

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1914

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. SWANSEA

LAST AWAY MATCH IN WALES

DISORGANISED CITY TEAM OUTPLAYED

The City paid their annual visit to St. Helen's to-day, this being the last away match in Wales. Early in the season Gloucester scored a handsome victory over Swansea at Kingsholm by 3 tries to nil, the All Whites being outclassed, especially in the first half, when the City did all their scoring.

Recent form suggested that Gloucester, at full strength, would give the Welshmen a very close fight at home if not absolutely win, despite the fact that the Kingsholm men have never won at St. Helen's, and as I have been reminded on a postcard from an enthusiast at Cork, that no English club have won at Swansea since 1895.

But Gloucester were destined once again to take down a somewhat disorganised side – the absentees being A. Lewis, F. Webb, and W. Washbourn (three-quarters) and S. Smart and N. Hayes (forwards). The three first-mentioned are all on the injured list; Smart was in Edinburgh helping England, we all hoped, to win the Triple Crown and the Calcutta Cup, and Hayes could not possibly get away from business.

Dovey and Mumford filled the vacancies in the pack, and in the third line Powell was associated with Wilkes, Sysum and Clarke, the latter having returned home this week from Dublin University.

Swansea, who had not been at home for several weeks, fielded a strong fifteen, and naturally were anxious to make amends for that reverse last October. H. Moulton and A. Johns took the places of D. J. Thomas and E. Morgan in the home side.

The teams were : –

GLOUCESTER	POSITIONS	SWANSEA
C. Cook	Backs.	D. Williams
R. A. Clarke	Three-Quarter	Bryn Lewis
T. Powell	Backs	A. Thomas
S. Sysum	"	C. B. Davies
W. Wilkes	"	Howell Lewis
L. Hamblin	Half-Backs	W. J. Rapsey
J. Baker	"	B. Beynon
G. Halford (capt.)	Forwards	H. Moulton
C. Mumford	"	A. Johns
J. F. Lawson	"	T. Morgan
F. Ayliffe	"	T. Williams
A. Saunders	"	D. Huxtable
S. Millard	"	T. Parker
W. Parham	"	G. Evans
W. Dovey	"	Phil Evans

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

THE GAME

There was a further serious weakening of the Gloucester ranks, A. Hall telegraphing late on Friday night that he had been advised by his doctor he was unfit to play. This necessitated a re-arrangement of the back division, Hamblin going up to outside half, and T. Powell coming into the three-quarter line.

The weather was fine with a strong wind, but the attendance was very moderate compared with previous years. Swansea started, and there was a sensational opening. Gloucester were penalised at the first scrum and Cook waiting for the bounce of the ball fumbled badly and allowed the Swansea forwards to gather. A couple of exchanges followed, and T. Morgan was presented with a gift try in less than two minutes. The kick at goal failed.

Resuming, the Swansea forwards were prominent with a good rush, and Bryn Lewis and Thomas further assisted. Gloucester, however, worked out to the centre, where Baker secured from a scrum and handed to Hamblin. The latter beat the opposing halves cleverly, and running clean away reached the full-back, when he sent to a forward, who handed to Powell, for the wing to score in the corner. It was a fine movement beautifully carried out and heartily applauded. Hamblin converted with a superb kick, and gave Gloucester a two points' lead.

On the re-start, there was some fast open play on both sides, and some fine kicking by Cook. Gloucester made headway with a penalty, and then ensued some desperate forward play at mid-field. The City front broke away with Ayliffe leading, but Thomas checked cleverly. Beynon and Lewis combining nicely the City were pressed, but Hamblin came to the relief with a beautiful touchfinder.

Swansea were lucky in stopping a dangerous movement later but fine passing on the right wing took the Welshmen back. From a cross punt by Howell Lewis Sysum made a perfect mark, but the referee missed it, and the City centre was upset. He, however, managed to get the ball away to Cook, who kicked to touch. The Gloucester men were slow in getting up to the line and Rapsey had the ball out to Bryn Lewis, who passed to T. Williams for the International to score easily, the same player converting.

Despite this unlucky score against them Gloucester played up pluckily, and Hamblin had hard lines with a drop at goal from a penalty. After this play was all in favour of the City, who got very close on two occasions.

Minors brought relief to the Welshmen, who were subsequently helped by a smart sprint by Bryn Lewis. Gloucester returned with a forward rush, but lovely passing by the Swansea backs left the ball with Bryn Lewis, who beat the defence and scored a fine try. No goal resulted.

Gloucester showed up strongly on resumption, but Sysum passed badly, and nothing further was done to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Swansea 1 goal 2 tries

Gloucester 1 goal

Swansea's lead of six points flattered the Welshmen, for two of their tries were very lucky. Halford restarted for Gloucester, who confined play in the opening minutes to the Swansea half. The All Whites backs eventually got on the move, and Bryn Lewis receiving from Davies sprinted away, and, beating Wilkes and Cook, scored a very fine try. The place-kick failed.

It was a case again of Lewis' speed proving too much for the opposition. The Gloucester forwards put in some good work on the restart, and the backs handled well twice, but could not break through. Then Swansea punted ahead, and Bryn Lewis, fielding on the run, looked to have another good chance, but he essayed a pass which was not accepted. Loose rushing by the visitors carried play well inside the Swansea half, where Powell was responsible for a smart effort. He shook off a couple of opponents, but was legged from behind when dangerous.

In subsequent operations there was a good deal of wild play on both sides, but the game was fairly even. A dashing burst by the Swansea forwards was splendidly checked by Cook, but the effort led to the Welshmen gaining a good attacking position. Baker dribbled clear, but Thomas gathered and punted back to touch. Swansea gradually made further ground, and the City lines were in danger.

Some good forward work, in which Dovey, Parham, and Lawson were conspicuous, gave Gloucester a breather, but they were soon beaten back and forced to concede a minor. Gloucester benefited little by the drop-out, for Swansea were soon busy attacking again. The defence, however, was splendid, and the lines were kept intact. There was one narrow escape, however, when Dovey had a kick charged down close in, Cook touching down just in time. Swansea put in another sharp attack on the drop-out, but lost Beynon, who was injured in a close tackle.

Weak play by the Swansea backs enabled Gloucester to change the venue and play was more evenly contested. Beynon now came back, and Wilkes was prominent on the right with a nice dribble. He was, however, robbed of the ball by Williams, who returned to touch in fine style.

In the last five minutes Swansea put on pressure, and after inter-passing between Rapsey and Beynon, the latter broke through and scored, though the last transfer was distinctly forward. No goal resulted. Before the end the Welshmen were on the attack again, and, after some nice exchanges, Bryn Lewis scored his third try, which remained unconverted.

RESULT :

Swansea 2 goals 4 tries (22 points)

Gloucester 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester were outplayed in the second half, but the extent of the reverse exaggerated Swansea's superiority. The City did splendidly in the first half, and their hard work deserved better reward. The Swansea backs were faster than the City, Bryn Lewis especially distinguishing himself. Cook's defence was weak at times, and he practically gave away the first try. His kicking, however, was of great help. Baker and Hamblin got through a lot of useful work at half-back, but the three-quarters did little in attack. The forwards missed Smart and Hayes, but on the whole put up a creditable display.

GLOUCESTER A v. NAUNTON PARK

EASY WIN FOR THE SECONDS

These teams met at Kingsholm on Saturday in splendid weather, but as the Park are by no means a strong side the fixture only attracted a small attendance. The teams lined up as follows : –

Gloucester A. – O. Walwin; A. Hudson, Staunton, Millington, and Bloxsome (captain); Burns and Wotton; Norman Hayes, Kingscott, Williams, Webb, Lewis, Osborne, W. Comley, and A. Comley.

Naunton Park. – Seaborne; Wakefield, Bendall, Hopkins, and Beard; O. Reid and Lawrence; Dodwell, Garner, Sheen, Day, Channon, Addis, Townsend, and Elmes.

Referee : Mr. H. Abbey.

The visitors started, and after an exchange of kicks Gloucester immediately rushed to their opponents' line, being only pulled up just in the nick of time. Following up hard, Norman Hayes was nearly over, but a Park forward kicked dead. From a penalty well out Burns made a splendid attempt to land a goal. Wotton opened out nicely, and the ball travelling right across the three-quarter line, Bloxsome had no difficulty in scoring an unconverted try in the corner.

Immediately after the restart Wotton picked up cleverly in the loose, and again started a pretty bout of passing. Hudson made a good attempt to score, but was pulled into touch in the corner. The Seconds continued on the aggressive, the Park being twice forced to concede minors.

Burns made another unsuccessful but capital attempt to land a penalty goal, and subsequently Osborne indulged in a neat dribble down the touch-line. Naunton had a spell of attacking, but they were easily beaten off, and the home team, with good footwork again gained the upper hand.

Bloxsome and Staunton were prominent with solo efforts, but the Gloucester attack appeared to lack its usual sting, several good chances being missed. In later stages there was absolutely no incident, play being of a very scrambling character.

A curious incident took place on the cheap side, Naunton Park asking for a new touch judge in place of the youth who was officiating. After some little argument Mr F. Pegler took up the duties.

Matters were livened up somewhat as the result of a couple of nice tries scored by Staunton. Both were the result of good individual work, the player cutting through and handing off would-be tacklers in a summary manner. Burns failed with both kicks.

From a high kick in front of the Naunton goal Burns fielded cleverly, and transferring the ball when tackled Staunton went through and scored again in the corner. Bloxsome failed at goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	4 tries
Naunton Park	Nil

The opening stages of the second half were again of a very scrambling character, the ball being chiefly confined to the forwards, who were fairly evenly matched. Gloucester did at times try to open out, a characteristic run down the touch-line by Hudson looking promising. He, however, had to acknowledge the superiority of numbers when within a few yards of the line.

Bloxsome failed to take the ball when the opposition was practically beaten, and the Park forwards took up the running. Walwin, however, proved safe, finding touch nicely when pressed. By short rushes Naunton gained the home line, subsequently forcing Bloxsome to concede a minor. From a scrum five yards out the forwards went over in a bunch, and the referee awarded Reid a try. Seabourn failed from the easy position.

Hayes was doing splendid work in the lines-out, but the forwards were not supporting him as they should have done. Walwin kicked high, and following up he collided heavily with Reid. Both were knocked out, but although Walwin soon recovered, the Naunton man had to be taken off the field for treatment. He, however, returned after a few minutes. From a scrum near the centre Wotton secured the ball, and cutting through passed out wide. Burns gathered neatly, and outpacing the opposition scored easily. The same player failed with the kick.

On the resumption Walwin was prominent with a good punt and follow-up, while later he gave his side the advantage with a clever touch-finder. Gloucester had innumerable openings, but for some reason or other they were very much below form, and failed entirely to take the chances which came so often.

Later the Park took up the running, and three of them had the line at their mercy, but Wakefield kicked too hard and the ball went dead. Wotton started a nice passing movement, but Hudson, who throughout the afternoon had been unable to gather, dropped the ball when the defence was beaten. He, however, made amends a minute later by crossing well out. Staunton goaled.

From a line-out Beard sprinted right away, and it looked odds on a try, but Walwin effected a splendid tackle on the line, and Gloucester cleared.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 1 goal, 5 tries (20 points)

Naunton Park 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

Considering the splendid conditions which prevailed, and the weakness of the opposition, the margin by which Gloucester proved successful although substantial was not by any means flattering. Easy chances went begging time after time, and there was a general all-round slackness apparent, which, however, can perhaps be accounted for by the fact that during the last three or four weeks the men have been engaged in some stiff encounters.

The forwards, even with the assistance of Norman Hayes, were by no means up to their usual standard, while the backs were at times palpably off-colour. Wotton and Burns did several good things at half, especially the former, while Walwin both in kicking and tackling fully justified his selection.

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