

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1906.

COUNTY CUP COMPETITION.

FIRST ROUND.

GLOUCESTER v. BREAM.

BREAM'S HOPELESS STRUGGLE AT KINGSHOLM.

CITY TEAM'S HEAVY SCORE.

This tie attracted a very poor gate at Kingsholm. Johns, Gent, and G. Vears stood down on the home side, and Bream had to field minus the services of Preest (three-quarter) and Jenkins (half-back).

The weather was raw and cold.

The visitors' colours being the same as Gloucester's, the City team were attired in white jerseys.

The players took the field at 3.30 as follows : —

Gloucester. — G. Romans, back; C. Smith, E. Hall, J. Harrison, and A. Hudson, three-quarter backs; J. Stephens and A. E. Wood, half-backs; A. Hawker, B. Parham, F. Pegler, J. Merchant, J. Jewell, G. Matthews, H. Collins, and W. Holder, forwards.

Bream. — F. Moore, back; J. Kent, A. James, A. Worgan, and A. Moore, three-quarter backs; H. Rudge and J. Baker, half-backs; H. Croome (capt.), G. Davies, M. Jones, W. Baker, G. Cooper, G. Reeks, T. Wasley, and T. James, forwards.

Referee : Mr. J. Milburn (Bristol); linesmen, Messrs. F. H. French and H. C. Browning.

## THE GAME.

Gloucester won the toss, and Bream kicked off from the Worcester-street goal. An exchange of kicks left the game at mid-field but from the first scrum Wood missed Stephens' pass, and Baker dribbled a few yards. Hall soon changed the venue with a big punt, and then from a bout of passing the ball came along to Harrison. The centre ran to F. Moore when he transferred to Hudson, who scored the first try within three minutes of the kick-off. Romans landed a goal.

Bream resumed, and there was a brief spell of even play at the centre. The City backs, however, got away smartly, but Harrison failed to take his pass. Gloucester continued on the attack, and Smith was nearly over in the corner. A loose rush by the Foresters relieved the pressure, and faulty passing by the home men allowed them to reach mid-field. Here Stephens fed Wood cleverly, and Hudson with a sharp dash, ran clear, but passed wildly and lost a certain score.

Loose play by Gloucester enabled the visitors to gain a good slice of ground, and further mistakes by the home men allowed Bream to have a fair share of the game. The City forwards got away with a couple of rushes, but F. Moore saved in good style.

Gloucester were continually heeling, but the combination behind was faulty, the ball being frequently knocked on or passed forward. At length the home backs got set going by Collins from a line-out, and Harrison, slipping through, passed at the right moment to Hall, who in turn handed to Smith for the latter to run behind the posts. Another goal resulted.

Romans replied to the kick-off with a very fine kick to touch beyond the centre line. Gloucester were soon on the aggressive again, forwards and backs taking part in a series of exchanges. James, however, stopped a certain try by intercepting.

Bream worked out of danger and got beyond mid-field. Here Stephens initiated a bout of passing, which left the ball with Hudson. The wing man put on his best pace, and after a very fine run scored a capital try. The place kick failed.

On the drop-out Hawker received and ran through the opposing forwards, but a possible chance of scoring was thrown away through failure to handle. A couple of minutes later Harrison cleverly deceived the defence, and after running up to F. Moore gave to Smith, who notched a corner try. Romans failed with the goal kick.

Bream restarted, and Wood failing to take a pass from Stephens, James dribbled through and kicked past Romans. Hall, however, got back and kicked to touch. For a few minutes Bream confined play to the home 25, but a big kick by a Gloucester man sent the game to the centre. James made a mis-kick, and Stephens and Wood took the ball on, but F. Moore effected a good save. Bream's defence withstood a sharp attack later, but eventually a combined movement between Stephens, Wood, and Harrison saw the latter trick Moore neatly and score behind the posts. The extra points were added.

Bream resumed, the ball going to Holder. The City forward put in a strong run and passed to Wood, and Harrison and Hudson in turn handled. With a fine dash the International beat the full back, and another try resulted behind the posts. Romans goaled.

Before the interval Harrison crossed again, the place-kick failing.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 4 goals, 3 tries  
Bream ..... Nil

Hawker resumed, Gloucester holding a substantial lead of 29 points. Wood now worked the scrums, and getting the ball away cleverly Stephens fed his backs with judgment. Smith dodged nicely and gave Parham a walk in, but the latter missed the pass.

Immediately after Stephens cut through on his own, and passed to Holder, who failed to take. Pegler, however, was handy, and picking up dropped over the line. Romans just failed to goal with a fine kick.

On the drop-out Bream showed up with some useful kicks, and on one occasion the ball went over the line for a minor. The re-start saw Gloucester at once make tracks for their opponents' goal, and following neat passing between Wood, Stephens, Smith, and Hall, the latter swerved past the full back and over the line with a clever try. Romans placed the goal.

The kick-off went to Hall, who dropped the ball, but, recovering, passed forward to Romans. A scrum was formed on the home 25, and Hall was soon in possession. Beating a couple of opponents he transferred to Harrison, who raced away, and when confronted by an opponent sent to Hudson. The latter had several men to beat who had got across, but no one could check Hudson's career, and the eleventh try of the match followed. Romans added the extra points.

Bream were again in difficulties immediately on the resumption, and some lovely passing by the home players, in which Romans joined, ended in Hall scoring, a goal resulting.

Gloucester were soon busy on the attack when the game was continued, Hudson only being pushed to touch a yard or so outside. Bream, by intercepting, cleared to beyond the 25. Stephens and Smith got away with a lovely bit of work, but the wing man was collared from behind when almost over. A minute later Hudson crossed with his fifth try, and a goal resulted.

Bream restarted, and Harrison, from his own 25, started a movement which culminated in Hall adding to the score. The goal kick failed.

The game had hardly been resumed before Parham, receiving from a throw-out, beat the opposition and scored, for Romans to add the goal points. Before the end Smith notched another try, which was not converted.

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 10 goals, 6 tries (68 points)  
Bream ..... Nil

REMARKS.

The score put on by Gloucester has only once been beaten at Kingsholm. This was in 1901-2, when in the opening match of the season the City scored 10 goals, 8 tries (74 points) to nil against Clifton. On that occasion "Whacker" Smith was credited with eight tries on his own, which stands as the individual record for the club.

To-day's game was too one-sided to call for comment. At the outset the Bream players tackled creditably, but they subsequently failed miserably in defence, and tries came with remarkable rapidity.

All the Gloucester backs were in capital form, but it was noticed that the combination was far more effective with Stephens playing in his usual position as stand-off half. Several of the tries were scored from movements which originated in the Gloucester 25, the running and passing being delightful to witness.

Hudson followed up his success last week by scoring another half-dozen points, making eleven tries in two matches. He was well fed by Harrison, and Hall and Smith (on the right wing) worked beautifully together.

Romans' ten goals out of sixteen attempts is a fine record, but with a little luck the City custodian might have been even more successful.