

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1927

WELSH YOUTH VICTORIOUS

ENGLAND TEAM OUTCLASSED IN ALL DEPARTMENTS

SWANSEA BOY'S FOUR TRIES

The annual International match between England and Welsh boys was allotted to Gloucester this season, and a big crowd assembled at Kingsholm to witness what promised to produce a keen and interesting struggle.

There were three local boys in the English team, other representatives coming from Bristol, Leicester, Coventry, and Redruth.

Neath contributed a third of the Welsh team. The arrangements for the match were in the hands of the Gloucester Schools Rugby Union, with Mr. Eric Keys at the head of an efficient band of colleagues.

The Gloucester Football Club loaned the ground free of charge, a consideration which was greatly appreciated by the Schools Union. The spectators included a number of Welsh enthusiasts, and the rival colours were freely worn. The flag of the Gloucester Welsh Society was flown at Kingsholm in honour of the visiting team.

## ENGLAND

FULL BACK : Strong (Bristol).

THREE-QUARTERS : Lockyer (Bristol), Cutts, and Boswell (Coventry), and Drake (Gloucester).

HALF-BACKS : Littlewood (Coventry) and Dix (Gloucester).

FORWARDS : Murphy and Smith (Bristol), Bone (Redruth), Smith (Gloucester), Jarvis (Leicester), Harper and Clarke (Coventry), and Badhams (Leicester).

## WALES

FULL-BACK : Barnes (Aberavon).

THREE-QUARTERS : Jenkins (Neath), Parker (Neath), Loosemore (Pontypridd), Jones (Swansea).

HALF-BACKS : Squires (Newport), and Stevens (Neath).

FORWARDS : Evans (Newport), Banfield (Neath), Anthony (Llanelly), Hughes (Llanelly), Meyrick (Aberavon), Daniels (Neath), Ransome (Cardiff), Price (Bridgend).

Referee : Mr. Scott (Scotland)

## THE GAME

When the teams lined out the enclosure and stands were well filled, and the attendance must have reached between 8,000 and 9,000 when Wales kicked off, the players being attired in the traditional white and red jerseys. The English boys carried the first scrum, and dribbled well until checked at the centre.

A wild pass from Dix went behind his centres, but Boswell recovered and got in a useful kick to touch. A run across by Jenkins set the Welsh backs going, but the passing broke down on the opposite wing. From a penalty a visitor took a long shot at goal, but only a minor resulted.

Following the drop-out, the England forwards broke away with loose footwork which was not checked until the centred was reached. England made further progress, and the Welsh line was in danger. Murphy took a penalty, but failed, but the English forwards got the ball but could not break through.

Cutts opening out, the ball was sent along the line to Drake, who missed the pass, which was captured by Loosemore. The latter ran down touch, and when faced by Strong handed to JONES, who raced away and, never being seriously challenged, opened the scoring with a fine try. Evans failed at goal.

Resuming, there was some good kicking on both sides, Wales gaining the advantage. Strong forward play brought relief, but a loose pass by Dix let the visitors in, Strong being collared in possession close in. A penalty gave England relief, but the Welsh backs getting possession, Parker gave the "dummy" neatly and sent his wing away. The latter was beautifully tackled but let the ball go, and Parker gathering went over the line cleverly but was called back for forward pass.

Just now Wales were having all the play, the forwards bringing off several loose rushes, whilst the backs were smarter in handling and displayed the better combination. Dix checked a dangerous move on the right, and later England made progress. In effecting a tackle Stephens (Wales) sustained a cut eye, but after attention resumed.

England were doing better now and Cutts broke through beautifully, but judged his pass badly, and the ball was captured by Loosemore, a good opening being lost. Murphy later had another shot for goal from a penalty but sent wide and Wales touched down. From the drop out Boswell ran round and passed to Bone, who in trying to go through slipped and fell, being temporarily laid out.

Continuing, play favoured England, but the backs were not clever enough to beat the defence. Wales eased severe pressure with a forward burst, but Strong sent them back with a fine touch-finder. Parker having received attention for a temporary knock out in a tackle, England attacked strongly with forward work. Littlewood missed a glorious chance by failing to take the ball in front of the posts, and the mistake allowed Wales completely to change the venue of play.

Jones was largely instrumental in this effort, and when he punted Strong was a long way out of position and could not field the ball. After some loose work the ball was given the Welsh backs and Parker slipping the defence nicely fed Loosemore, the latter handed to JONES, a clever wing, who easily beat Strong and crossed with a capital try. Evans failed at goal.

England had a spell of attacking on the re-start, but the defence was too good. Bone failed in an attempt to drop a goal, but though the ball went behind the visitors did not touch down and punted out to beyond the 25.

Wales came strongly again after this, and England's line had several narrow escapes. At the interval the Welsh boys were well inside their opponents half.

#### HALF-TIME

WALES ..... 2 tries  
ENGLAND ..... Nil

The English boys had done a fair share of attacking, and had chances of scoring. The forwards did remarkably well, but the backs lacked the combination of the Welsh lads, and the work generally was too individualistic.

England restarted, and the first incident of note was a splendid round of passing by the Welsh boys initiated from the scrum. Jenkins was the last to receive possession, but Lockyer brought off a great tackle.

Wales, however, kept up the pressure, and Barnes, fielding a kick, ran through beautifully and looked a certain scorer. He was tackled ten yards outside, but let the ball go, and after a couple of exchanges Loosemore had a dash for the line. He appeared to have scored, but the referee ruled against the try.

England, on the drop-out, made a brief visit to the opponents' end, but the Welsh backs came away with lovely passing. A re-pass to Parker gave the latter an easy run-over, but the final transfer was ruled forward.

This was hard lines for the visitors, for the effort deserved reward. Wales, however, were not discouraged, and the English defence was given a warm time. Fumbling near the line saw JONES taking full advantage, and the Welsh left wing touched down for his third try. The place kick again failed.

The English forwards showed up well in the loose on the resumption, but they were slow in getting back to help the defence. After a spell of even play the Welsh backs were placed in possession by Squire and JONES receiving raced clean away from all opposition, finishing a grand run by scoring behind the posts. This was the Swansea boy's fourth try, and he received quite an ovation from the crowd. Barnes this time converted and Wales led by 14 points to nil.

The re-start brought no change in the run of the game, Wales displaying all-round superiority. From passing, Jones was again distinguished with a fine run, but his pass to Loosemore was given forward. After England had repelled a couple of strong attacks, Stephens fed SQUIRE on the short side of the scrum, and a try followed, but the goal kick failed.

With Wales well ahead interest in the game slackened, but the visitors continued to display capital football. Jones crossed the line again after clever combination, but lost the ball. England were badly outplayed at all points now, and SQUIRE scored the sixth try, which Barnes converted. Wales had practically all the subsequent play, but failed to add to their lead.

#### RESULT :

WALES .... 2 goals 4 tries (22 points)  
ENGLAND ..... Nil

#### REMARKS

The Welsh boys were infinitely the superior team in all departments, and were full value for their handsome win. The England side were slow and cumbersome in their methods, and could not compare with their rivals in those finer points of the game which appeal to the spectators.

Forward the home lads did well in the loose, Bone, Smith and Murphy rendering effective service, but they failed to last, and in the closing stages were run off their feet. Behind, Wales displayed clever combination, handled beautifully, and always made headway.

The full back was full of enterprise, initiating several rounds of passing, but the hero of the match was Jones, the Swansea boy, who scored four tries, and missed a fifth owing to losing the ball over the line. Jones was too elusive for any of the opposition, and his fine work was repeatedly applauded. At the finish he was shouldered off the field in triumph.

Stephens and Squire were too smart altogether for Dix and Littlewood at half-back, and behind them Parker, Loosemore and Jenkins formed a splendid three-quarter line in conjunction with Jones.

On the English side there was no outstanding player. Lockyer tackled well, but the defence of the team generally left a lot to be desired. The game proved enjoyable to a large crowd, and there was great enthusiasm on the part of the Welsh supporters at the conclusion of the match.

Next week; St. Bart's Hospital at Kingsholm.