

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1922.

FOOTBALL.

GLO'STER WELL BEATEN AT SWANSEA.

AFTER BEING ONLY TRY DOWN AT INTERVAL.

WELSHMEN SCORE SIXTEEN POINTS TO NIL.

As in the match at Kingsholm a fortnight ago, when a pointless draw was recorded, both Gloucester and Swansea were again weakly represented for the return game at St. Helens.

The City have Kerwood, Dix, Brown, and Hughes all on the injured list, and other players unable to make the journey were Daniell, Roderick and Harris.

These defections necessitated a re-organisation of the team, and Voyce was played at wing three-quarter, whilst Hall appeared at scrum half, a position he occupied in his earlier days for Cinderford.

Swansea were minus their four International players (Parker, Bowen, Palmer, and Islwyn Evans) engaged for Wales against Scotland, and also Joe Rees, who was suffering from the knee injury sustained in the match with England.

The All Whites had the stronger lot of reserves to call upon, and having held their own at Kingsholm were considered good enough to go one better on their own ground.

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : H. R. James.

THREE-QUARTERS : T. Voyce, F. Webb, F. Meadows, and S. R. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS : A. Hall and T. Millington.

FORWARDS : S. Smart (capt.), G. Holford, F. W. Ayliffe, G. Coulson, M. Evans, H. W. Collier, S. Bayliss, and H. G. Mountford.

SWANSEA.

BACK : L. D. Hopkins.

THREE-QUARTERS : Jenkins, Trevor Davies, D. J. Hughes, and J. Elwyn Evans.

HALF-BACKS : Tudor Williams and R. Smitham.

FORWARDS : R. Huxtable, A. Evans, Lewis Jones, W. Tanner, G. Michael, H. Thomas, J. H. John, and T. Wilkins.

THE GAME.

There were 5,000 spectators. Immediately after the kick off Swansea attacked, but James drove them back to the centre with a fine kick, aided by the wind, and Smart kicking Gloucester got to the opposite end, where Voyce almost succeeded in getting through, but was frustrated by Hopkins tackling strongly.

Keen forward play by Gloucester kept Swansea on the defensive, Webb making a great effort to cross, but was grassed five yards out. The danger was removed by Smitham, but good handling by Webb, Meadows, and Crowther saw the latter thrown to touch a yard from the line. The homesters gained relief by good forward play. The All Whites passed well, and Evans eluding James scored an unconverted try in the corner.

Stung by this reverse, Gloucester made great efforts to equalise, but the Swansea backs defended gamely. Play was taken to the Gloucester line, where Hopkins attempted to drop for goal, but the ball fell short.

Swansea looked like scoring again, but James brought off a grand tackle. A couple of penalties enabled Gloucester to get to midfield, while Crowther gained touch by a kick to touch.

The City exerted great pressure on the Swansea line, but Webb was selfish, otherwise Crowther would have scored. Again Swansea rushed to the Gloucester line, only to find James safe. The Welshmen handled accurately, but Evans hit the corner flag when crossing. The drop-out brought Gloucester relief, Voyce, following up splendidly, forcing Hopkins to kick straight to touch. An individual effort by Millington ended in failure.

Gloucester resorted to high kicking, which gained considerable ground, Swansea being forced to utilise every device to keep their line intact. Good passing by the Gloucester three-quarters almost ended in a score, but Evans grassed Crowther when he looked like getting clear. Both sides gave the ball plenty of air, but the tackling was keen. Aggressive work by Swansea was defeated by Webb.

The Gloucester line had a narrow escape after clever handling by Swansea, Crowther tackling Evans five yards out. Davies shortly afterwards broke through, but delayed passing, James effecting a grand tackle. Bayliss, Smart, and Holford broke away with the ball at their feet, but Hopkins pulled them up before they could become dangerous, sending the ball to the centre with a grand kick.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
SWANSEA 1 try
GLOUCESTER Nil

After the interval Swansea soon got into a favourable position, but Meadows intercepted and ran to the centre, Crowther missing a wide pass when a chance presented itself. Gloucester were forced back to their own line, where Evans was given an opportunity only to be forced to touch by James. The City forwards used their feet well, regaining neutral territory with smart rushes. James at this stage saved his line continually by splendid tackling.

After the Gloucester citadel had undergone severe pressure, Webb managed to gain relief by screw kicking to touch. The respite was not of long duration, as a great burst by Smitham terminated in another try, which was not converted. The high wind proved Gloucester's downfall, as the home backs when pressed kicked high, and smart following up placed the Gloucester line in danger.

Millington, Webb, and James defended magnificently, tackling the Swansea backs with great determination, thereby saving several scores. Off-side by Hall almost brought disaster, as Hopkins only just missed placing a penalty goal. Play during the second portion of the game had been almost entirely in Gloucester quarters, the home forwards being superior in the tight scrums, despite strenuous work by Smart, Mountford, and Evans.

Seeing that the Gloucester defence was equal to the handling movements, Swansea changed their tactics, a long rush gaining considerable ground. Jones dribbled and passed James, and fell on the ball just as it went over the line for Hopkins to convert with a fine kick.

After this reverse Gloucester paid a visit to the Swansea line, when handling by the visiting backs should have ended in a score, but Voyce missed a pass from Webb, when well placed. The City made a great spurt, and Voyce again got within a yard only to be bowled over by Hopkins. Davies, the Swansea centre, was in great form, his kicking bringing relief to the All Whites.

A sharp attack by Williams, Davies, and Evans was well stopped by Crowther and James, the latter robbing Evans and finding touch at the centre. Swansea kept up a warm attack, Michael dribbling over the line and scoring a try, which Hopkins converted.

Gloucester retaliated with a fine movement among the backs, ending in Voyce being tackled close to the line. Just before the end Crowther also made a great effort, but Hopkins proved too good. Gloucester pressed to the end of the game, but failed to score.

RESULT :

SWANSEA 16 points
GLOUCESTER Nil

REMARKS.

Our Swansea correspondent telegraphs : –

Gloucester missed their chances in the first half, but did not utilise the wind as they should. James was great as custodian. Voyce, on the wing, put in several fine runs, while Webb's long kicks frequently saved his side. Smart, Mountford, and Holford were the pick of the forwards but Millington and Hall suffered through lack of opportunities, the forwards being beaten in the tight scrums.

BATH A HANDSOME WINNERS.

GLOUCESTER A's DISAPPOINTING SHOW AT KINGSHOLM.

Snow was falling when the Gloucester A v. Bath A match was commenced. There was a fair attendance.

Gloucester A : J. C. Collett; N. Daniell, F. Wadley, A. E. Hopcroft, and S. Langston; W. Brown and T. Burns; F. Mansell, J. Rea, J. H. Webb, S. Davies, G. Bishop, A. Wright, E. Curtis, and T. Bridges.

Bath A : G. L. Chapman; A. E. Anderson, J. B. Hannah, L. M. Basden, and A. Hole; E. G. Northway and H. Slade; W. H. Royal, G. E. Blake, D. Clifford, A. Dobson, G. Hackway, A. Fisher, G. Bence, and S. Odey.

Referee : J. Baker.

Gloucester A attacked strongly from the start, and exerted considerable pressure. The home forwards heeling nicely, Brown and Burns set the three-quarters going. The ball reached Langston, who kicked. Wadley secured and cross-kicked in turn, and Burns being well up the captain scored a good try, which he failed to convert.

Bath worked up on the restart, but Collett sent them back and off-side by their forwards sent play to mid-field. Brown early shone with some pretty work at the base of the scrum, but the condition of the ball was too bad for successful handling.

Collett, with a smart run and mighty kick, sent the City to the Bath quarter, where the backs handled; but Hannah intercepted, and after a strong run sent to Hole. Daniell was too fast for the wing man and, getting back, checked the movement, but not until the home 25 was reached. Here the ball was kicked across the field to Hannah, who dribbled splendidly and touched down, in spite of the efforts of Curtis to forestall him. The kick at goal failed.

The Bath pack were putting their backs into it now, and the threes were showing up to better advantage; but the mud caused much trouble. Wright, charging down a kick by Chapman, put Gloucester well up; but the defence was keen, and presently Basden got away and ran strongly, sending to Hole, who was pulled down by Daniell.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	1 try
Bath A	1 try

The second half opened with a keen forward struggle at midfield. Anderson burst through nicely but was pulled down. The Bath forwards rushed to the home quarter, and then the Gloucester men came away with the ball at their feet. The Gloucester backs were handling when Hannah intercepted again, and beating Collett dribbled half the length of the field, scoring near the posts for Blake to convert.

Bath were showing plenty of dash, and making it dangerous for Gloucester to open out. The home team were now defending desperately. Collett having picked up ran round strongly, but he passed to Langston, who failed to take the transfer, and Basden rushing up scored a soft try. Blake failed to cover the cross-bar.

Gloucester were playing up better now, but had no luck, and after a period of pressure Bath came away again after intercepting, and Hannah scored another try without opposition. Blake made no mistake with the kick.

After a period of defending Gloucester made a dash to the Bath line, but the effort was fruitless, Chapman touching down just in time.

RESULT :

Bath A 2 goals, 2 tries (16 points)

Gloucester A 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

Gloucester A put up a fair game in the first half, but were entirely outclassed in the concluding stages. The Bath centres, Hannah and Basden, were the driving force of the visiting team, who were much smarter and played a clever game despite the state of the ground. Their forwards were superior to the home front, both in the scrums and in the loose, but at half-back Brown and Burns put up a big fight, and were the better pair, although Slade was a very useful fly half.

The home three-quarters could do nothing right, and made a mistake in trying to open up, for Hannah and Basden were too quick for them and turned the open movements to Bath's advantage. Collett, who was very hard worked, was in good form, and made no mistakes.