keys returned to the team vice Morgan.

There were several changes in the Bath team.

The teams were :

GLOUCESTER	Positions	BATH
L. Vears	Backs	J. J. Lilley
C. Smith	Three-quarter	F. Phipps
G. Foulkes	Backs	W. Grischotti
G. Romans	"	H. Goldsworthy
A. Hudson	"	Morgan Davies
F. Keys	Half-Backs	H. W. West
J. Stephens	"	W. Curtis
A. Purton	Forwards	T. B. Timmins (capt.)
W. Johns	"	J. Hobbs
H. Taylor	"	W. N. Haigh
F. Pegler	"	J. S. Andrews
G. Vears	"	F. Marshman
J. Webb	"	H. R. Lewis
H. W. Lane	"	H. Lansdown
J. Gough	"	R. Hulbert

Referee : Mr. J. MILBURN

THE GAME

Bath kicked off against the wind, and there was no return. From an ensuing scrum Stephens got away, and Gloucester were awarded a free. Romans took the kick and the Bath three-quarters being at fault, Gloucester obtained a footing near the Bath line. The ball quickly got out to "Whacker" Smith, who struggled over in the corner. Romans failed at goal.

From the drop-out Gloucester returned well, and Bath narrowly averted another score. The visitors, however, worked out, but by the aid of good forward work Gloucester were quickly attacking again, and forced a minor. Romans returned the drop-out, but his kick, aided by the wind, went over the line.

Vears put in a magnificent return to the drop-out, and the next line-out ensued well in the Bath 25. From here a Bath forward got away beautifully but "Whacker" Smith effected a grand tackle.

Grischotti kicked well to touch, and Bath were dangerously near the home line, but Vears kicked out well, and Morgan Davies putting in a very feeble return, Gloucester changed the venue to the other end.

The ball got among the Bath three-quarters, but the movement was spoilt by keen tackling. The Gloucester forwards heeled out well, and Keys passed nicely to Stephens, who worked out a lovely opening, and, transferring to Romans at the right moment, the latter put Foulkes over with a very pretty try. Romans goaled.

Grischotti mulled the return from the kick-off, and Stephens punting across nicely gave Gloucester a lot of ground, Lilley being collared on his own line. The visitors were, however, awarded a free, and obtained momentary relief, and they gained further ground from a free for legs up.

Grischotti got away beautifully a moment later, but punted too hard, and the ball went over the Gloucester line. Centre play followed for a moment, then Romans gained ground with a good kick, to which Lilley but poorly replied. The Gloucester forwards worked up well, and West being penalised, Romans landed a good goal from outside the 25 line.

A misunderstanding between Keys and Stephens gave Bath a chance in a fair position, but the ball was mulled badly and Hudson running back over his own line, gathered and kicked out smartly. A moment later Hudson kicked up the field, and following up smartly, picked up the ball, and although he stumbled he beat the opposing back easily and raced behind the posts, but for some reason – not apparent – the point was not allowed.

Gloucester at once returned to the attack, and Keys got away neatly from a scrum, but he kicked too hard, and the ball went over the dead ball line — a fine chance thrown away.

The Gloucester forwards carried a line-out well, but Grischotti picked up from their feet and kicked to touch. The same player a moment later got away prettily, but his pass to Davies went to touch.

Johns received nicely from a line-out and made ground, and then Bath were again penalised for off-side play by West. Romans made a good attempt, but the ball, badly placed, did not rise sufficiently. Stephens got the ball out nicely to Romans, and the latter, beating his men well, passed to Hudson, but the wing man failed to take the pass with the line at his mercy. A moment later Stephens received from a drop-out, and threading his way through the opposing side, passed to Romans. The captain in turn handed on to Foulkes, who cut inside smartly, and scored a well-deserved try. Romans failed to majorise.

Again the Gloucester men showed pretty passing, and "Whacker" Smith, receiving from a forward, passed to Gough, who managed to get over again. Romans again failed at the kick, and half-time was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 2 goals (1 p), 3 tries
Bath Nil

Gloucester re-started, and Gough charging down Grischotti's return, the home team quickly obtained a footing in the Bath 25. Stephens started a bout of passing, Romans and "Whacker" Smith participating, but the latter was bored into touch. The Gloucester forwards worked down to the Bath line, but Davies brought relief with a flying kick, and neutral ground was the scene of hostilities for some time.

Pegler broke away from a line-out, but Goldsworthy gathered and returned to the centre. Foulkes knocked on when Stephens set the third line in motion, but the Gloucester forwards, with Gough in the van, rushed a scrum in great style. The ball was sent back to Vears, who, however, put in a good kick.

Johns put in a remarkable dribble half way down the field, and Bath were again forced to defend. However, the visiting forwards worked well, but Vears marked, and sent them back with a good kick.

Some tight scrimmaging followed, and although the Gloucester forwards heeled well, Keys passed back wildly. Bath carried the ball with them right up to Vears, but the home custodian put in a good return.

Bath, however, played up strongly, and Grischotti attempted to punt across, but the ball went over the line. Gloucester soon after were penalised, but the ground gained by the kick was neutralised by a remarkable run by Stephens, who went nearly all through the Bath team. He passed to Gough, who in turn handed to Keys, but the movement stopped there. However, a moment later Keys dodged over near the posts, and Romans added the extra points.

Stephens was instrumental in starting another pretty bout of passing, but the final transfer went astray. Some more very quick and smart passing was shown by Hudson, "Whacker" Smith and Romans, and Gloucester again attacked, but Bath kicked out of danger.

The game was for some time contested near the Bath 25, and eventually Gloucester again got in a favourable position. Bath were, however, awarded a free, and saved their lines.

Foulkes obtained from Keys, but was floored, and several scrums took place in quick succession. Romans got away on his own from a line-out, and passed to Purton, who handed on to Keys, and the latter ran over the line with the sixth try. Romans failed at the kick.

Gloucester were now having matters pretty well their own way, and kept Bath penned in their own 25. They forced a minor, which enabled Bath to drop out of danger. Some more passing was shown by "Whacker," Romans, and Hudson, but when the latter re-transferred to Romans, he was pulled into touch.

Gloucester were quickly on the attack again, but Bath broke away smartly and got well beyond the centre. Pegler and Gough started a good movement from a line-out, and transferred the game to the Bath end again, where Lilly touched down.

Ensuing play chiefly favoured Gloucester, but there was no more scoring.

RESULT :

Gloucester ... 3 goals (1 p), 4 tries (25 points)
Bath Nil

REMARKS

It was not a great exhibition of football, but the change in the home team's fortunes was a matter of no small gratification to the Gloucester supporters, even though the beaten side were weak.

Gloucester outplayed Bath at all points, and with a little more methodical play when in an attacking position might have materially added to their score. The forwards en bloc played an improved game. They were cleverer and heavier than their opponents, and they heeled out nicely throughout the game. In the loose work, too, they had the whip hand, and Gough, Pegler, Purton, and Vears played a sterling game.

At half-back Stephens may fairly be said to have had a day out. He played a remarkably clever game, and his "nippy" tactics quite nonplussed Curtis and West, who were handicapped behind a beaten pack. Keys passed rather wildly on occasions, but made no serious mistake.

The home three-quarters had a fairly easy time of it, as the only serious opposition they met with was from Grischotti, who was by far the best man on the Bath side.

Romans' experiment at centre was productive of good results, and the passing on the whole was good, though occasionally the ball changed hands a good many times without much ground being gained. Hudson was handicapped with a bad finger, but "Whacker" Smith and Foulkes threw no opportunities away, and the latter's second try was smartly earned.

Vears was safe at full-back in what he was called on to do, and the whole team certainly deserved their victory, though the opposition was not very strong.

It appears that when Hudson crossed the line in the first half he failed to properly ground the ball, and of course no try was allowed.

GLOUCESTER A v BARNWOOD

RESULT :

Gloucester A	Nil
Barnwood	Nil