

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1930.

GLOUCESTER FIFTEEN POINTS, SWANSEA SIX POINTS.

BEST GAME OF THE SEASON.

SWANSEA'S FIRST DEFEAT BY ENGLISH TEAM.

CITY'S WELL-DESERVED VICTORY.

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

For the fourth Saturday in succession, Gloucester were engaged with a leading Welsh club, Swansea visiting Kingsholm this afternoon for the return match. The famous 'All Whites' have enjoyed a remarkably successful season, with a record of only four defeats in 30 games, and were unbeaten by an English side. Gloucester too, had a record to maintain, having met and defeated Newport and Llanelly at home and drawn with Cardiff.

Additional interest was centred in the match by the presence of two members of the English Selection Committee (Messrs. John Daniell and A. D. Stoop) who came specially to watch McCanlis as a probable for one of the centre positions for England against Scotland. Boughton, too, would probably come under review for full-back in the event of Askew's injury against France preventing his appearance in the Calcutta Cup contest at Twickenham next Saturday week.

Perfect weather prevailed, and with both clubs fielding practically full strength a fine, open game was looked forward to. In the absence of E. W. Lovegrove, Gloucester had the services of another Oxford player in A. E. Brooks, who though he failed to gain his Blue made several appearances for the University this season. He had also assisted London Welsh.

There were two changes in the Swansea team, W. J. Hopkins (the Cambridge Blue) appearing at scrum half for Bryn Evans (injured against Pontypool) and Ben Jones (forward) for J. Rees.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: Roy James, M. A. McCanlis, E. W. Lovegrove, and A. Hough.

HALF-BACKS: F. Price and Don Meadows.

FORWARDS: L. E. Saxby (capt.), J. Davies, A. Carpenter, F. Wadley, E. Comley, J. Hemming, G. Foulkes, and D. Crichton-Miller.

SWANSEA.

BACK: E. Jones.

THREE-QUARTERS: D. P. Manley, J. Tyler, C. Davey, and Howell Jones.

HALF-BACKS: W. Hopkins and W. J. Trew.

FORWARDS: J. H. John, Dai Parker, T. Day, F. Thomas, W. Davies, D. Thomas, E. Long, and Ben Jones.

Referee: W. R. I. Scorer (North Midlands).

THE GAME.

The attendance was one of the best of the season, some 5,000 when the players took the field seven minutes after the advertised time, due to the late arrival of the visitors. Gloucester lost the toss, and Trew receiving from McCanlis's kick-off threw out a wide pass, but Davey missed handling and the movement was stopped. Gloucester immediately responded, and McCanlis was going strongly when he fell to a good tackle. It was early seen that the teams were bent on giving the ball air, and both sets of backs got the ball out nicely.

Boughton checked nicely on the left, and then from a scrum just inside the Swansea half the Welshmen were penalised. Boughton had a long shot for goal, a great effort resulting in the ball just falling under the crossbar, a minor resulting.

FAST PLAY.

Fast play followed the drop-out, and James, cutting through smartly secured a fine opening. He prepared to dodge Jones, but just failed. Gloucester went close with a punt to touch by Boughton, but Swansea came away from their goal-line with lovely passing. Howell Jones was sent away down touch, but Hough brought off a magnificent tackle. Loose play saw Long kick past Boughton, but the City custodian got back and saved, and James aided with a good clearance.

FIRST POINTS FOR GLOUCESTER.

Near the centre Swansea opened out, but Crichton-Miller intercepted and raced away. Reaching Jones he passed to Davies, who tried his hardest to cover the remaining distance, but the County forward was tackled just outside. Gloucester, however, were under the goal, and, the ball coming out to MEADOWS, the latter took direct aim and dropped a lovely goal, amidst tremendous cheering.

This was a splendid start, and the spectators followed the game on the restart with great keenness. Swansea got to the City half, but they were beaten back, and then came another clever interception of a transfer, this time by James.

JAMES' GREAT EFFORT AND A TRY.

The City vice-captain easily beat the Swansea full back and there was a race for half the length of the field. Would James get there ? Great excitement prevailed as he neared the line, but just outside Howell Jones, who had come across, made a jump for James's back and brought him down just outside. It was hard lines for James, for his effort deserved reward.

It mattered little, however, for the ball was got away immediately and HEMMING went over the line with a try. Boughton made a splendid attempt at conversion, but failed.

FINE TACKLING.

Gloucester were seven points up, and the City deserved their lead. Following the restart, Swansea worked to the home end, where Gloucester were penalised at the scrum. Parker, however, missed his shot at goal.

The game continued to be delightfully open, first one side and then the other breaking away. Brooks tried a break-through and cross kick, McCanlis just missing the bounce of the ball. On the right, Howell Jones was well fed from the scrum, but again Hough proved to be his master.

Swansea were having slightly more of the ball just now, and the backs were several times set going, but the home defence was superb.

Trew looked dangerous, but he was brought down in time, and then Gloucester made progress. Swansea pulled the City up at the centre, but a reverse movement went to the left, where Davey and Howell Jones tried hard to get through, but without avail.

SWANSEA OPEN THEIR ACCOUNT.

Gloucester were doing well in all departments, but at length the Welsh backs passed beautifully, and Howell Jones was given possession. He ran very hard, and Boughton failing in his attempt to tackle, the Swansea wing scored in the corner – a fine try. Parker missed the goal points. This made the tally 7-3 in favour of Gloucester,

A GREAT RUSH.

Gloucester restarted, and there was no abatement in the pace of the game. Trew put Swansea down with a short punt ahead, but Boughton gathered safely.

With a great loose dash the City forwards travelled half the length of the ground, the ball being taken past E. Jones and rolling to touch near the 25 flag. Here Crichton-Miller put in a splendid effort, but with a possible opening Comley missed the pass. In some loose play Swansea kicked ahead, but they were penalised for a foul of Boughton. With his kick the City custodian found a great touch.

Gloucester attacked strongly, and matters were a bit lively between the forwards, causing the referee to interfere. It was hot work inside the Swansea 25 until Howell Jones kicked to touch and gained some 20 yards. Half-time was then called.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (d.) 1 try

SWANSEA 1 try

It had been a fine open game and produced a lot of good football. Gloucester deserved their lead, for they made good use of their opportunities and should have scored again with a bit of luck. Swansea, too, had their good points, and the backs were clever and forceful.

Swansea restarted, and the first item of interest was a dashing dribble by Saxby, and a neat pick up and pass to James, but further progress was barred. A penalty to Swansea saw Davey get the ball to touch well up the field, but Boughton lined out quickly and Meadows sent back with a fine kick.

GLOUCESTER GO FURTHER AHEAD.

Crichton-Miller was distinguished with some dashing work and when Swansea tried passing he tackled unerringly. The City attacked through forwards and backs, and the Welsh line was in serious danger. Price went through a bunch of players, and passing to Foulkes, the latter forced himself over the line for a try. Boughton had two shots at goal, owing to Swansea infringing after "no charge," but a splendid second kick passed just outside the upright.

CITY ON THE DEFENCE.

Good kicking by Swansea on the restart gained them a footing in the home half, where Gloucester were penalised 30 yards out, right in front of goal, for "feet up." Parker had a place for goal, but sent wide. McCanlis ran the ball out, and passed to Brooks, but the transfer was ruled forward. A scrum followed on the City 25, where play became scrambling and wild. Gloucester eventually gained relief through James, and later a combined forward burst carried the City well beyond midfield.

A BRILLIANT MOVEMENT.

Gloucester, playing well together, set up an attack on the left, and Boughton had another shot for a penalty goal, but could not cover the cross-bar. Davey received the ball over the line, but came out, and with a brilliant run started a series of exchanges which took the game to the other end. The Welshmen, with more dashing attacks, were nearly through, Gloucester checking right on the line with sound tackles. From a scrum, however, Trew was given possession, and tricking the defence, gave to MANLEY, who scored too far out for Parker to convert – the score was now 10-6 in Gloucester's favour.

GLOUCESTER HARD PRESSED.

Gloucester resumed, and centre play followed for a few minutes. Then the Swansea backs broke away with brilliant passing, Davey making a fine opening for Howell Jones. But the wing man was brought down and his repass spoiled. Boughton was responsible for a good clearance for the City, but E. Jones put Swansea in a good position again with a long touch-finder.

The play had lost some of its high standard, though players came out occasionally with fine efforts. Fumbling by the City backs gave the Welshmen a chance which Trew was quick to utilise. He ran hard for the corner, but was pulled down a few yards from the line. Matters looked dangerous for the home team, but Saxby, with a strong run and pass to James, eased the pressure.

GLOUCESTER MAKE GAME SAFE.

Gloucester made an effort on the right through Meadows, but Hough was too closely surrounded to do anything. The game was near its end, though still possible for Swansea to win. Gloucester, however, were playing determinedly, and threatened danger on the left wing through Meadows. Davies too, made a bold dash, but was held up by numbers. The City, however, were not to be put off, and gathering in the loose, Crichton-Miller jumped the full back and placed the ball over the line. Boughton converted and the game was safe now.

The closing stages were hotly contested. Boughton, instead of kicking when he received from the re-start, ran round and passed, and it went astray, Trew nearly scoring.

The situation was saved, and Gloucester came right away to the other end.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ...	2 gls. (1d.)	2 tries (15 points)
SWANSEA		2 tries (6 points)

REMARKS.

Gloucester added to their notable achievements against Welsh clubs this season, with a very fine victory over Swansea this afternoon. As Newport and Llanelly have previously been defeated at Kingsholm, and Cardiff, at Cardiff, the City have beaten the famous "Welsh Quartette," a performance which has not been accomplished for many seasons.

"The finest game of the season" was the general verdict of the crowd after the match, and the football served up was certainly of the very best. Except for one brief period in the second half the standard of play was very high, the forwards excelling in the loose and the scrums, and the backs combining in some brilliant movements.

Attacks were set up repeatedly, and only superb tackling prevented scores after openings had been made. Gloucester won, and deservedly, though perhaps the margin against the Welshmen was more decisive than the run of play warranted.

The Gloucester forwards put up another magnificent display, and at no point could the Welshmen, good as they were, claim any superiority. The City had encouragement from the start, and though heavily engaged in a fast and stern struggle, the men had something in reserve at the finish. That was a glorious combined effort that gave Gloucester the position from which Crichton-Miller scored his try, and put the issue beyond all doubt.

Well as the City forwards played, and I think they equalled anything ever accomplished as a whole, the old Cambridge Blue was the most spectacular on the field. He did a tremendous amount of tackling, and several times broke away with strong individual efforts. His culminating effort sent the spectators into ecstasies of delight. Saxby and Davies were other players very much in the limelight, but, as mentioned, the whole pack were exceptionally good.

Swansea had a pack of proved merit – keen workers, and fast in the open – but Dai Parker and his colleagues found the City eight more than a match for them in every phase of play. Parker, Thomas and John had periods of great success, and Long was another forward who did excellently.

Behind, Swansea had the more finished combination, but individually – in ability, speed and skill – Gloucester were fully equal to their opponents. The Welshmen were always dangerous when on the attack, and Davey's strong running – notably that one effort from behind his goal-line – was a feature. Trew, too, was very smart, and stylish, and made some neat openings. But the marking of the City backs for the most part was wonderfully good, and the whole line shared in the distinction. Hough never allowed Howell Jones the slightest licence, and James was equally alert when Manley was in possession.

McCanlis and Brooks accomplished a lot of good work in the centre, and with a bit of luck they would have cleared the defence with their strong bursts. Davey was the best of the Swansea three-quarters – a line that would give most teams trouble.

At half-back Price more than held his own with Hopkins, the Cambridge Blue, and Meadows again gave a delightful display. His attacks were incisive and well thought out and his dropped goal cleverly obtained. Boughton did some very fine kicking, but early in the game he was knocked out and was not himself afterwards. After the match he was suffering from slight concussion and he was taken to the Royal Infirmary, where he was detained for an hour or so. Jones gave a sound display for Swansea.

With his converted try this afternoon, Boughton brought his points for the season to 91 – thirty-two converted tries and nine penalty goals. Last season he aggregated 133 points, a record which has only been beaten by T. Millington (154 in 1921-2) and G. Romans (152 in 1905-6).

STRENUOUS GAME.

CITY SECONDS DEFEAT LYDNEY A.

At Lydney. Rea kicked off for the City, but Wilks returned to touch. Play followed for a time in mid-field, and eventually the City Seconds attacked. From passing near the line Loveridge went over in the corner, the kick failing.

Lydney now made determined efforts to equalise, but a free to the City eased the pressure. The home team attacked, and Sandford made a fine effort, going near the line. Being penalised, the City Seconds had an escape when Nelmes' kick just failed to reach the objective.

Loveridge made a good run to score behind the posts, and Ash converted.

Half-time :

Gloucester A	1 goal 1 try
Lydney A	Nil

Play was fast and strenuous in the second half. Loveridge got away, but Charlton brought off a brilliant tackle, stopping a certain try. Lydney deserved to score.

Result :

Gloucester A 1 goal 1 try (8 pts.)
Lydney A Nil

JC