

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1912

FOOTBALL.

RUGBY.

GLOUCESTER v. BREAM.

CITY'S OPENING MATCH.

FORESTERS' PLUCKY FIGHT.

BEATEN BY PACE AND CLEVERNESS.

FREE SCORING BY THE CITY.

Bream once more provided Gloucester with the first match of the season at Kingsholm, and with a side strengthened by the return of Allan Lodge and A. Robbins to the ranks, the Foresters on paper promised to give the City a good game.

Gloucester hoped to turn out full strength in order to get off the mark well, but this was impossible for various reasons. C. Cook (unwell) and F. W. Hayward (playing cricket at the Spa in Paish's benefit match) were not available at full-back, and a trial was given to F. Ruck, formerly of the Gloucester Regiment; whilst forward Berry, Carleton, Holford and Meadows were all unable to accept their places, the three last named being on the damaged list.

Good reserves, however, were on hand, and the team which fielded for the City could by no means be termed a weak one.

There were two changes in the visitors' ranks, C. Baker and Berry taking the places of A. Saunders and Hughes.

There was only a small attendance when the teams took the field nearly ten minutes late as follow : –

GLOUCESTER.	POSITIONS.	BREAM.
F. Ruck	Backs.	F. Harrison
A. Hudson (capt.)	Three-Quarter	J. Price
A. Lewis	Backs	V. Saunders
L. Hamblin	"	G. James
W. Washbourne	"	J. Kent
W. Dix	Half-Backs	L. Morse
W. Hall	"	A. Robbins
W. Johns	Forwards	A. Lodge (capt.)
G. Vears	"	C. Baker
N. Hayes	"	T. Davis
S. Smart	"	W. Edwards
C. Mumford	"	A. Adams
F. Pegler	"	H. Berry
W. Dovey	"	W. Robbins
G. Griffiths	"	E. Ward

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

THE GAME.

The spin of the coin was correctly named by the Gloucester captain, and Lodge started for Bream from the Worcester-street goal. The ball, however, failed to go the regulation ten yards, and a scrum followed at the centre. Dix secured and passed out, but Lewis could not handle and the ball went to touch. From the throw-out Smart broke away and passed to Johns, who handed on, but Robbins effected a good tackle.

The Bream forwards got in a good rush, which Hall checked cleverly, and then there was a pretty bout of passing initiated Dix. Lewis broke through nicely, and ran to the full back, but though Washbourne gathered his pass at the second attempt he could not keep out of touch.

Well inside the visitors' 25 Gloucester passed rather wildly, and a Bream man kicked down the field. Kent raced hard and sent past Ruck, who, however, got back and saved, Lewis later clearing with a punt to touch.

Bream were playing a bustling game forward, and the tackling being keen Gloucester could not make much headway. At length Hayes headed a fine rush to beyond the centre, and Dix further improved matters with a flying kick. Harrison, however, gathered and punted well, though Price lost the ground by getting off-side.

Wheeling well, the visiting forwards burst away, only to see Lewis pick up the ball from their feet and send to touch. Gloucester got close after this, but the desired opening did not accrue. Hall once essayed to open with a long pass from the right wing, but Hamblin was collared in breaking through and sent forward. Then for palpable off-side play by Morse, Bream were penalised, and Hamblin landed a neat goal.

Restarting, Ruck was seen to advantage on a couple of occasions, and Gloucester kept play at mid-field. Washbourne was checked in an attempt to get away down touch, but the City managed to gain a good position in their opponents' half. Here, from a line-out, Hayes took the ball beautifully, and running strongly cleared Harrison and scored a fine try. Hamblin missed the goal points.

Bream dropped out, but they were soon placed on the defensive, and off-side by Price did not help them. From a scrum just inside the 25 yards' mark Dix robbed Morse at the scrum, and Hudson, accepting a low pass very cleverly, dashed through the opposition and scored behind the posts. Hamblin missed the easy place-kick.

There was some fast and clever play on the resumption, Lewis and Washbourne being prominent on the right, but the defence held out. Still Gloucester pressed, and only Bream's deadly tackling saved their lines.

Robbins and Morse, with useful kicks, took play to mid-field, where Pegler broke away beautifully from a line-out and passed to Johns. The latter yielded to Vears, but Saunders just managed to stop the latter from scoring. Hard lines, Gordon !

A couple of scrums ensued in close proximity to the Bream line, and from one of these Hall secured and fed Hamblin. There was just the chance of an opening, and Hamblin, using nice judgment, passed over Lewis's head to Washbourne, who sprinted round and over the line very smartly. No goal resulted.

Bream dropped out, and play continued to be interesting. The Gloucester backs handled cleverly on several occasions, and Dix and Hall at the scrum showed all their old effectiveness in combination. From one movement by Hall there was a splendid opening for a try behind the posts, but Dovey was ruled off-side.

After this Dix showed up with two exceptionally smart runs, once getting through to the full back, when the referee blew his whistle. It appeared that Hudson had been obstructed, and a penalty was given against Bream, but in this case it benefited the visitors, for Dix looked all over a scorer.

After Gloucester had just failed to cross in the corner, Bream bucked up with strong forward rushes and gained a position in the Gloucester half. Ruck, however, was sound and twice relieved well. The Foresters, however, got back, only to see Hamblin bring off a lovely run. But the centre tried to do too much, and with three men on his right he cut inside and was collared from behind. Half-time was then called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester ... 1 goal (p), 3 tries
Bream Nil

Vears restarted, and Smart taking the return on the run dashed down and punted, but Harrison marked nicely. With his kick he found touch near the centre-line, and from the throw-out Bream made further headway until stopped by a neat pick-up and kick by Lewis.

The Foresters maintained their position with useful kicking, until Pegler, Griffiths, and Hayes gained ground with pretty work. Robbins and James replied, and play was continued in the City half.

In some loose play Hayes gathered and brought off a strong run and pass to Hamblin, who, however, was laid low when looking dangerous. The Gloucester forwards were playing a clever game in the open, and the backs, too, worked well, though without much luck.

Gloucester were twice penalised for infringements, but the returns were well judged and not much ground was made. Ensuing play was somewhat of a scramble, the attempts to open out meeting with poor success.

At length there came a bright interlude, in which Hamblin was the chief performer. Receiving a pass near the centre, Hamblin swerved past the opposition, and cutting the full back finely, raced behind the posts with a lovely try. The same player again failed at goal.

Resuming, Gloucester heeled several times, but the tackling continued very determined. The City, however, persevered, and Hall working out a perfect opening from mid-field sent Lewis over with a try. The captain took the place-kick, but met with no success, the kick being charged down.

From the drop out Price returned to Lewis, who cross-kicked for Griffiths to gain possession. The ball was sent across to Hudson, who had a dash for the corner, but met Harrison, and just failed to put the ball over.

Bream relieved through the aid of a penalty, but immediately after Hayes burst away in fine style. He beat Harrison neatly, and racing hard for the line, successfully crossed amidst cheers. Ruck this time had a shot for goal, but the extra points were not added.

On the drop out the Bream forwards gained possession frequently, but though Morse and Robbins opened out, the third line generally mulled things. The Gloucester forwards, who had been slacking off somewhat, set to work again, and good all round work caused pressure on the Bream lines. From a kick over the line Smart followed up at a fast pace, and beating the opposition touched down for a try, which Ruck failed to convert.

The Foresters worked down to the City end on the drop-out, where Lewis, fielding a cross-kick by Kent, ran and passed to Washbourne. The wing man made a great effort to round his man, but Saunders just pushed him to touch. From the line out Griffiths gathered, and making a few yards passed out. Hamblin accepted, and feinting to pass to Hudson slipped through and notched the eighth try. Dix was deputed to kick at goal, and amidst loud cheering "Father" successfully covered the cross-bar.

Bream made an incursion to the Gloucester half before the end, but could not score.

RESULT :

Gloucester .. 2 goals (1p) 7 tries (29 points)
Bream Nil

REMARKS.

An interesting game, with the form of the City decidedly encouraging all round. There was one serious blot – bad place-kicking; but things go wrong occasionally in this important department, and it so happened to-day with all the place-kickers tried, except Dix. "Father" appeared quite pleased with his success, and the crowd made quite a hero of him.

Now to the teams. Bream admittedly are not in the first flight, but the Foresters are a stronger side than some people credit, and though badly beaten on points this afternoon, they played really good football at times; their defence especially would have done credit to the best.

Where Bream were out-pointed was in the pace and cleverness of their opponents, fore and aft. In the matter of scrummaging and vigorous forward work the Foresters were by no means second best, but finish and scoring power were wanted. This weakness was very noticeable whenever Gloucester's lines were threatened. Lodge led his pack well, and the marking and footwork of the men were extremely good.

In the scrums the Foresters more than held their own, and the heeling was performed quickly and well. The halves, Morse and Robbins, proved a very serviceable pair, with the ex-Cinderford man the most finished player behind. Robbins would hold his own in any company; he was a sound player in the third line, and he showed to-day he can play equally as well at outside half. The three-quarters were not often on the attack, and the passing attempted was moderate. The whole line, however, was strong in defence, and Harrison performed very creditably at full back.

Of the Gloucester team, general praise can be awarded. The forwards, weakened as they were, displayed capital form, and except for one or two slack periods, there were few causes for complaint. The hooking was not what it should have been, and it is to be hoped the men will get the ball back cleaner in future matches.

In other departments there was no falling-off whatever, and the old hands were in splendid form. The close dribbling, line-out work, and combined passing movements were prominent features in this direction, and Johns, Smart, Hayes, Pegler and Griffiths were shining lights. Hayes fairly stood out as the best forward on the field, and his two tries were sterling efforts.

The Dix-Hall combination at half was fully up to standard, which is saying a lot, and both players accomplished a lot of clever individual work. The three-quarters got though a good afternoon's work, and I was immensely pleased with Alec Lewis's display. He showed form of a classy character to-day both in attack and defence, and he and Washbourne combined nicely at times.

Hamblin scored a couple of beautiful tries, but he did not serve Hudson to the best advantage, and the captain accordingly suffered. However, the line all round gave evidence of developing into a strong combination. Ruck shaped promisingly at full back, and made no serious mistake. He would do well, however, to get rid of the habit of holding the ball in one hand when about to kick.

Scorers for Gloucester : Hamblin (2), Hayes (2), Hudson, Washbourne, Smart, and Lewis tries; Dix converted one, and Hamblin kicked a penalty goal.

I stated in my notes on another page that there was a possibility of Lieut. Carleton leaving the district shortly. I am now in a position to state definitely that the popular officer has been appointed to his Regiment (the Welsh) at Aldershot, and leaves on Friday next to take up his duties. Carleton will therefore be unable to assist Gloucester this side of Christmas, but he has promised to play when on leave, which will probably be in January. Like the majority of Army officers, the Lieutenant will join the Blackheath Club, and should prove a valuable recruit for Captain Craven, leader of the 'Heathens.

GLOUCESTER A v. LOCAL XV.

This match immediately followed the game with Bream. The teams lined out as follows : –

Gloucester A. – H. C. Barnes; F. Bloxsome (captain), W. Staunton, J. Hamblin, and F. Webb; J. Humphreys and C. Cummings; J. Harris, Merchant, Rudman, F. Yates, F. Russell, E. Osborne, J. Tozer, and another.

Local XV. – P. Speck (St. Mark's); Trevor Powell (St. Mark's), W. Wilkes (St. Mark's), A. H. Adams (Old Boys), and another; W. Rigby (Gordon League) and Benbow; Draper, C. Johnson, W. Allen, and J. Westbury (St. Mark's), H. G. Kingscott (Franciscans), W. G. Parham (Gordon League), J. James and H. Ford (Tredworth).

The Seconds started, and for some time play was carried from one end of the field to the other without any material advantage being gained. At length a neat round of passing was initiated from the scrum, which resulted in Staunton running strongly and getting over in the corner. The kick failed.

After this the Locals worked to the other end and started passing, but Adams failed to accept when there was a possible opening. Nothing further occurred until the interval, play being chiefly confined to the forwards.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 1 try
Local XV. Nil

On the resumption the Locals pressed, but Hamblin broke away and ran splendidly until he was pulled down on the 25 line. More open play was seen after this, the Seconds scrum half feeding his three-quarters, and as a result Hamblin went through on his own and crossed. The kick again failed.

On the drop out the Locals forwards dribbled well, but were pulled up in time. They returned to the attack, however, and Kingscott with the ball at his toes was nearly over, only a touchdown saving the Gloucester line.

Later Adams was prominent with a run down touch, but he could not quite clear the full-back. From a dribble by a forward Trevor Powell was given the ball, but instead of going for the line he tried to cut inside and succumbed. The end then came.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 2 tries (6 points)
Local XV Nil