

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1913

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. SWANSEA

FAMOUS WELSH TEAM AT KINGSHOLM.

WELSHMEN BEATEN EVERYWHERE

BRILLIANT FIRST HALF

GLOUCESTER WIN BY NINE POINTS

After their splendid victory over Harlequins last week, and with Swansea visitors to Kingsholm to-day, all that was wanted to ensure a good gate was fine weather, but the City Club, as was the case in nearly all the big home matches last season, were again unlucky in this important respect. Rain commenced to fall soon after nine o'clock and the morning remained dull, and anything but inviting for the spectator.

The want of extra stand accommodation on the ground in bad weather was again emphasised, and it is gratifying to know that the work in connection with the erection of the new covered stand on the sixpenny side (the plans for which have been passed and all the money subscribed) will be commenced on Monday and be ready, it is hoped, for the Bristol match.

Swansea came with a record of five victories, all at home, the defeated teams including Bridgend, Aberavon, Devonport Services, and Devon Albion.

The form shown, however, was not regarded as up to the Welshmen's standard, and the All Whites were fully prepared for a stiff struggle this afternoon. Swansea lost their clever pair of half-backs, ("Dodger" Owen and Jerram) to Wigan a fortnight ago, but W. J. Trew once more came to the club's assistance, and in his first game last Saturday the old International displayed capital form. It was mainly due to his cleverness that such a substantial win was recorded over the Albion.

There were three changes in the visitors' team, E. Thomas, G. Evans, and T. Morgan taking the places of Bryn Lewis, Rev. A. Davies, and Hollingdale respectively.

Gloucester played the same fifteen as defeated the Harlequins. An hour or so before the advertised start the rain stopped, and with a brighter outlook the attendance was much better than at one time looked probable.

The teams lined out punctually to time as follows : –

GLOUCESTER	POSITIONS	SWANSEA
C. Cook	Backs.	J. Bancroft
F. Webb	Three-Quarter	E. Thomas
A. Lewis	Backs	A. Thomas
L. Hamblin	"	H. Lewis
W. Washbourn	"	D. Williams
J. Baker	Half-Backs	D. Harry
A. Hall	"	W. J. Trew
G. Halford (capt.)	Forwards	D. J. Thomas (capt.)
S. Smart	"	E. Morgan
N. Hayes	"	T. Williams
J. F. Lawson	"	G. Evans
S. Millard	"	H. Moulton
W. Parham	"	T. Morgan
A. Cook	"	W. Dargavil
J. Meadows	"	T. Parker

Referee : Mr. J. H. Miles.

THE GAME.

The ground, despite the heavy rain during the week, was in excellent condition, though naturally a bit greasy on the surface. Gloucester won the toss, and Bancroft kicked off, the ball going straight to Cook, who replied to touch ten yards inside the home half.

Gloucester wheeled the first scrum, but Trew checked a forward rush by turning the ball to touch. Some loose play followed at midfield, and then a visitor securing punted down the field, and the forwards coming up dribbled over the line, but a dead ball resulted.

On the drop out Gloucester made headway, and Baker sending out to Hall the latter fed Lewis, who punted across, but had the mortification of seeing the ball bounce awkwardly and rolling to touch with Washbourn well up. A penalty against Baker did not avail Swansea much, for the City forwards soon recovered with a useful rush which Bancroft checked.

Keen and even play followed, and then Cook gained a nice slice of ground with a lovely touch-finder. Swansea kicked out, but in some loose play the home men opened out. Hamblin dodged several opponents cleverly, but was pounced upon from behind and lost the ball. It was picked up quickly and sent out to Washbourn, who raced round and over in the corner, but he was called back for a previous infringement.

Gloucester, working desperately, were on the attack again, and Swansea were kept busily engaged. Hamblin put the City close up with a grand kick to touch, and then followed a beautiful movement by the City backs. Hall started it with a strong run and pass to Lewis, who sent sharply to Hamblin. The latter yielded a perfect pass to Washbourn, who took the ball at top speed, and skirting D. Williams went over with a very fine try. Cook made a grand shot at goal, but could not gain the extra points.

Swansea dropped out, and there was a series of exchange kicking which did not gain much to either side. Swansea made 20 yards or so with a penalty for a foul given against a City forward, but the ground was soon recovered. Playing dashing football Gloucester came into the picture with a superb bit of combination. Baker started it from the scrum, and all the three-quarters handled. Webb raced past Howell Lewis and on facing Bancroft punted over the International's head and over the line. But a visitor had got back, and catching the ball touched down – a lucky get out.

Big kicking enabled the Welshmen to reach the home end on the drop out, but Hall broke away and with a fine punt sent to touch beyond half-way. Subsequent play was a bit scrambling, but by lucky kicks the All Whites gained a position in the City half. Gloucester twice opened out through Hall, but Hamblin could not take the passes.

Well inside their own half the Gloucester backs were again set going by Baker, and Lewis cutting through beautifully there was a fine opening. Hamblin, however, passed forward to Washbourn and the movement was spoiled. Just now Gloucester were fairly all over the visitors, and the brilliant combination was a revelation.

Hall was to the fore with another fine burst through, but Swansea tackled well and saved. Baker, however, gathered in the loose, and sending out Lewis ran and fed Webb. The right winger punted over Bancroft's head, and racing on fielded the ball on the bounce and scored a grand try. Cook missed the goal kick.

Six points ahead and the lead well deserved, Gloucester continued to play a fine game. The forwards were beating the Welshmen badly in the scrum, and outside there was no comparison between the sides.

A smart break-away by Baker enabled Hall to gain ground, but the latter's re-pass, with a possible opening, was not taken, and Bancroft was able to save. Swansea punted out of danger, but A. Cook gathering in the line-out got in a fine kick to touch on the visitors' 25.

The All Whites worked out with a useful rush, and then came another try to the City. Hamblin, recovering a mistake cleverly punted across the field, and Webb racing up took advantage of a fumble by Howell Lewis and ran over with his second try amidst tremendous cheering. The place kick was a favourable one, but Cook again failed.

So far Swansea had been completely outclassed, and not for years had Gloucester given such a display. Swansea resumed with a poor kick, and Gloucester were soon busy again. Moulton had to retire with an injury, and later Trew's ankle, in a tackle, went, and he had to leave the field for attention by the ambulance men.

The visitors, reduced to 13 resumed pluckily, and for a few minutes held their own. Hall burst away from a scrum, but he was pulled down, and losing the ball a Swansea player picked up and started passing. The City, however, easily checked. Trew now came back, and Baker was at once conspicuous with a smart bit of footwork, following up well and tackling an opponent. The latter, however, got the ball away to A. Thomas, who found touch near the centre. The interval was then called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 3 tries
Swansea Nil

Halford re-started, but some of the home players were in front of the ball, and a scrum was ordered on the centre line. Swansea heeled, and Baker got round and tackled Harry, but was ruled off-side and a penalty followed. The kick took the Welshmen down a bit, but off-side cost them a penalty, and C. Cook kicked back.

Swansea hereabouts tried passing, but it went wrong, and Webb securing punted straight down the field. Alec Lewis came along, and, robbing his namesake, cut inside Bancroft and put Webb behind the posts. The cheering which greeted this score, however, was short-lived, for Lewis was adjudged off-side and the ball was taken back to where Webb had kicked.

With only seven forwards Swansea got the ball back from the next three scrums, and Trew and Williams combined in a pretty effort which beat the defence. Trew's final pass, however, was forward. After this Swansea again attacked, and Hamblin had to be very smart to save on one occasion.

The Welshmen again assumed the aggressive, but A. Lewis cleverly intercepted in his own 25 and raced away. Being pressed from behind he threw to Washbourn, who unfortunately stumbled and fell to the ground. Recovering quickly he put in a punt, but Trew had got back and made his mark. A superb rush by the City forwards beat Swansea completely, but the final kick was a bit too hard and Swansea touched down with Halford close up.

Swansea were certainly doing better with fourteen men and the Gloucester defence was more often called upon than in the first half. A loose dribble severely tested C. Cook, but the latter was safe. Then the Gloucester front, with Smart, Halford, and Lawson leading, came clean away half the length of the field, A. Thomas saving nicely. A long kick by Gloucester saw Bancroft allow the ball to go to touch at his 25, but Swansea quickly changed the venue with useful punts.

An effort by Hall put Gloucester on the attack, but Lewis knocked on in attempting to gather a return kick with Webb well placed. Good rushing by the Swansea front looked promising, but their advantage only lasted a minute, Gloucester returning in splendid fashion. A kick over the line forced Thomas to run back to save and a scrum ensued five yards outside.

Gloucester worked desperately to increase their score, but they could not quite do the trick. Once Baker and Hall got the ball away cleverly, and there was a fine chance for Washbourn, but Hamblin's pass was a shade too wide, and the wing man could not reach it. Gloucester continued to have the better of the exchanges, but the game was nothing like so open as the early stages, Swansea going in for a smothering game and keeping the ball close.

Bit by bit Swansea removed play to more favourable quarters, and a couple of free kicks further improved their position. A bout of passing was started by Harry, but though all the three-quarters handled little ground was gained, Webb throwing Howell Lewis finely to touch.

Gloucester next had a series of exchanges, but they could not travel far, though Hamblin made headway with a good kick. Subsequent play was keen, but lacking in brilliance. In the last few minutes Gloucester came strongly again and struggled hard to score, but luck was against them.

RESULT :

Gloucester 3 tries (9 points)
Swansea Nil

REMARKS

Swansea completely outclassed. There you have in a sentence a summary of to-day's great game at Kingsholm. And what football the Gloucester team displayed to achieve such a notable triumph ! Never in the history of the club has the side given a more brilliant all-round exhibition than in the first half to-day. The passing movements were positively thrilling, and so bewildering in execution that the Swansea men were reduced at times to quite a third-rate opposition. It was a veritable day out for the City, and to the whole team I extend my hearty congratulations on a truly wonderful victory. That should be a very happy gathering indeed of the players to-night to celebrate the defeat of the Harlequins last week.

I question if ever a Swansea team were overwhelmed to such an extent as the side was this afternoon. Usually the All Whites are particularly hot forward, especially in the scrum and heeling, but Halford's brigade fairly smothered the opposition at all points. The whole City pack worked in perfect unity; dash, skill, cleverness, and resource were ever in evidence in the open, and in the scrummages they got possession and heeled with a precision that astonished their own supporters.

And the tackling and footwork! It was really great, and it was only sheer luck that the Welshmen saved their lines from being crossed on two or three occasions from those brilliant bursts which were such a feature of the game. Gloucester have certainly found a pack of hard workers, and men who have come on a lot under Halford's splendid leadership.

The City captain was always to the front and urging his men to greater deeds. How well they responded can be judged by the result. I can only say Swansea were fortunate in escaping with only a 9 points' defeat. As far as the play went it might easily have been 18. I cannot individualise other members of the front. All did nobly as they did at Twickenham. They are a finely balanced eight, and if they continue to play with the same dash and resolution the reputation of the club forward can safely be left to the players who supported Halford this afternoon.

If Swansea were well beaten forward, what can be said of the backs? It was the weakest back division I remember seeing out for the All Whites, yet we had players there like Trew, Alf. Thomas, Howell Lewis, and Bancroft. There was not a single individual who approached his reputation, and as a combination they were totally eclipsed by the home men.

The Gloucester backs were on their toes all the time, and some of the movements contributed were equal to anything accomplished by the Harlequins or any Welsh team at their best. Baker and Hall were splendid at half-back, the former getting the ball away cleverly and doing one or two good things on his own. Hall was always a dangerous enemy to the Welshmen. His powerful runs and handing off frightened the opposition at times, and it always took more than one man to bring him down. Hall kicked more to-day than I have seen him in any previous match, and the usefulness of his big punts was emphasised on several occasions. He might well develop kicking, for when on defence a punt to touch 30 or 40 yards up the field is very advantageous.

The City three-quarters gave a bright and exhilarating display, and though one or two good chances of scoring were missed one could forget these mistakes in taking into account the many brilliant movements they shared in.

Hamblin and Lewis were splendid in the centre, and outshone the two Thomases on the other side. Both players took and gave their passes cleverly, and exercised fine judgment in making openings. Their kicking, too, was excellent.

Washbourn and Webb played to their centres like a book, and never missed an opening. I hope, however, Webb will not overdo the punting over his back's head. It is all right to try it now and again, but I prefer to see a wing man go full tilt for the line when there is a chance.

C. Cook was, if anything, superior to Bancroft on the day's play, though I have seen both players use the touchline to better effect. Bancroft was rather streaky at times, and did not relish taking on the Gloucester forwards when the latter broke away.

It should be stated Swansea lost the services of Moulton in the second half, but long before his retirement the Welshmen were a thoroughly beaten side.

Trew also suffered in a hard tackle by Lawson, but the veteran was able to resume and render useful service. All the same he is not the Trew of old, though retaining some of his old cleverness.

Scorers for Gloucester : Webb (2) and Washbourne scored tries ; C. Cook failed.

Next week ; Pontypool, away.

GLOUCESTER A v. BREAM

CITY SECONDS DO WELL

A DRAWN GAME

The City Seconds visited Bream to-day, and recognised they had a severe task on, for the Foresters had already defeated Cinderford and Stroud, and run Gloucester First to a very narrow margin at Kingsholm.

Gloucester A. – F. W. Hayward; T. Powell, S. Sysum, W. Wilkes, and F. Bloxsome; S. Wotton and T. Burns; E. Russell, J. Harris, J. H. Webb, Williams, L. Smith, A. Comley, E. Osborne, and W. Cromwell.

Bream. – F. Moore; J. Griffin, H. Rudge (capt.), T. Stone, and J. Kent; L. Morse and A. Jenkins; Davis, R. Kilby, A. Saunders, A. Adams, E. Ward, O. Vaughan, W. Edwards, and G. Hughes.

Considerable interest was shown in the meeting, but the ground, owing to heavy rain, was on the soft side. Kilby started for Bream fifteen minutes late. Davis completed the home team, Moore going full back. Quite early the homesters assumed the aggressive, but Wilkes and Wotton eased the pressure. Good play by Griffin took the play again dangerously near the Gloucestersians' line, a touchdown resulting. Gloucester, in turn, attacked, a smart tackle by Stone just preventing a score.

The home forwards led by Kilby eventually got off the mark in grand style, but Hayward proved equal to the occasion. Stone came into the picture with a strong run, but his transfer to Griffin went astray. Midfield was now the scene of operations, but good kicking by Hayward enabled Gloucester to take up an offensive position. They were soon taken to the other end, Jenkins essaying to drop a goal, but failed in the attempt by inches.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Bream	Nil
Gloucester A	Nil

Crossing over, an exchange of kicking resulted in favour of the visitors, who later indulged in a round of passing, but the defence prevailed. Bream again attacked, but lost ground by faulty handling. The homesters kept pegging away, but a series of misfortunes overtook them.

Scrummaging now ensued on the Gloucester line, but an infringement by Bream lost them ground. For some offence, unnoticed from the line, the referee gave marching orders to a player on each side, and the end came in the next minute.

RESULT :

Bream Nil
Gloucester A Nil

REMARKS

Play was contested at a great pace throughout, the visitors in the opening half adapting themselves to the conditions much better than the homesters. However, Bream brought off some telling rushes in the second half, when the Gloucesterians' defence was sorely tried.