

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1922.

FOOTBALL.

DRAWN MATCH AT KINGSHOLM.

GLOUCESTER'S BAD LUCK AGAINST SWANSEA.

With a third of the regular Swansea team engaged for Wales against England at Cardiff, and Gloucester minus the services of Kerwood, Dix, Voyce, and Roderick, in addition to Lawson, there was not the usual interest centred in the visit of the famous All Whites to Kingsholm to-day. With full teams out the match would probably have attracted one of the best gates of the season; as it was the attendance was down considerably for a first-class Welsh fixture. Gloucester again played James and Poole at full-back and scrum half respectively, in the absence of Kerwood and Dix, and Evans and Bayliss filled the vacancies forward. Swansea had the assistance of players from Ponterdulais and Amman United – clubs which have supplied the All Whites with some of their best men. With the sides so unrepresentative the result was regarded as a very open one, especially with the City's form in home matches anything but convincing.

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : H. R. James.

THREE-QUARTERS: N. Daniell, E. H. Hughes, F. Meadows, and S. A. Brown.

HALF-BACKS: G. Poole and T. Millington.

FORWARDS : S. Smart (capt.), G. Holford, F. W. Ayliffe, A. Hall, J. Harris, S. Bayliss, H. W. Collier, and M. Evans.

SWANSEA.

BACK : D. Hopkins.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. Harding, E. Davies, T. Davies, and J. E. Evans.

HALF-BACKS : Tudor Williams and D. J. Hughes.

FORWARDS : R. Huxtable (capt.), J. H. John, A. Evans, E. Williams, L. Jones, T. Wilkins, W. Tanner, and H. Thomas.

Referee : Mr. A. J. Trollope (Surrey).

THE GAME.

Gloucester kicked off before a small attendance, and upon a heavy ground, and at once took the game to the visitors' quarters, where a Swansea man secured and punted to James. The home full back fielded well and ran round, finishing up with a nice kick to touch. Then Poole, picking up cleanly, ran well and passed to Brown, but the wing man failed to take the ball, which went to touch.

Gloucester worked up again, aided by a forward dash led my Smart, but the defence was safe. A penalty against the Welshmen gained a good slice of ground for the home team, who continued to attack. The state of the ball made accurate handling difficult; but Millington, receiving from Poole, who was getting the ball away splendidly, ran strongly and gave to Brown, who made further headway, with the result that Swansea were hard pressed right on their line.

The Swansea forwards then fed the halves, with the result that Hughes got in a useful kick and eased the pressure. Then the All White forwards gained control of the ball in the loose and rushed practically the full length of the field. They set up a vigorous attack on the home line, but Evans eventually made a mark and sent them back; but they returned, and getting the ball out caused the home defence some anxious moments.

A grand forward burst, with Holford and Smart leading, entirely changed the venue, and the City were once more attacking strongly. Millington essayed a drop at goal, but could not raise the heavy ball. Hughes, with a smart dash and punt, initiated another attack by the City, but Hopkins was safe and sent nicely to touch. Then came an ugly forward burst by the visiting forwards, and James, who went down pluckily for the ball, checked the onslaught; but lost the ball, and Meadows, who had got back, was not successful in doing much, and the movement was not terminated until the Welshmen reached the home quarters.

Only determined tackling kept the visitors out until a drop-out was ordered. Swansea, however, came again, but a fine kick by Millington centred play and relaxed the tension.

Off-side by one of the home forwards after a punt by James placed Gloucester again in a dangerous position but Millington, who was playing a delightfully safe game, again put in a kick to touch which brought much-needed relief. The City then embarked on an attack, and Harding kicking across the field, the ball came to Brown, who cut inside beautifully and crossed near the posts, but was brought back for an infringement.

The home team, however, continued to press, and Daniell, who had been very much neglected, put in a run and just failed to get there, the corner flag being knocked down in the attempt. The interval soon afterwards arrived.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
GLOUCESTER Nil
SWANSEA Nil

Swansea worked down on the resumption, but the City pack heeled, and Poole serving Millington the vice-captain sent play to mid-field. The home backs then handled, but Meadows was collared in possession and a promising movement broke down. The City men continued the pressure, and some further passing was indulged in, but Hughes held on just a bit too long when Daniell had a possible opening.

The visiting defence then marked several times in succession, but the resultant kicks gained them little relief. Gloucester were now exerting great pressure, and the defence had to exert every endeavour to keep them out. Then, however, the game underwent a sudden change. J. E. Evans, the Swansea left wing, broke away and dribbled down the field in splendid style. Hughes was following him very closely, but had not quite sufficient speed. However, Daniell got back and beating Evans narrowly, touched down and saved a certain try.

After this Swansea continued to test the home defence, and a dash was made for the corner, but after a scrum Gloucester worked to safety, and a period of midfield play ensued. The ground was frightfully greasy, especially in the centre, but Brown managed to pick up and put in a short dash and kick, which placed the City again in a good attacking position.

Hopkins was safe, and kicking to touch he neutralised the advantage gained by the home forwards. Millington and Poole were working very well together and doing some very useful work. James also, who was not generally hard pressed was playing a fine game, finding touch admirably.

A sharp dash by E. J. Hughes saw James field well, but he slipped and the Swansea forwards were carrying on when Collier took the ball from their feet and stopped a dangerous rush. Meadows kicked down field, and Gloucester were again in the Swansea quarter. The City were awarded a penalty, but Millington although he put in a fine kick, failed to cover the cross-bar. Gloucester were striving hard to bring off a score and Millington made a smart dash but was pulled down. Then the ball came out on the left, Hall, Hughes, and Brown trying to do something, but failing to manipulate the greasy ball.

The most spectacular run of the afternoon was made by Daniell within the last couple of minutes. The halves and three-quarters, aided by Hall, who had been brought out of the pack, handled superbly and Daniell had a clear run half the length of the field and only just failed to pass Hopkins, who pushed him into touch at the corner flag.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER Nil
SWANSEA Nil

REMARKS.

Gloucester were very unfortunate in having to be content with a drawn and scoreless game. They were undoubtedly the better team, and had the ground conditions been better would probably have come out on top. They were pressing during the greater part of the time, and in the second half certainly deserved better luck.

The movement which led to Daniell's last run was beautiful, and only the wing man's inability to dodge prevented a score. Brown also had hard lines in being called back earlier in the game. On the other hand, the dribble executed by J. E. Evans for Swansea was a brilliant attempt, and deserved success; but so also was Daniell's champion run which spoiled the effort.

In the packs the home lot had things pretty well their own way, and Poole worked the scrums with success. Millington was in excellent form, and the home three-quarters all made a creditable show; while James again did all that could be wished, fielding and finding touch admirably.

Of the visitors, J. E. Evans, D. J. Hughes, and Hopkins were the pick. Under better conditions Evans would have been really dangerous.

Next week : Guy's Hospital; away.

J.H.H.

GLOUCESTER A's NARROW DEFEAT.

TWO POINTS DOWN AT BREAM.

This match was played at Bream. In the first half Poulson scored for Gloucester. Birt made the scores level with a try, and Preece dropped a goal for Bream, but one of the visitors touched the ball in flight, and it was disallowed. Half-time : Bream, 1 try; Gloucester A, 1 try.

On resuming Sam Stone ran the length of the field, only to be brought down on the line. Jenkins subsequently scored for Bream, and Langston dropped a goal for Gloucester. In the closing stages Moore added another try for Bream.

RESULT :

Bream 3 tries (9 points)
Gloucester A 1 goal (d), 1 try (7 pts.)