

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1914

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. LEICESTER

FINE WIN FOR THE CITY TEAM

Gloucester have performed exceptionally well in recent years at Leicester, and despite the fact that the City had to make the journey to-day minus the valuable services of Lewis, Webb, and Smart, the Westerners were confident of making a bold bid for victory.

Webb's absence was due to an injury to the knee sustained against Llanelly, and at present there is a doubt as to whether the clever right wing three-quarter will play again this season. Alec Lewis' damaged wrist kept him out of the side, and Hudson once more appeared.

Fortunately, Washbourn had recovered sufficiently to resume his place, or the Club would have been in the serious position of having three of the regular three-quarters absent.

Gloucester had a further disappointment when A. Hall intimated his inability to play owing to illness.

Burns also being on the sick list, Wilkes was called upon at the last moment. Dovey came in vice Smart, who took a rest in view of the big International test at Edinburgh next week.

Leicester had a list of eighteen players from which to make a final selection.

In the end the teams were constituted as follows : –

GLOUCESTER	POSITIONS	LEICESTER
C. Cook	Backs	J. P. Hougham
W. Washbourn	Three-Quarter	P. W. Lawrie (capt.)
S. Sysum	Backs	W. Dalby
W. Wilkes	"	G. Timms
A. Hudson	"	F. Mellor
J. Baker	Half-Backs	G. W. Wood
L. Hamblin	"	F. M. Taylor
G. Halford (capt.)	Forwards	H. S. B. Lawrie
W. Dovey	"	W. J. Allen
N. Hayes	"	G. Hopkins
A. Saunders	"	J. Twigg
J. F. Lawson	"	G. Wilson
S. Millard	"	F. Taylor
W. Parham	"	L. S. Burton
F. Ayliffe	"	S. G. Wolfe

Referee : Mr. Freethy (Welsh Union)

THE GAME

Heavy rain had fallen in Leicester during the morning, but later the weather took a more favourable turn, and the ground was not so bad. Leicester kicked off, and there being no return play opened in the Gloucester 25. Useful kicks enabled the City to clear, but the Midlanders worked back, some wild passing spoiling a possible opening.

From a big kick Cook knocked on, and a scrum followed fifteen yards from the Gloucester line. The Gloucester forwards wheeled away, only to be stopped by Taylor. At the next scrum the City were penalised right in front of the posts, and from the easy position Lawrie had no difficulty in placing a goal – a lucky lead for Leicester.

Play on the resumption was very tame, and more free-kicks followed to either side. So far the backs had been little employed in handling, but Leicester, with good kicking, got dangerous.

With a splendid effort Gloucester worked out, and, from an opening by Hamblin, Sysum made a beautiful run. He was collared from behind by Taylor, but Wilkes kicked through to Timms, who punted across the field. Halford was well up and, taking the ball in the air, passed to Washbourn, who dashed over with a good try in the corner. Cook failed at goal.

Having equalised, Gloucester showed up well on the restart. Baker, beating Wood and Taylor, cut through smartly and passed to Saunders, who returned, but the ball was intercepted.

Gloucester maintained the pressure for a time, but the Midlanders came away with fine passing, and Dalby was only pushed to touch in time. Then followed hot attacks on the City line, Wood and Lawrie being held up outside.

Baker brought timely relief with a touch-finder, and smart passing amongst the backs saw Washbourn held at the centre. This fine effort was followed by a lovely run by Hamblin, but with Washbourn beating Hougham "forward pass" was whistled, a certain try being lost.

Ensuing play was keen and even, both teams missing openings by wild play at the critical moment. Leicester got very close once, but an attempt to drop a goal was charged down, and Gloucester cleared to mid-field.

Leicester were soon back again, and the City were lucky to escape. Gloucester, however, came again, and Dovey scored after fine work by Hudson and Baker. Cook missed the goal kick.

Brilliant combination by the Gloucester backs on the drop-out nearly let Washbourn in on the left. To the interval the visitors attacked, but there was no more scoring.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 2 tries
Leicester 1 goal (p)

The resumption was made in drizzling rain, which made the surface greasy. Gloucester early obtained a good attacking position and Hamblin made a capital shot at goal from a penalty. By a good forward burst Leicester changed the venue, and mistakes by the City backs in handling gave them further advantage.

Wood tried hard to make an opening for Dalby on the left, but the latter was tackled. In a desperate scramble which followed a Gloucester forward was laid out and had to be carried off. The City defence was hotly tested for a few minutes, but it held out splendidly.

Hamblin came to the relief with a nice kick, which Halford followed up, but in trying to get the ball away from an opponent he fell heavily to the ground, and there was another stoppage. Fortunately, the City captain recovered sufficiently to be able to resume, for with only seven forwards Gloucester had all their work cut out to hold their own.

Rain was now falling heavily, and play was mostly confined to the forwards. The City pack worked finely together, being particularly good in the loose. At length the visiting backs shone in a clever bout, but Taylor upset Sysum before he could pass. With Gloucester rushing well, Baker took a flying kick towards the goal, Lawrie marking when partly tackled.

With the resultant kick, and another penalty, Leicester transferred operations to the other end, but Hamblin relieved with clever touch-finders. Erratic play by the City caused their lines to be placed in danger, and from a flying kick Houghton marked. Harry Lawrie had a shot for goal, but sent wide, and Baker punted out to touch.

Hamblin also used the touch-line with judgment, and a spell of centre play ensued. It was a hard, gruelling game forward, the feature being the splendid manner in which the Gloucester seven held their heavy opponents. Time was getting short, but still the visitors held tenaciously to their three points' lead. Leicester made a fine attempt to get through on the left wing, but Dalby was splendidly tackled.

Gloucester put tremendous energy into their play during the last five minutes, and by keen following up had likely chances on two occasions, but the movements did not materialise. The Midlanders made one last desperate effort to pull the match out of the fire, but all to no purpose, and the end came with Gloucester attacking.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 tries (6 points)
Leicester 1 goal (p) (3 points)

REMARKS

Congratulations to the City team on a fine victory against odds. Without being a brilliant display, the football was always keen, and there [3, 4 words unreadable] work at times by the Gloucester backs.

The City forwards played a great game, and even with Parham short in the second half they held their own. Baker was quite the equal to Wood at the scrum, and Hamblin played a clever and sound game at outside half. The City three-quarters were better all round than Leicester who, with the exception of Lawrie, were a moderate line. Cook was far superior to Hougham at full back. This was Gloucester's third successive win at Leicester.

GLOUCESTER A v. BREAM

GOOD WIN FOR THE SECONDS

This fixture is always a popular one at Kingsholm, but there was only a very small gate when the teams lined out, this being due to the wretched weather conditions. The ground was in a sodden condition. The Bream side included A. Robbins, the Pontypool three-quarter. The teams were : –

Gloucester A. – S. Ewers; T. Powell, Millington, Staunton, and F. Bloxsome (captain); W. Wotton and T. Burns; W. Comley, C. Mumford, H. G. Kingscott, J. H. Webb, J. Lewis, A. Comley, and L. Smith.

Bream. – L. Mayne; A. Robbins, T. Stone, H. Lawrence, and F. Kent; L. Morse and A. Jenkins; E. Moore (captain), E. Kilby, G. Hughes, W. Baker, T. Davies, J. Rent, O. Vaughan, and J. Flavin.

Referee : Mr. J. Such.

The opening exchanges were fought out at the centre, but then Bream made headway, but Wotton reversed the position with a clever dribble. The visitors kicked down, and Ewers failing to gather, they obtained a footing in home territory, but a penalty gave the Seconds the advantage again. Mumford was prominent with a loose dribble, but Kingscott kicked too hard, and Mayne had no difficulty in touching down.

Gloucester kept up the pressure, good work by the forwards gaining them an excellent position in the Foresters' quarter. The Seconds were nearly over from a scrum on the line, but Webb was held up, and Bream eventually gained relief from a dangerous position.

The Foresters' forwards indulged in a nice break-away which appeared promising, but in endeavouring to pick up someone knocked on and the movement was checked. Bream were penalised in a good position, and Burns had a shot for goal. The kick was a good one, but it struck the upright and rebounded into play, the visitors clearing.

The Villagers worked to the centre, where the Seconds were penalised. The kick went to Ewers, whose return was a poor one, and Bream reached the home 25. Up to the present there had been no handling whatever, the game being contested entirely between the forwards, with the advantage resting with the Gloucester pack.

Burns broke away from the centre and dribbled to the Forest 25, but A. Robbins went down to the ball and succeeded in effecting a check. The Forest men again reached the centre by strenuous play, but all attempts to open out either by Morse or Wotton failed.

Staunton had a semblance of a chance of cutting through, but he knocked on in gathering the ball. Then Wotton, dribbling finely, beat several men, and taking the ball over the line, dropped on it for a capital try obtained by a good solo effort. Burns failed with the kick.

On the restart the Gloucester forwards again got on the attack, and Wooton, who seemed to revel in the mud, indulged in another clever run which just failed to land points. Bream at last reached the half-way line, but the Seconds quickly sent them back owing to good work by Bloxsome.

Webb with the ball at his feet looked a possible scorer, but he preferred to kick out to Powell, who was, however, standing off-side when he had the line at his mercy. The Foresters did better subsequently, and obtained a position in the Gloucester half, but Burns getting the ball from the scrum ran cleverly. He handed to Millington, but the latter was tackled before he could give a decent pass to Bloxsome, who was in attendance, and a good chance was lost.

Bream looked dangerous when a couple of forwards took the ball past Ewers, but they were called back for an infringement, and Gloucester again took up the running.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A 1 try
Bream Nil

On the resumption Gloucester immediately went off at a great pace and reached the Bream line. Mayne kicked out, and Burns securing, that player from well out dropped a particularly neat goal within a minute of the restart.

The Foresters now played up strongly and reached home territory. Jenkins attempted a drop at goal without success, but following this up a visitor was nearly over, but Powell racing up touched down in the nick of time.

Both sides were going "great guns," but Powell put Gloucester on the offensive with a pretty dribbling run down the line. He was, however, pulled up, and the Forest men again gained an attacking position, a forward getting in a long punt to touch. A series of scrums took place on the home line, from one of which Morse opened out. The ball was sent across, but Lawrence failed to take a sharp pass on the run, and a splendid opening was lost.

Wotton initiated a dribbling movement in which the three-quarters participated, and they reached the Forest 25 before the visitors could effect a check. Powell gained applause for a couple of strong efforts, but the Bream defence was good, and they repulsed the repeated attacks of the home man.

From a mark the visitors gained a nice slice of ground, and the forwards carrying on the work looked dangerous, but Staunton brought the movement to an abrupt conclusion by dropping on the ball. Later the Bream eight again swept the field, but Powell this time did the needful near the line.

Gloucester by sound work worked out of danger, but then Stone obtained just inside the home line, and running strongly reached Ewers. Here he transferred to Robbins, who had no difficulty in scoring in the corner. The kick failed.

On the drop-out Bream put in some determined work and twice got over the line, but the five yards out rule was ordered by the referee. This was disappointing to a player on the first occasion, and in his disgust he threw the ball right behind the goal-line to the fence.

Powell and Millington brought relief to the homesters with a neat passing run, but Mayne marked Powell's kick and prevented further ingress. Webb and Staunton did good work in the loose, but just when they were getting dangerous the referee ruled that a player was off-side. The Foresters again gained the home line, but a loose rush by the homesters took play to mid-field.

Bream were now playing desperately to reduce the lead, but the Seconds were no wit inferior, and the struggle was a strong one. Powell was responsible for giving Gloucester a further lead. He raced down the line with the ball at his feet, and, although a Bream man kept at him all the way, he successfully piloted the ball over the line and fell on it. A try was rightly awarded, but the Bream men thought differently and claimed that their man touched down first. They were inclined to walk off the field, and actually started to do so, but better sense prevailed. The kick failed, and the end came.

RESULT:

Gloucester A 1 goal (d) 2 tries (10 points)

Bream 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

The Seconds were full value for their win against the doughty opposition provided by the Forest club. Of necessity owing to the state of the ground the game was chiefly confined to the forwards, and the home eight adapting themselves to the conditions even better than the visitors, were responsible for a great deal of sound and solid work interspersed with occasional flashes of brilliance in the loose rushes.

The Bream men played a hard game right up to the end, but they never looked like getting on terms, with the exception of about five minutes in the second half, when they invaded the home line. Burns' dropped goal was a beautiful effort, while the tries of Wotton and Powell were also the result of good individual play. Robbins had a walk in with the visitors' try after Stone had completely beaten the defence.

It would be difficult to individualise on either side, no player particularly outshining another, but all putting in all they knew, with the homesters the superior.