

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1905.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. BATH.

SOMERSET MEN WELL BEATEN.

The teams for this match at Kingsholm were neither of them representative. Gloucester suffered severely through calls of the county, particularly the whole back division and some forwards (nine men in all) being picked for the Somerset match.

Bath, too, had five alterations from the side originally selected.

The teams were : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	BATH.
L. Vears	Backs.	I. C. Keir
H. Smith	Three-quarter	H. J. Lewis
C. Smith	backs.	W. Crisp
G. Goddard	"	J. Olds
H. Hughes	"	J. Prosser
E. Ewers	Half-Backs.	A. Brinkworth
A. Hall	"	R. Meister
W. Johns (capt.)	Forwards.	F. Cashnella
B. Parham	"	W. K. Adkins
F. Pegler	"	S. Bristow
G. Matthews	"	H. Holman
H. Quixley	"	J. Hobbs
J. Merchant	"	J. Bushnell
J. Jewell	"	W. Watts
W. Holder	"	T. Timmins

Referee : Mr. H. Smith.

## THE GAME.

Bath arrived late, and it was 3.20 before Johns kicked off from the Worcester-street end in beautiful weather before a fair crowd. Meister did not play half in the true sense of the word, but took up a "roving commission" behind the scrum.

There was no return to the kick-off, and Gloucester at once went to Bath 25[sic], but Prosser kicked out. Gloucester quickly got back, and although the ball came out nicely from Hall, the movement went no farther, Goddard and Hubert Smith fumbling.

Several scrums ensued well in the Somerset men's quarter, but Bath obtained relief with a free for "not in straight." Again Gloucester got the ball out, but the passing went astray, and Bath reached neutral territory. Ewers gained a nice piece of ground with a touch-kick. Hughes intercepted nicely and passed to "Whacker," but the latter ran in amongst the opposing forwards and was smothered.

A Bath kick was charged down and a minor resulted. Another attempt at passing broke down at Smith in the centre, and the neutral zone was again the scene of operations. The Gloucester forwards put in a short burst, but Meister got down and saved. Ewers and Hall combined well and set the third line in motion, but Goddard was floored. Then Bath opened out the game, but Prosser met the grip of "Whacker," and the movement stopped. Then the same player and Hughes indulged in some smart inter-passing, but without result.

Headed by Johns the home front rank put in a telling rush, but mistakes enabled the visitors to clear, and they rushed to beyond the centre. The Gloucester forwards again came away, and Keir was collared in possession. A free to Gloucester at the centre did not gain much, but then Meister broke through beautifully, Hall effecting a good tackle. Parham was prominent with good work in the line-out, but Bath responded with an open game, and neither side got far from the centre.

Vears punted up well and put his men on side, but the ball went into touch in the corner. From an ensuing scrum Hall passed out to Hughes, who when tackled passed over his head to "Whacker," who gathering beautifully crossed with a smart try, which Vears goaled with a good kick.

Bath tried passing at the centre, but the handling was clumsy. Brinkworth robbed Ewers neatly, but Hall brought him down. Hall again set "Whacker" in motion, and the latter passed out to Hughes, but the latter was whistled back for some reason not plain to the spectators. Keir muddled badly, and Parham and Johns went away practically with a clear field, but Brinkworth got back and touched down just in the nick of time under the posts – a lucky save.

The home forwards broke away from touch, and a fine open movement resulted, but Hughes just failed to negotiate the last man. Gloucester now played determinedly, and Hubert Smith narrowly missed a score in the corner after good work by Hall and Goddard. Bath relieved and kicked to Vears, but the latter, although pressed, cleared.

Parham came through grandly but the passing failed, Bath gave the ball air again, but "Whacker" and Hughes both tackled keenly, and by the aid of an opening by Ewers, Gloucester were again placed in a strong attacking position. Bath relieved the pressure, and passed well, but spoilt it by a bad foul, and the succeeding free kick resulted in the centre being the venue. In spite of the fact that Bath were getting the ball out quite as much as Gloucester, the home brigade kept pegging away, and just before half-time Hubert Smith nearly scored.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 1 goal  
Bath ..... Nil

Bath restarted, and the first incident of the second half was a plucky attempt by Hubert Smith to make use of an opening made by his confreres in the third line. Bath were penalised, but Vears' kick, although of good length, lacked direction, and a touchdown resulted.

Crisp punted, and Pegler mulled, but he retrieved his mistake with a good touch-finder, a feat which Vears similarly accomplished under pressure a moment later. Bath got off-side when the ball went to Vears from a long kick, and were fetched back into their own 25. The next scrum went in Gloucester's favour, and they attacked hotly. The ball came out, but "Whacker" held too long. When right under the posts Gloucester were penalised. Hall took the ball from the kick and was nearly over, but in the melee Smith was temporarily disabled. He quickly resumed.

Bath in turn were penalised, but Vears made no use of the opportunity. Gloucester still kept up the pressure, but three or four passing bouts failed to bring about the necessary one round in particular, when six or seven exchanges took place, certainly deserving a score. Bath relieved with good forward work, but Gloucester were quickly back in the Bath 25, and after numerous exchanges Goddard scored an unconverted try.

Gloucester were now having quite the best of matters, being continually in the Bath 25, but in spite of frequent openings the desired end could not be attained. In the gathering darkness it was hard to distinguish individuals on the far side, but there was no doubt about Bath being beaten. Eventually Gloucester's strenuous efforts were rewarded, and Hughes got over in the corner from good transfers by Hall, Goddard, and "Whacker" Smith. No goal resulted.

A moment after Jewell scored in a rush following a kick, and Vears added the extra points with a grand kick.

The last five minutes of the game was played in darkness, and was quite a farce from the spectators' point of view, and the officials must take steps to keep visiting teams up to time these short afternoons if they wish the interest in the game to continue.

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 2 goals 2 tries (16 points)  
Bath ..... Nil

## REMARKS.

The practically a reserve team doing duty for Gloucester deserve every credit for their sixteen points' victory over Bath, who, however, were not at full strength, but the home team ought certainly to have scored two or three more tries in the second half. For nearly the whole of the game after the interval Gloucester held the whip-hand, and penned the visitors close in their own 25. Whether it was over-eagerness or wild passing it is difficult to say, but the fact remains that with a well beaten side before them Gloucester threw away many golden opportunities.

Apparently there was an element of doubt as to Jewell's try, but it was impossible to see exactly what took place from the Press box. As to the rival teams, there was very little between the forwards in the scrums, but in the loose work Gloucester were distinctly superior, chief honours being shared by Parham, Holder, and Matthews.

Holder, who is a big forward, plays a hard, dashing game throughout, and his claims to premier club honours cannot be denied. Hall and Ewers combined nicely and were generally too good for the opposing pair, but Brinkworth played a splendid game for his side.

The home three-quarters were the better combination, but the old tendency, apparently so difficult to eradicate, of running towards touch instead of towards the opponents' goal was very evident on several occasions, and no doubt accounted for so many otherwise admirable passing efforts ending in nothing. Could the centres but cultivate the habit of cutting up the field instead of the present across the field business, the aggregate on the city score sheet would certainly be considerably amalgamated.

Vears played a capital game at full back, tackling and kicking well.