

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1912

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v BREAM

FORESTERS' PLUCKY FIGHT

GLOUCESTER FINISH STRONGLY AND WIN WELL

The action of the Neath Club in cancelling their fixture with Gloucester to-day put the City in a very difficult position, but after considerable trouble Bream consented to fill the breach for a guarantee.

The Foresters were on Gloucester's list – the opening match of the season – but owing to the hard ground the fixture was cancelled.

Gloucester had a good side out, though Johns, Vears, and Washbourne were absent. Bream had Rudge and Griffin away.

There was only a poor gate when the teams took the field a quarter of an hour late as follow : –

Gloucester. – C. Cook; F. E. Chapman, S. Cook, L. Hamblin, and A. Hudson; W. Dix and W. Hall; H. Berry, N. Hayes, A. Lodge, J. Meadows, S. Smart, A. Cook, F. Pegler, and G. Holford.

Bream. – H. Smith; J. Kent, T. Stone, V. Saunders, and J. M. Baldwin; A. Jenkins and J. Price; A. Holes, A. Adams, A. Saunders, W. Robbins, W. Edwards, F. Haines, G. Cooper, and G. Hughes.

THE GAME

Gloucester lost the toss, and the City had to face the wind and sun. Holford miskicked in starting, a scrum following at the centre. Bream were penalised twice within a few minutes, but by good kicking kept play in the home half. From a long punt over the line Cook conceded a minor.

On the drop-out Gloucester tried passing, but it broke down, and Kent took the ball to Cook, who cleverly fielded and got in a good kick to touch. Well inside the home half Dix opened out, and Hall, Hamblin, Cook, and Hudson handled in turn. The captain ran and tried a short kick, but the ball rolled into touch. Gloucester attacked after this, but the defence proved too strong. Then from a penalty Hamblin had a shot for goal, but only a minor resulted.

Play on the restart was scrappy, being mainly confined to the forwards. The Bream men played a lusty game and by good footwork and kicking gained a footing in the City 25. Gloucester worked out, but smart play by Jenkins confined the game to home quarters, and from a huge punt from a mark the ball was again sent over the City line.

So far the play had been devoid of interest, for when the Gloucester forwards did manage to heel the Bream scrum half got off-side and spoiled Dix. Penalties followed in each case, but it only served to completely spoil the game. Gloucester at length got in a decent bout of passing right along the line, but Chapman was forced to touch a few yards outside.

From a kick-out Hudson fielded and ran round, Stanley Cook getting outside for the pass, but the captain stumbled and threw forward. Bream rushed down in good style, but S. Cook ran back finely and passed to Hudson, only to see the latter go into touch. Dix, with a clever break-away on the short side of the scrum, tried hard to make an opening, but was not successful.

Another penalty against Price, who was as often as not on the Gloucester side of the scrum, saw Cook punt high, but the wind carried the ball back, and nothing resulted.

A smart run by Hamblin and a service to Chapman enabled the International to have a dash for the line, but he was well tackled. A regular scramble followed, but the monotony was relieved by a really clever combined effort by Bream. Kent was sent away merrily by his centre, but his re-pass was not taken, and a fine opportunity of scoring was lost.

Bream kept up the pressure, and a cross-kick was gathered by S. Cook, who ran down and passed to Hamblin. The latter stumbled and lost possession of the ball, which was gathered by Baldwin, who raced for the line with only C. Cook to beat. The old City three-quarter went strongly for the line, and doubling inside cleared the Gloucester custodian and scored a fine try amidst the cheers of the crowd. The goal-kick failed.

Gloucester dropped out, but Bream returned to the attack, and they got a penalty kick right in front of the posts. No charge was allowed, but the shot at goal was a failure.

Gloucester could make no headway on the drop-out, and play to the interval was all in favour of Bream.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Bream 1 try
Gloucester Nil

Bream restarted, and early on the Gloucester backs were given possession, but Hamblin held on too long, and his pass went astray. A lucky flying-kick by a Bream forward sent the ball to C. Cook, who failed to pick up and was collared before he could recover right under the posts. Matters looked dangerous for the City, but a penalty brought much needed relief.

Bream continued to play with great keenness, and the home men were worried considerably. The forwards tried rushing tactics, but they could not get going properly.

Then Dix and Hall worked the blind side of the scrum and fed Chapman, but the wing man was upset by Baldwin before going far. A score, however, came shortly after, for Hall punting instead of passing, Hamblin followed up and fielded on the run. He cut inside nicely, and running hard for the line scored a good try. The same player failed at goal. Hayes went off the field at this stage, and Gloucester resumed with 14 men, but the forward soon came back.

The City forced two minors in quick succession from kicks over the line, and play was confined to the Bream 25. Hall, from a pass by Dix, again tried the short punt, but he was obstructed, and Jenkins picking up punted out. S. Cook received and cross-kicked in front of the posts, but he failed to put his forwards on-side and a penalty followed.

After this Dix was applauded for a very pretty bit of dodging, but he failed to quite beat the defence. Gloucester still attacked, but they could not get an opening.

A flying-kick by a Bream player sent the ball to C. Cook, who ran round and fed Chapman. The International dodged well, but was collared from behind as he looked likely to clear the defence. Bream had an extra man outside, and the visitors tackled well. However, their defence was eventually clean beaten, Stanley Cook running strongly and working out an easy try for Hudson. Hamblin's kick for goal fell just under the bar.

Gloucester were now doing better, the forwards heeling sharply. After Chapman had again been stopped the ball came over to the left, where Pegler dribbled through to the full back. The latter picked up and punted out straight to Hudson, who, seeing an opening, went strongly for the line and scored. No goal resulted.

Bream played up strongly after this, but S. Cook feeding Hudson, the captain made a fine effort to score, falling a few yards from the line. Another attack met with no success, and then Chapman, fielding a kick, dodged through splendidly, but succumbed to numbers. Bream were now completely outplayed and their defence was continually occupied.

Dix, Hall, and Chapman in turn tried hard to get through, but were not rewarded. Then Saunders, standing a yard or two off-side, intercepted, but he was promptly penalised, and Dix, from the easy position, kicked a goal.

Following the restart, C. Cook ran round and passed to Hudson, who ran strongly for 30 yards, but was tackled. He essayed a long pass into the centre of the field to Holford, but it was ruled forward with a certain try in view.

Soon afterwards Dix made a capital dodgy run and pass to Hudson, who dashed over, but the pass was ruled forward. The end came shortly afterwards.

RESULT :

Gloucester ...	1 goal (p), 3 tries (12 points)
Bream	1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

Bream put up an exceedingly good fight, and it was not until well in the second half that Gloucester asserted superiority. The Foresters had a sturdy front, and they worried the City to some tune, both in the scrums and loose. After they withdrew a man from the pack to assist the defence, however, Gloucester took control of the game, and the Bream line was subjected to continual pressure in the closing stages.

Behind the visitors showed some smart work at times, but Price, the scrum half, spoiled his play altogether by his continual off-side tactics. Hampered as he was, Dix did a lot of clever things, making some exceedingly smart runs and opening out with judgment. Hall, too, was very prominent despite the close attention paid him.

At three-quarter Gloucester did little until the second half, and the work accomplished then was by no means perfect. Chapman had more of the ball than in Friday's match, but he was often bored too near touch, and with a couple of opponents waiting on him he was unable to get through, though once or twice it was a very near thing.

Stanley Cook and Hudson worked well together on the left wing, and both were prominent with some strong runs.

Cook, at full-back, was in good form, though he was rather easily slipped by Baldwin when the latter scored Bream's try.

Jenkins got through a lot of useful work at outside half for Bream, and all the three-quarters shone in defence. The full-back, too, was very safe.

Of the City forwards, Holford, Cook, Lodge, and Meadows were the most conspicuous, though the pack, as a whole, was not up to form.

Scorers for Gloucester : Hudson (2) and Hamblin. Dix kicked a penalty goal.

The County Union Hon. Secretary informs me that the Rugby Union have granted permission for a match in the close season for the benefit of the Cinderford Club, a combination of Gloucester and Cinderford meeting the Rest of the County.

The Continental trip which had been cancelled was re-arranged, and I hear five Gloucester players have gone, viz. J. Hamblin, W. Washbourne, F. Bloxsome, G. Griffiths, and A. Sysum.

Other players included in the team are : V. Eberle, E. Briggs, and R. Witchell (Clifton), R. Merry (Gloucester Old Boys), E. Wornett (Exeter), and J. Watkins, J. Wright, and G. Walkley (Cinderford).

GLOUCESTER A v GLOUCESTER OLD BOYS

CITY SECONDS ON TOP

Played at Sandhurst on Saturday in splendid weather. The Old Boys started, but the seconds quickly assumed the offensive and confined play to the home half, where after the forwards had set up a strong attack Mumford crossed with a neat try. Hayward landed a lovely goal.

After the restart Gloucester still continued to press, until the Old Boys by means of kick and rush tactics gained the centre. Here they were penalised, and Hayward from the half-way line struck the upright with his kick.

The Old Boys forwards, by means of dashing play, worked to the other end, where they were awarded a penalty, the kick failing.

From the drop-out Gloucester went clear away, and Webb crossed in the corner, Hayward failing.

The Seconds continued to press until the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 1 goal 1 try

Old Boys Nil

Upon the resumption the Seconds immediately attacked, and but for the good defensive work of the homesters would have been over once or twice. The Old Boys paid a brief visit to their opponents' territory where they were repulsed, only to come back again, but nothing material resulted.

The A team worked back again. Webb then made a brilliant run down the wing for them, but just failed to reach the line and nothing resulted. The homesters then took the offensive and Pearce cut through, but his pass was muddled, and a possible chance was lost. The Old Boys were now playing their hardest to reduce the lead, but they met a strong defence.

Gloucester then assumed command and confined play for a considerable period to the Old Boys' 25, but they lacked finish to their movements. They invariably obtained the ball from the scrum, but the scrum-half pass was generally mulled and passing was out of the question. In a scramble on the Old Boys' line Watts crossed for Gloucester, the kick failing.

The two packs were now going great guns, but the Seconds' forwards dribbled with much more cohesion. The end came without further scoring.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 1 goal, 2 tries (11 points)
Gloucester Old Boys Nil

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