

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1898

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. SWANSEA

THE CITY TEAM IN WALES

THE RECORD BROKEN

A WEAKENED FIFTEEN WELL BEATEN

Played at Swansea. This was Gloucester's first visit to Wales this season, and the fixture aroused tremendous interest on account of the City Club holding an unbeaten certificate.

This was the return match between the clubs, the first engagement ending (according to the referee's ruling) in a draw of three points each, though Gloucester actually won by one goal to one try.

For to-day's encounter Gloucester (as is usually the case when the team journeys into Wales) were sorely handicapped in having to take the field minus five of their most prominent players – Percy Stout, Frank Stout, F. Goulding, A. Stephens, and A. Pitt. Four of the men were on the sick or injured list; whilst Stephens would not play for some reason or other.

The filling up of three vacancies gave the club officials a good deal of anxiety, and it was not until late last night that the fifteen was finally booked up. The substitutes called upon were certainly the best that could be obtained, but Gloucester's chances of retaining their unbroken record were considered very remote.

The team, accompanied by several members of the Committee and a few enthusiasts, left Gloucester by the 7.50 train, and were due to arrive at Swansea about noon. The weather was fine, though cold, and the wind blew across the ground. There was a large crowd of spectators present.

GLOUCESTER	Positions	SWANSEA
B. Hipwood	Backs	W. J. Bancroft
W. H. Taylor (capt.)	Three-quarters	F. Gordon
G. F. Collett	"	Dan Rees
F. M. Luce	"	G. Davies
G. F. Clutterbuck	"	H. Trew
Car Cummings	Half-backs	E. James
C. Williams	"	D. James
C. Hall	Forwards	T. Jackson
C. Rose	"	S. Rice
F. Oswell	"	Hopkin Davies
A. H. Click	"	R. Thomas
W. Leighton	"	A. Jones
T. Hatherall	"	W. Parker
B. L. Watkins	"	L. Davies
Bert Lewis	"	T. Harris

Referee : Mr. Taylor (Cardiff)

THE GAME

Bancroft started for Swansea, and play opened at the centre. The brothers James were early prominent with some clever inter-passing, but Taylor stopped them on the quarter line. From the subsequent scrum Hall dribbled away nicely, finally landing the ball into touch inside the home half. Here play hovered for some few minutes.

The Gloucester forwards showed up with a good rush, but George Davies with a clever kick removed hostilities to the visitors' end, where Gordon, getting a pass from his centre, looked dangerous. He was, however, safely brought down.

For off-side Gloucester were penalised, and Bancroft had a drop for goal, but Watkins relieved finely. By the aid of a combined forward rush Gloucester reached mid-field, but Swansea returned to the attack with a brilliant round of passing, all the backs participating.

For off-side play by G. Hall Gloucester were penalised. Bancroft punted towards the visitors' goal, and the ball being fumbled the Swansea forwards secured, and went over with an easy try. Bancroft converted.

On the re-start Swansea again pressed, and following a short punt by Rees, G. Davies got hold, and scored the second try for Swansea amidst great enthusiasm. No goal resulted.

Ensuing play was fast and furious, but there was no more score to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Swansea 1 goal, 1 try
Gloucester Nil

Gloucester re-started operations, and the home team immediately got to work. A strong forward rush was well saved by Taylor, who got in a neat punt to Gordon. The latter beat several Gloucester players cleverly, and passing inside to Rees the centre ran clean through and scored behind the posts within three minutes of the kick off. Bancroft failed to convert.

On the re-start Cummings got hold from a loose scrum, and passed to Watkins, who executed a dashing run to the Swansea 25 before being hauled down. The Welshmen quickly regained their ground by a superb forward rush, and Gloucester were again busily defending.

The Swansea backs were splendidly fed by the Brothers James, and some grand passing bouts were witnessed. The tackling of the Gloucester men, however, was very keen.

Play continued to go all in favour of Swansea, notwithstanding the plucky efforts of the visitors. At length, Collett intercepted a pass from Evan James, and punting past Bancroft there was a rare race for possession. Luce got well up, but out of a scramble which ensued Bancroft secured and got in a fine kick to half-way.

Carrying subsequent scrums in fine style Swansea kept up a vigorous attack on the Gloucester line, and from a rush Parker was credited with a try. Bancroft failed to convert.

In the last few minutes Gloucester got a chance, and following splendid passing between Clutterbuck, Luce, Collett, and Taylor, the latter scored. Collett failed at goal.

RESULT :

Swansea	2 goals, 3 tries (19 points)
Gloucester	1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

The decisive victory of Swansea was received with tremendous enthusiasm by their supporters. Gloucester were clearly outclassed, both forward and behind, the Welshmen playing a brilliant game throughout. Their first two tries were certainly very lucky, and were due to fumbling on the part of the visitors.

For quite three-parts of the game Gloucester were playing on the defensive. Forward, the city pack were outplayed at all points, the Swansea front rank playing in irresistible style. Notwithstanding this fact Lewis was brought out of the scrum as flying half, this considerably weakening the pack. The brothers James had quite a day out but the referee let them do almost as they liked.

For Gloucester Hipwood saved well, but his kicking was weak. Collett and Luce had few chances to shine in attack, but their tackling was uncertain. Taylor worked hard against odds, and his try was the best of the match. Williams, Hall, and Watkins were the pick of the forwards.

RECEPTION OF THE NEWS

The news of the defeat, and the consequent loss of the much-cherished record, naturally created a good deal of disappointment in Gloucester. Still, it cannot be said any very great surprise was occasioned. The majority of the followers of the City club were fully prepared to hear the worst, for though the team which went down was given credit for putting forth their very best efforts, very little confidence was placed in their ability to win.

By their triumph Swansea take ample revenge for the little disaster which overtook them at the Spa in season 1890-91. On that occasion Gloucester upset the brilliant record of the All Whites; to-day the tables were turned.

GLOUCESTER A v BREAM

HANDSOME VICTORY OVER THE FORESTERS

These teams met this afternoon at Kingsholm, this being the return fixture. The first match between them, played at Bream, resulted in a victory for Gloucester by 1 goal and 1 try (8 points) to nil. G. Barnes, the Gloucester captain, returned to the field this afternoon, and Romans came back to his position at full back, thus giving the team nearly full strength.

The players lined out as follows : –

GLOUCESTER. – G. Romans, back; C. Smith, W. Dovey, J. Cook, and E. T. James, three-quarter backs; A. D. Lansley and J. Barnes, half-backs; G. Barnes (capt.), J. Corbett, A. Mills, W. Payne, W. White, G. H. Smith, P. Holder, and H. Manley, forwards.

BREAM. – S. Lewis, back; S. Lewis, H. James, A. Worgan, and G. Brain, three-quarter backs; A. Croome and R. Ward, half-backs; G. Voyce (capt.), J. Voyce, A. Downes, A. Bradley, W. Rudge, T. Ward, A. Ward, and H. Miles, forwards.

Referee : F. Rose (G.C.U.).

Voyce started for Bream from the Dean's-walk end at 3.30, and Gloucester immediately got down the field, and from a scrummage under Bream's goal a Bream man intercepted a pass and gained some ground for his side by a kick up the field, Romans failing to get in a return, though he escaped two or three opponents. Play went up and down the field, Romans aiding his side by some good kicking. "Whacker" Smith nearly got over in the corner from the line-out. A forward rush resulted in Payne gaining a try, Romans failing to convert.

On resuming. a series of scrums took place almost on Bream's line, and then the ball got out to G. Romans, who passed to Cook, the latter finding touch with a good kick. From a bad bit of play by the Bream backs, G. Barnes scored near the posts, Romans' kick failing at the easy angle owing to the ball being badly placed.

A nice bit of passing initiated by J. Barnes was spoilt by James knocking on, but Cook gained ground with a good kick into touch. "Whacker" Smith by knocking on spoilt an almost certain score. Romans put in a useful run and kick, and James collared the Bream back before he could get in a return. Dovey slipped down in attempting to kick, and in the consequent scramble got laid out with a kick in the neck. A certain score was again spoilt by a knock-on.

Voyce got in a good kick, although he was hampered, but play still remained in Bream's territory. However, Dovey mulled, and Bream reached the half-way mark, but were penalised for the halves getting off-side, and play was transferred to Bream's twenty-five again. A good run up the field by Bream looked dangerous; however, it was stopped by Dovey and G. Barnes, the latter bringing down his man well. A forward rush, headed by Payne and Manley, took the ball down to Bream's line, and from a scrum J. Barnes got over with a splendid try. Cook made an excellent shot for goal, it only just going wide. Half-time was soon called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	3 tries
Bream	Nil

J. Barnes re-started, and Gloucester immediately pressed, Dovey nearly getting over, but Bream claimed a "free" because he held the ball. J. Barnes, who received, failed to make a mark. A Bream half distinguished himself with a good run and kick, and the Gloucester forwards showed up well with a dribble. Lansley was to the fore with a pretty bit of footwork and Gloucester put their opponents on the defensive. A drop at goal by Lansley, which was nearly successful, touched the referee, and a scrum was called.

Cook and James were prominent in subsequent play. Barnes, the captain, hurt his knee in collaring a man, and a cessation of play took place. Bream were awarded a free-kick, and Romans returning well, play still remained in Bream's 25. J. Barnes caused a deal of amusement by his trickiness in the lines-out. A splendid bit of passing between Lansley, Dovey, and Cook was spoilt by James failing to take the ball, and play went right down the field, but was quickly brought back, the Bream back being particularly conspicuous with saving runs, getting through his opponents in fine style.

Bream really played up finely for a while and kept Gloucester fully busy. Cook and Smith following up a kick brought down the Bream man with the ball, and a free-kick resulted, given to Bream, much to the spectators' amusement.

Gloucester took the game up the field and James nearly scored, but he was laid out for while. Bream were forced to touch down. Dovey, taking a good pass from J. Barnes, ran well up the field, and could have scored, but he passed to Smith, and the latter failing to take the ball lost a certain try,

Holder was now conspicuous with a good dribble. A Bream man got away, but he was stopped by Cook and James. The ball coming out Bream got it, but Lansley brought his man down well, immediately after which "Whacker" Smith nearly scored, being held up on the line. Gloucester claimed a mark, and Cook making a splendid shot, forced Bream to touch down.

Cook next put in a magnificent run, getting through the whole Bream fifteen, and he transferred to Holder just at the right moment, the latter scoring. Romans goaled with a good kick.

Dovey slipped down in attempting to dodge, and thus gave Bream a chance, but Gloucester got back up the field, and a beautiful round of passing between Lansley, Dovey, and Cook let James in, Romans kicking a good goal. No-side was immediately called.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 2 goals, 3 tries (19 points)
Bream Nil

REMARKS

A very fast game throughout, and a well-contested one also. Gloucester pressed continually, and bad passing on more than one occasion let them down badly.

Dovey has not quite got back to condition, and the blow he got on his head was not conducive to brilliant football. Smith, Cook, and James shone in turn, and Cook's run through the whole Bream fifteen was one of the features of the afternoon. Lansley and Barnes at half played exceedingly well, the latter causing great laughter by his dodgy movements.

Barnes, Holder, Manley, and Payne were prominent among the forwards. – in fact the whole team worked hard. Romans was safe at back, but he was a bit "off" in his place-kicking. Voyce, S. Lewis and Croome played well for Bream.