

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1909

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. NORTHAMPTON

HUDSON AND JOHNS ABSENT

WELL-DESERVED WIN FOR THE EAST MIDLANDERS

For their engagement at Northampton to-day the City had to call on three reserves to fill the places of Hudson, Johns, and Pearce. The captain and Pearce are on the injured list, and Johns was unable to make the journey owing to business claims. These withdrawals considerably weakened the side, though useful substitutes were forthcoming in Barnes, Pegler, and Blackford, of the A team.

Two years ago Northampton created a big surprise by soundly defeating the City, but the tables were turned decisively last season, when with a team consisting of half reserves – a County match occurred on the same date – Gloucester gained a brilliant victory. Northampton, who recently fell at Coventry by 8 points to 3, had their best available fifteen doing duty, and the East Midlanders were particularly keen on obtaining a win at the expense of the conquerors of Swansea.

The following were the teams : –

Gloucester. – W. Egerton, full-back; F. Smith, W. Hall, H. Barnes, J. M. Baldwin, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent (capt.), J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears, H. Berry, F. Pegler, D. Hollands, J. Wyburn, G. Holford, Lieut. Carleton, W. Blackford, forwards.

Northampton. – F. Read, full-back; E. R. Mobbs (capt.), H. G. Burder, J. N. Beasley, E. C. Cook, three-quarter backs; J. W. Ward, R. Harrison, half-backs; A. Chalmers, S. R. Harrison, P. W. Fussell, J. Birch, L. Skempton, C. Lee, W. Wright, E. W. White, forwards.

Referee : Mr. G. C. Nicholls (Leicester).

Despite a big rival attraction on the Association ground there was a good attendance. The weather was fine and the ground in capital condition. Vears started the game, and after an exchange of kicks play opened in the Northampton half. Hall gained ground with a nice touch-kick, but R. Harrison replied, and operations were fought out at midfield.

Here Stephens opened out, and Hall punted down, only to see Cook field and pass to Mobbs. The latter re-passed, but a knock on followed, and the movement was checked. Good play by the home half-backs led to pressure on the City line, but off-side by Cook lost a capital opening. The Gloucester forwards brought relief, but Stephens failing to take a pass from Gent, Ward dribbled through and over the line, Hall conceding a minor.

On the drop-out Gent lost ground with a wild pass from the scrum, but Hall recovered with a beautiful kick to touch beyond the centre. The East Midlands removed the venue with a good rush, and Mobbs further improved the position with a short rush. From a long throw-out the ball was gathered by a home player, who sent to Ward, and the latter dropped a neat goal.

Restarting, some fast forward play ensued, Northampton doing splendid work in the loose. Baldwin staved off a dangerous rush in smart style, and Carleton with neat footwork gave Gloucester a footing in their opponents' half. Mobbs, with a long return, forced another minor.

Hollands followed up the drop-out and collared his man, but Burder saved the situation. Northampton rushed past the centre, but the Gloucester three-quarters got back with neat passing, Smith being forced to touch on the twenty-five.

Charging down a kick Gloucester got very close, Vears being only held up on the line. From loose scrum work the ball was kicked across to Barnes, who, being in a favourable position, dropped a clever goal, and equalised the scores.

On resumption the play was keen and fast. Off-side by Gloucester gave Northampton a footing in the City quarters. Here Mobbs got possession and kicked across to the opposite wing, where Cook crossed with a try. No goal resulted.

After this Gloucester played up desperately, and Northampton were forced on their lines. Mobbs was tackled in front of his goal, and the ball getting loose, Stephens passed out, Hall only being held a yard outside – very hard lines.

Gloucester continued to have the better of the exchanges, the backs passing prettily at times, but Cook and Mobbs tackled determinedly and kept the home lines intact.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Northampton	1 goal (d) 1 try
Gloucester	1 goal (d)

Northampton re-started, the ball going to Egerton, who misfielded but recovered, and got the ball to touch. The home backs were early in possession, but they made little ground, the ball going right across. A little later Northampton lost their position through faulty handling, but the forwards recovered with dashing footwork, and Mobbs was nearly over in the corner, a minor resulting.

Gloucester eventually reached the centre, but R. Harrison dribbled back, and the Gloucester backs failing to check, the ball was taken over the line and Cook credited with a try. Wright converted, giving the home team an eight points' lead.

Encouraged by this success Northampton played up with great dash. Mobbs getting a pass made a big effort to break through, but he was pulled down in time.

Both teams were playing an extra man outside, Hollands doing duty for Gloucester. Play was desperately keen and slightly in favour of Northampton.

An interception by Barnes and a run by Smith gave Gloucester an opening, but it was not accepted. Gloucester maintained their position for a few minutes, but Mobbs changed the venue with a strong burst. Some hot forward work followed inside the City half, the visitors eventually clearing with loose kicking.

Mobbs getting a kick charged down there was a grand opening, but Ward snapped up the ball in front of a Gloucester man and cleared beautifully. Just now the game was very scrappy, and there was little in it. Gloucester could not make much headway with passing, though Stephens opened out several times. Once the City forwards had the ball amongst them, and Pegler made a nice opening, but the ball went astray.

Egerton, from a mark, had a shot for goal, but failed. Northampton ran the ball out and reached the centre, but Gloucester worked back. Holford getting possession from a charged kick picked up and ran to the full-back, but Berry failed to take his pass with a walk in.

After this Northampton took up the running again, their backs doing excellent work. A splendid loose rush by the home forwards took them to the Gloucester line, where Baldwin was tackled under the posts. The City had a very anxious time, Hall trying to run out being tackled.

A scrum followed five yards from the line, where Northampton lost possession, and Carleton picking up he punted hard, and found touch at mid-field. Play centred here for a short period, but before the end Northampton attacked again without success.

RESULT :

Northampton	2 goals (1d) 1 try (12 points)
Gloucester	1 goal (d) (4 points)

REMARKS

It was a fine victory for Northampton and on the day's play the home team deserved their success. Gloucester at times did well, but at no period did the team reach the high standard shown against Swansea.

Northampton played seven forwards nearly all through, and as was the case two years ago they beat their opponents for possession. The packing of the Gloucester front was loose, and the men never got together really well. Carleton, Holford, Wyburn, and Berry were continually prominent, but they did not equal their opponents in loose footwork.

At half, Gent and Stephens were beaten, though the latter repeatedly tried to open out. The backs altogether were outpaced by the Northampton contingent, Mobbs and Cook especially showing up well. Hall and Barnes performed creditably at centre, but Smith and Baldwin were always held in check. Egerton had a lot to do at full-back, but on the whole came out well. He did not always find touch, but some of his clearances under pressure were excellent.

Northampton were immensely pleased with their triumph. They are a really strong side, and should do well this season.

GLOUCESTER A v. BREAM

A DRAW AT KINGSHOLM

These old opponents met at Kingsholm before a small attendance. Bream, on their form with Cinderford, were expected to be pretty warm, and the Seconds after their failure to raise a team last week were somewhat of an unknown quantity.

They were fortunate in having the services of W. Johns, who had been unable to make the journey to Northampton.

The teams were : –

Gloucester A. – H. Hancock; F. Bloxsome, J. Goddard, J. Hamblin, and Harry Smith; W. Dix and Hubert Smith; W. Johns, W. Nelmes, N. Hayes, J. Hall, W. D. Henderson, L. Gwilliam, F. Quixley, and Trin Millard.

Bream. – F. Moore; F. Kent, H. Rudge, J. Griffin, and J. Price; J. Baker (capt.) and A. Jenkins; G. Davis, H. Baker, C. James, G. Cooper, F. Westbury, W. Robbons, R. Watkins, and P. Gilbert.

Play was scrappy to begin with, and was mostly fought out in neutral territory. Once the Bream scrummagers broke away nicely and got well down, but Hamblin fielded and sent the game again to the centre. Some hot work among the forwards ensued, but neither side was able to claim much advantage.

A pretty pass back from the line-out by one of the Gloucester forwards sent the ball to Dix, who gained a nice slice of ground with a timely punt, and a stoppage ensued through the Bream recipient being knocked out in attempting to make his mark.

Dix opened out the game nicely from the ensuing scrum, and the ball went right along the line to Bloxsome, but he could not get through. A moment later Dix nearly cut through on his own, but was held up.

Gloucester were now pressing hotly, and a good pass out to Hamblin looked promising, but his transfer to Harry Smith was ruled forward. Then Hubert Smith struggled hard to get over, but was held up and a scrum ordered. From here Bream broke away well and got out of danger, but Gloucester were quickly back and forced a minor after Bloxsome had looked likely to get through.

Bream centred play, but Gloucester gradually worked their way back and Dix tried the blind side, but the pass to Smith went to touch. Gloucester were now well in the Foresters' 25, but by the aid of a loose rush and a timely kick Bream transferred the game to the other end. Another kick got behind the Gloucester backs, and in the rush for possession the ball went over the line, and in the scramble Kent dashed up and scored, Moore adding the extra points.

This sudden reverse, after having had the best of the game, warmed the 'Cestrians up, and they rushed the game up into the Foresters' quarter again, but not for long, as Bream, coming away well again, reached the home 25 flag. Another short stoppage ensued for injuries, and then Gloucester went up again, but the game quickly came back and Hancock had to mark. The game was at the centre at the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Bream 1 try
Gloucester A Nil

Immediately on the re-start Dix intercepted a Bream pass very neatly and cut right through, dodging grandly, but he was not supported, and a pretty movement ended by the Gloucester man being barged into touch near the line.

A hot attack ensued on the Bream line, but from a kick over the line only a touchdown resulted. Bream got the better of succeeding play, and worked their way up until they had got a footing in the Gloucester 25. A free brought the necessary relief, but a further penalty against Bream did not improve matters much from the Gloucester point of view.

Bream were continually getting the ball back now and opening out the game, but the tackling was pretty safe. Gloucester in their turn tried passing, but it was not a success, the ball going all across the field without gaining five yards. Then Gloucester had a glorious chance, a kick being mis-fielded, but although Hamblin got right away there was nobody backing him up, and before help arrived the Bream men were too thick on the scene for Gloucester to get through.

It was a fine chance lost, but Gloucester kept pegging away, and from a scrum in front of goal the ball came out nicely, but fumbling among the backs again lost a golden opportunity.

An abortive attempt at a dropped goal gave Bream the opportunity of dropping out of danger, but a good return put them again on the defensive.

Hubert Smith tried to cut through on his own instead of passing, and was consequently floored, and then a clever wide pass by Dix went astray with no one to beat. Baker brought relief for Bream with a good touch-finder, but the Gloucester forwards, with Johns in the van, carried hostilities into the Bream quarters again. Here again there was more fumbling by the home backs.

Bream broke away, but Hancock sent them back with a beautifully judged kick, a feat he repeated a moment later. After some scrambling play the ball got loose about ten yards from the Bream line, and in a melee it was carried over, and Dix dashing up beat the Bream man for possession and scored. Hancock added the major points with a kick which just covered the bar, and put the teams level again. There was very little in the last few minutes' play.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal (5 points)
Bream 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS

It was a disappointing game from the home spectators' point of view, not because it was a draw, but on account of the many chances that the 'Cestrians threw away. For nearly the whole of the second half the home men kept the Foresters on the defensive, and with Dix working finely at the scrum the backs had heaps of chances, but the passing was horrible, and time after time fumbling spoilt beautiful openings.

The forwards deserve every credit for their share, in the second half especially, and Johns, Millard, Henderson, and Gwilliam were continually prominent. Dix, as was stated, was in good form, but Smith took his passes poorly, and the less said about the three-quarters the better. Hancock was good at full-back, his kicking being a feature.

For Bream Moore was a safe custodian, and Kent and Price were good on the wings. The forwards were a good, bustling crowd, but they had had about enough of it towards the close.