

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1923.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER OUTCLASSED.

LLANELLY MUCH BETTER TEAM THAN WHEN AT KINGSHOLM.

For the return match with Llanelly at Stradey Park, Gloucester could not command their strongest team, the absentees including Collett, Stone, Smart, Hall, and Roderick. Tom Voyce, however, was available forward, and the presence of the International was some compensation for the loss of the services of such stalwarts as Smart, Hall, and Roderick.

In the game at Kingsholm in December Gloucester triumphed by 1 dropped goal and 3 tries (13 points) to nil, this performance being the City's best against Welsh teams this season.

At Llanelly Gloucester have generally faired badly, and the City's one solitary victory at Stradey dates back to season 1898-9, when the Scarlets were beaten by two tries to one. R. Goddard and Percy Stout were the try-getters in this memorable game, the full team being : –

G. Romans; W. H. Taylor (captain), P. Stout, F. M. Luce, and G. F. Collett; R. Goddard and B. Parham; C. Hall, A. H. Chick, G. H. Smith, F. Goulding, A. White, F. Oswell, J. Lewis, and H. Manley.

Distinguished players in the beaten Llanelly team were Evan Lloyd, Morgan Williams, and R. T. Gabe at three-quarter; Ben Davies and Dai Davies at half-back; and D. J. Daniell, W. Morris, D. Walters, and W. H. Thomas (all Internationals), forward.

Llanelly were short of Bryn Evans, their captain, who met with a serious accident last week, and one or two forwards were doubtful. On their own ground Llanelly are still a very difficult side to beat, and the City, bearing in mind their long and continued ill-success in Wales could hardly expect to repeat their Kingsholm victory to-day with the depleted side doing duty.

#### GLOUCESTER.

BACK : R. James.

THREE-QUARTERS : N. Daniell, E. Hughes, S. Brown, and J. W. Gibbs.

HALF-BACKS : T. Gough and T. Millington.

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe (capt.), G. Holford, H. W. Collier, T. Voyce, S. Bayliss, T. Coulson, M. Evans, and A. Rea.

#### LLANELLY.

BACK : Ewart Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : Albert Jenkins, T. Morgan, E. Finch, and Elwyn Evans.

HALF-BACKS : Arthur John and Dai John.

FORWARDS : Gethin Thomas, Ivor Jones, J. Thomas, Fred Harris, Claud Ellery, A. Williams, Tom Jones, and Cliffe Williams.

Referee : Mr. A. E. Freethy (Neath).

#### THE GAME.

In contrast to the wet weather when the train left Gloucester, the conditions at Llanelly were very bright, and there were 7,000 spectators. The ground was sloppy in places after the heavy rain of the week.

Millington missed from Llanelly's kick-off, but recovering got the ball to touch inside his own 25. Close collaring by the home forwards led to a scrum in front of the Gloucester goal. Then the City punted out to Evans, who marked, but the drop for goal fell short.

There were further exchanges of kicks between Millington and an opponent, ending in the Gloucester man finding touch well. Llanelly opened out from the line out, but the passing broke down, and the City cleared. James further improved by the aid of a penalty but the Welshmen worked back, and Gloucester were in danger. From a kick-out Morgan attempted to mark, but failed. He, however, managed to pass to E. Evans, who, unmarked, raced over the line with a try, which Jenkins failed to convert.

Gloucester returned strongly, but fine touch-kicking sent them back. Brown tried hard to intercept some loose passing, but was brought down, and then the Llanelly forwards broke clear with a brilliant dribble, Ellery finally picking up and scoring in the corner. The place-kick failed.

This second reverse put Gloucester on their mettle, and on the restart the forwards shone in a strong burst, Morgan being collared close in. For off-side John was penalised, but Millington's shot for goal went wide. Play on the drop-out favoured Llanelly, whose backs kicked with splendid judgment. Millington gained some 20 yards with a useful punt, but the ground was quickly won back by the Llanelly forwards, who were playing a dashing game in the loose. At length the home backs opened out, and Jenkins made a strong run, but fell to a good tackle.

Gloucester eased the dangerous situation with good footwork, but the City were beaten in general play, some close work at midfield ending in Llanelly breaking away, but an off-side tackle of James brought them back. At this point there was a brief delay whilst Voyce received attention for a damaged wrist.

Resuming, Gloucester kicked down to Morgan twice in succession. In the second instance the full back ran round and started passing, but Evans missed the transfer from Jenkins. Llanelly still attacked, and the Gloucester line had a narrow escape. After neat handling from a line-out the ball got to Jenkins, who dropped a clever goal amidst cheers.

Gloucester could make no impression on the restart, and wild passing by Gough allowed the home backs to get away. The tackling was feeble, and Evans crossed in the corner in dashing style, no goal resulting.

Gloucester shaped a little better in the subsequent play, but never looked dangerous. Voyce brought off a great tackle of Jenkins when the latter was almost through.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
LLANELLY ..... 1 goal (d) 3 tries  
GLOUCESTER ..... Nil

Llanelly had well deserved their substantial lead. Gloucester were outpointed in most departments, and only on occasions did they threaten serious danger. The home forwards generally held the advantage, and though the backs made mistakes they were too smart all round for the visitors.

Soon after the restart Llanelly worked to the City quarter, where two big efforts were made to pierce the defence, but without success. Gloucester, however, had to touch down a minute later. Following the drop out Brown had his kick charged down, and a Llanelly forward gathered and went for the line, but was overhauled just in time. Llanelly, however, were not to be denied, for next passing saw Jenkins give Finch an opening, and the wing man sprinted over in the corner. Jenkins again missed the goal kick.

From the kick off Jenkins had his return charged down, and Gloucester had a possible chance. A home player, however, got back and saved. The City worked desperately to effect a score, but they were beaten off, and the Welshmen again attacked hotly. Twice the City narrowly escaped, there being more than an element of luck in saving on the second occasion.

A fine rush by the visiting forwards brought much needed relief. A kick through and follow up by Brown pressed Morgan, but the home custodian cleared beautifully, beating several opponents before passing.

Gloucester for once got the ball out cleanly, but Brown was soon pulled down and the attack petered out. Llanelly by good kicking got down to the Gloucester line, where D. John brought off a clever run, beating the defence and scoring in a good position for Ivor Jones to land a goal.

This made Llanelly's points 21 to nil, and Gloucester certainly had been clean out of the hunt as far as clever football was concerned. For a few minutes after the re-start Gloucester held their own, Ayliffe and Voyce doing well forward, and Millington kicking nicely, but clever tactics by the Brothers John sent Llanelly away, and Gloucester only saved by some very determined tackling.

Subsequent play was fast and keen, but Gloucester were unable to do the correct thing, and several times lost ground by faulty play.

In the last ten minutes the Gloucester forwards took matters into their own hands, and brought off one magnificent dash more than half the length of the field. Jenkins and John were pulled down in procession, but Morgan managed to save.

The City tried an attack on the right, but nothing resulted. The brothers John broke away cleverly, and after a series of exchanges Evans raced round behind the posts. The shot at goal hit the upright.

Gloucester played up pluckily towards the end, and in a rush Bayliss scored. The place kick failed.

RESULT :

LLANELLY ... 2 goals (1d), 5 tries (24 pts.)  
GLOUCESTER ..... 1 try (3 pts.)

REMARKS.

Gloucester were a well-beaten side to-day. At times the City played pluckily and well, but as a combination they were not in the same class as Llanelly, who played fifty per cent better than when at Kingsholm.

In the tight scrums matters were fairly even, but the Welshmen were far superior in the loose and lines-out, some of their loose rushes being almost unstoppable. Behind Llanelly held a distinct advantage. The men possessed pace, combination, and cleverness, and the City could not hold them at times. James played a good game at full back, and could not be held responsible for the free scoring of the home team. The side were outclassed as a whole.

Next week : Gloucester v. Coventry, at Kingsholm.

### GLOUCESTER A v. BREAM.

#### FORESTERS WIN A KEEN GAME.

Bream provided the opposition for Gloucester A at Kingsholm this afternoon, the match taking place at the close of the boys' international trial. There was a record attendance for a Second match.

Teams : –

Gloucester A. – H. Charles; F. Wadley, S. Crowther, W. Clements, and W. Pitt; J. Rea and W. Collins; F. Mansell (capt.), J. Harris, T. Taylor, P. Carter, W. Rose, F. Ford, A. Meadows, and J. Harding.

Bream : – A. Vaughan; J. Wasley, A. Jenkins, B. James, and F. Brain; G. Hancock and R. Meek; W. Robbins, E. Ward, R. Jeffs, S. Birt, R. Worgan, T. Yorke, W. Dunn, and W. Preece.

The opening stages were marked by a rush by the City Seconds to the Bream line, but the Foresters soon cleared and a keen struggle took place at mid-field. Another forward movement tested the Bream defence, and there was a scramble on their line, but a scrum was ordered.

Jenkins headed a fine dash for Bream, and again play was fought out at the centre. Pitt and Crowther ran down strongly until Pitt was brought down by J. Wasley with a leg tackle.

Bream were getting the ball back, and their halves set the threes in motion, Brain running strongly before being brought down. The visitors had a chance after a three-quarter movement, but they fumbled.

Then Gloucester worked to the centre, but James marked. From a scrum near the 25 Bream heeled well, and the ball travelled along to Jenkins, who made ground and passed to Wasley, for the wing man to score an unconverted try.

Bream now tried the five-three-quarter game, and gave the ball plenty of air. Wasley was only just kept out by a fine tackle by Crowther. A penalty taken by Charles brought much needed relief to the City.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Bream ..... 1 try  
Gloucester A ..... Nil

Resuming, Gloucester took up the attack and pressed to the Bream quarter, but they could not force a way through, and the contest continued to be fiercely waged at midfield. Collins made a mark, but Robbins fielded and also marked. Pushing the Gloucester man in the back in a line-out led to a penalty against Bream, but the home team gained little ground.

Robbins led a forward rush into the City territory, but the home backs tackled keenly for a time. Eventually a strong burst by the Bream pack led to a score by R. Worgan, the kick at goal failing. The home team now attacked, but they were playing very raggedly and did not look like scoring. Vaughan put in a couple of splendid kicks to touch, which kept Bream on the offensive.

RESULT :

Bream ..... 2 tries (6 points)  
Gloucester A ..... Nil

## REMARKS.

Bream are to be congratulated on their victory, which was well deserved. They put altogether more vim into their work than did Gloucester A. It was only in the loose that the home team had a look-in, and even there they were hardly a match for the Foresters.

It was in the back division, however, where Bream excelled. Wasley and Jenkins formed a dangerous wing, but the whole of the three-quarters combined better and ran better than the home backs.

Vaughan played a good game at back for Bream, and Charles also did some good work for the home side. Harris, Mansell and Carter were the outstanding forwards for Gloucester A.

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