

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1913

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. BREAM

DASHING DISPLAY BY THE FORESTERS

LUCKY WIN FOR GLOUCESTER

The season was opened at Kingsholm to-day with Bream as opponents to the premier Gloucester team.

The City fifteen differed considerably from last year's combination, prominent absentees being A. Hudson, W. Johns, G. Vears, C. Cook, W. Dix, N. Hayes, and S. Millard. The majority have finished with the fame[*sic*], but Cook, Hayes, and Millard are expected to join the ranks shortly.

With so many vacancies to fill to-day's team was more or less of an experimental nature, and Bream were fully expected to make a close fight.

At the last moment Halford, who had injured his leg at practice, decided not to run any risk, and accordingly stood down.

The visitors fielded a strong side, Allan Lodge being the only absentee.

The ground appeared in capital condition, the rain having done a lot of good.

The teams lined out as follows in the presence of a small crowd : –

GLOUCESTER	POSITIONS	BREAM
R. Ruck	Backs.	F. Vedmore
W. Washbourn	Three-Quarter	J. Kent
L. Hamblin	Backs	H. Rudge (capt.)
W. Wilkes	"	T. Stone
F. Webb	"	H. Nelmes
A. Lewis (capt.)	Half-Backs	L. Morse
J. Humphries	"	A. Jenkins
G. Osborne	Forwards	F. Moore
S. Smart	"	E. Kilby
A. Cook	"	O. Vaughan
J. Harris	"	G. Lodge
C. Mumford	"	A. Adams
J. Meadows	"	H. Baker
W. Dovey	"	E. Ward
W. Parham	"	W. Edwards

THE GAME

Smart started the game for Gloucester, and following up well the home forwards dribbled ahead until checked by Jenkins. The visitors soon got away with a loose rush, which Hamblin stopped on his own 25, and Gloucester quickly regained the lost ground, Humphries securing and punting high to allow his forwards preventing a return.

Scrambling play followed until Morse opened out, but Stone missed his pass, and Wilkes, picking up, sent nicely to touch.

Breaking away from a line-out, the Gloucester front, headed by Smart and Meadows, dribbled to the line, and the ball going over a minor was conceded.

Bream touched down again soon after from a kick over, and ensuing play was in the visitors' half. Gloucester attempted passing from the scrum, but it was poor, and no ground was gained. Bream made headway with useful kicking, but Ruck returned well.

A mistake by the City custodian, however, gave the visitors a good opening, and the ball was sent over the home line. Hamblin ran back and gathered, but instead of touching down he punted out. It was a feeble kick and went straight to a visitor, who only had to take the ball to "walk in" for a try. He, however, knocked on, and a certain try was lost.

Gloucester cleared from a dangerous position by the aid of a penalty, and they subsequently reached the centre. Vedmore, however, was a stumbling-block to further progress with a clever pick-up and punt to touch.

The Bream forwards got in a dashing burst which took some stopping, and then Gloucester retaliated, Lewis kicking through and collaring an opponent who had gathered. He, however, managed to pass, and a kick went to Hamblin, who fed Webb. The wing man dashed away and gave a return pass with good judgment, but Hamblin just failed to hold. This effort led to Gloucester pressing, and from a punt-out from the next scrum Ruck got hold, and with a well-directed shot dropped a neat goal.

Bream restarted, and play hovered in the home half. Ruck had to run back to gather a kick, but he pluckily punted out and staved off danger. Gloucester worked a clearance, but they met with stubborn opposition from the Foresters' forwards, who worked together well. Jenkins, with a neat bit of play, secured a nice opening for his side, but a faulty pass spoilt it.

Gloucester next tried passing in their own 25, but though Lewis got away well, Wilkes missed the transfer. Again there was erratic play by the Gloucester backs, saved, however, by the cleverness of Hamblin, who tried hard to skirt the touch-line, but failed in his effort. So far the class of play had been very moderate, the backs on both sides being disappointing.

At length the Gloucester outsides were set going, and the ball came right across to Webb, who sent back inside after shaking off a couple of opponents, but the ball went astray.

The City confined operations to their opponents' end, but on the few occasions the ball came out on the Gloucester side there was a lack of judgment shown in passing, and nothing resulted. Bream once took advantage of a mistake, and the result was a visit to the home 25. From a line-out, however, Dovey broke away, and punting hard found touch at the visitors' 25. Half-time was then called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 goal (d)
Bream Nil

Bream restarted, and the first item of interest was a clever run by Rudge, who beat an opponent and made good ground before being upset. From the next scrum the Bream forwards heeled, and Jenkins, with a well-judged punt, found touch a few yards from the home line. The City were hard pressed, the Foresters playing with great energy. The home forwards were again beaten for possession, and following some neat exchanges by the visiting backs Stone raced over with a good try, which Vedmore failed to convert.

Encouraged by their success, Bream got on the attack again on the resumption and Gloucester were forced to defend. A penalty gave the City slight relief, but a Bream forward dribbled back in fine style, and only a wonderful pick-up by Ruck saved the situation. Lewis cleared his lines with a couple of useful punts, and later there was an attempt to open out, but the marking was very close and sure. Beaten at the scrum by Morse, Humphries allowed his opponent to dribble away. Hamblin gathered and punted to Vedmore, who with a splendid kick just failed to drop a goal, the ball hitting the upright and rebounding into the field of play. This was a lucky escape for Gloucester.

Resuming, Bream put in a telling dribble, which was checked in fearless style by Hamblin, but a minute later the visitors nearly scored again. Some loose kicking on the restart enabled Gloucester to change the venue, and Washbourn kicked past Vedmore, but the latter got across and sent to touch.

Wretchedly weak play by the home backs lost them their advantage, and for the next few minutes Bream were clearly in the ascendancy all round. Hamblin and Washbourn saved twice when matters looked dangerous, and Ruck came to the rescue on another occasion when a score seemed imminent.

Gloucester subsequently pulled themselves together, the forwards doing some good rushing. The defence was beaten in one burst, and Washbourn being well up, the wing man picked up and dropped over the line with a try. Hamblin failed at goal. Washbourn was temporarily laid out owing to his falling heavily on the ground, but was soon able to resume.

Bream dropped out, and soon found their way to the centre line. Here Humphries opened out, and Lewis, Wilkes and Hamblin handled in turn. The centre tried to cut up the field, but Rudge stopped his progress. Gloucester had another bit of passing before the end, Webb and Wilkes shining, but nothing tangible resulted.

RESULT :

Gloucester	1 goal (d) 1 try (7 points)
Bream	1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

Gloucester may be counted a lucky side in emerging victors to-day, for all round the advantage rested with Bream. I was prepared for a good fight by the Foresters, bearing in mind the City's weakened ranks, but the display of the visitors exceeded my expectations. They came to Kingsholm evidently with a fixed determination to gain winning points, and if they failed in their ambition I must say they did not deserve to.

It would be unfair to criticise the Gloucester team on an opening display, especially as several of the players can only be regarded as Reserves; but with full allowance for lack of condition and other disadvantages, the side as a whole ought to have done better.

Forward, the City eight were well beaten by the Bream pack, who played with all that dash, vigour and determination characteristic of Forest forwards. The visitors had the pull in weight, and they used it in the scrums, and there was a good deal of skill displayed in combined bursts. Lodge and Kilby (the Cinderford players) were very prominent, and their lead was splendidly backed up.

At half, Morse and Jenkins had a decided pull, and both were very nippy in attack and sound in defence. Of the three-quarters, Rudge was the pick, combining steadiness, judgment and cleverness. Stone was less in the picture at centre, but proved very useful at times. The wing men did nothing startling, but Nelmes (who played for Cinderford last season) ought to come on with experience and coaching. Vedmore sustained his reputation at full back, and made few mistakes.

The only Gloucester man who played up to form was Ruck, and in the Tredworth player the City have an excellent custodian in reserve if anything should happen to Cook or Hayward. His dropped goal was a capital effort, and there was little to find fault with his general play. The three-quarters were handicapped in attack through lack of opportunities, for the few times they did get the ball there was little scope to do anything. Hamblin was closely marked, but it was his cleverness in saving that got Gloucester out of several difficulties. Wilkes was inconsistent, and showed a tendency to drop his passes when well placed. Washbourn made the best use of his one chance, and Webb shaped promisingly. Humphries was out of it at the scrum, and Lewis was not altogether happy in the outside position. With A. Hall in the team next week, however, there should be a decided improvement at half-back and the three-quarters ought to get something like a show.

The City forwards were never together, and although there was some smart bits of play by individuals, as a pack they were always worsted by the Foresters. Smart worked tremendously, and by his keenness set his colleagues a splendid example, but frequently he was all on his lonesome in following up.

Meadows dribbled well at times, and Mumford and A. Cook showed up prominently, but there was a good deal wanting all round.

Scorers for Gloucester ; E. Ruck, dropped goal ; W. Washbourn, a try.

Next week : 1st Gloucester Regiment, at Kingsholm.

JC