

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1920

FOOTBALL

SAME TALE AT PONTYPOOL !

CITY'S FOURTH AWAY DEFEAT

WELSHMEN'S TWELVE POINTS VICTORY

For this annual fixture at Pontypool the City team made the journey by road. Thanks to the good offices of several officials, private motor cars were provided free of expense to the Club, and the players looked forward to a pleasant trip.

One of the strongest Club teams at home in Wales – Pontypool had only lost one match (Cardiff) out of 13 this season – Gloucester could hardly expect to gain winning points in the light of previous experiences, but with a good side turning out it was hoped to make a close fight.

J. H. Webb and W. F. Warde were unable to play forward but Mumford and Mansell were very efficient substitutes, and the back division was the same as appeared against Cheltenham the previous week.

Pontypool can always place a powerful set of forwards in the field, and this season the pack has been doing fine work.

W. Hodder was absent owing to an injury sustained the previous week, but the Welshmen had the assistance of T. Woods, the English International and ex-Service forward.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : T. Burns.

THREE-QUARTERS : N. Daniell, W. Washbourn, T. Millington, and S. A. Brown.

HALF-BACKS : W. Dix and A. Hall.

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe (capt.), G. Holford, S. Smart, T. Voyce, L. F. Lawson, J. Harris, C. Mumford, F. Mansell.

PONTYPOOL

BACK : R. Vaughan.

THREE-QUARTERS : T. Probert, J. Kerr, I. Llewellyn, and P. Jones.

HALF-BACKS : G. Stacey and S. Coleman.

FORWARDS : F. Phillips (capt.), G. Oliver, T. Woods, T. Rees, J. Williams, J. Hayward, G. Veater, and F. Brown.

Referee : Mr. F. Richards (Pontymister).

THE GAME

The visitors arrived at Pontypool shortly after one o'clock, having had a pleasant journey. The weather was dull, and an early kick-off militated against the attendance, though there was a good crowd present. The Gloucester team were accorded a hearty reception; and Jack Jones, making his first appearance for nine weeks, was signalled out for special applause.

Pontypool kicked off, and a misunderstanding between Burns and another let the home forwards get close, but the situation was saved. Gloucester cleared with a nice rush, but they were beaten back, and Jones had a fruitless drop at goal.

Gloucester were kept in their quarter until Dix broke away and fed Washbourn, who raced to Vaughan and then served Brown. The wing man took the transfer beautifully, and racing away scored behind the posts. Burns easily converted, and Gloucester were five points up in as many minutes.

Resuming Pontypool made a strong rush, and Gloucester were forced on the defensive. From a scrum five yards out Dix secured and passed back to Burns, but the latter had his kick charged down, and Probert scored wide out. No goal resulted.

This quick scoring created great excitement. A brilliant loose rush by the City forwards promised well on the restart, and later Dix opened out to Millington. There was a fine opportunity for a try, but Brown slipped on fielding a wide pass and could not get away.

Big kicking gave Pontypool the advantage, and strong bursts by Jones and Probert took some stopping. A clever loose dribble brought Gloucester relief, but the Welshmen returned to the attack, and the visitors' defence was hotly assailed.

A little later Harris dribbled brilliantly to the centre, and more loose work took Gloucester right to the home line, where the visitors were penalised for off-side. Later the City had two penalties, but Burns failed with his shots at goal.

Gloucester, working well, the forwards kept Pontypool hard at it, and there was a good chance once, but it was spoilt by failure to pick up the ball. Then the home pack came right away with a great loose rush, Woods being prominent. Gloucester partially checked several times, but the ball rolled away, and in the end Rees picked up and scored near the posts. Llewellyn missed the easy place.

Having obtained the lead, Pontypool played up in dashing style, and but for a forward pass would probably have been through again. Gloucester beat off another attack, and then Voyce dribbled beyond mid-field with a good effort. Burns, however, lost the ground gained by fumbling, and more mistakes gave Oliver a corner try, the goal-kick failing.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

PONTYPOOL	3 tries
GLOUCESTER	1 goal

Pontypool had certainly done more attacking in the first half, but two of their tries were due to mistakes on the part of the visitors, who were not certain in fielding and gathering from high kicks.

Soon after the resumption Gloucester were penalised for off-side, but little ground was made with the resultant kick. The Pontypool front was seen to advantage with a dangerous loose rush, which Burns checked nicely, and a minute afterwards Ayliffe stopped another onward movement by turning the ball to touch.

The burly 'Pool forwards, however, continued to give trouble, and the defensive powers of the City were severely tested. Brown brought relief with a sharp run down touch, but Kerr ran back and gathered, finding touch at the centre with his kick.

In some hot forward work Voyce was temporarily laid out, but was able to resume. Directly play was continued Dix and an opponent came into collision, and both retired. Hall worked the scrum for Dix, Millington playing outside half, and Voyce coming out to three-quarter.

Gloucester were seen to advantage with some good footwork, which took them well down, but subsequent play was very scrambling, mistakes being frequent on both sides. Eventually Pontypool cleared, and Woods, who was playing a grand game, broke clean away and passed to Llewellyn, who scored a good try. The same player converted, giving Pontypool a nine points' lead.

The Welshmen shone in a splendid loose rush on the re-start, in which Phillips was knocked out, necessitating further delay. He continued, however, and Gloucester, chiefly through Ayliffe and Lawson, made headway.

Pontypool failed to check, and Brown kicked hard, just failing to get up. In the next scrum, however, there was fumbling by the Pontypool half backs, and Brown, taking advantage, dropped on the ball for a try, which Burns failed to goal.

Resuming Pontypool set up a warm attack, but the defence was safe. Gloucester were feeling the loss of Dix's services, but they held up pluckily. Jack Jones made a big attempt to get over, but was foiled; but Pontypool were very aggressive. Getting the ball, the home backs handled, and a sharp pass to Llewellyn enabled the latter to score in the corner, though the referee hesitated in awarding the point. No goal resulted.

Gloucester made a splendid effort to retrieve the situation, but luck was against them at the critical moment. Then Pontypool came away with passing, and Llewellyn, beating Millington and Washbourn for speed, scored a very fine try, which remained unconverted.

Play on the resumption was hotly contested, Gloucester doing well against their powerful opponents. The forwards were over-weighted, but they accomplished some dashing footwork.

RESULT :

PONTYPOOL 1 goal, 5 tries (20 pts.)

GLOUCESTER 1 goal, 1 try (8 pts.)

REMARKS

Pontypool won on their merits, but the City did much better than the score would indicate. On the whole the Gloucester forwards held up splendidly against their heavy opponents, and in point of skill and cleverness in footwork were quite the equal of the Welshmen.

After Dix had to retire the City had a very hard time, but they put in some good work even with this handicap. Dix sustained a badly-cut head, an inch and a half long, and he was wise not to come out again.

Pontypool possessed a smarter back division, Jack Jones' smart bursts being a feature. For Gloucester, Brown had the distinction of scoring both tries, and did well all through the game. But there were times when mishandling and weak tackling of the visitors contributed to their undoing. Burns was at fault occasionally in this respect, but his kicking was generally very good.

Forward, Ayliffe, Holford, Lawson and Harris were most effective, but were inclined to get off-side, and this failure spoiled some good movements.

Pontypool have a fine pack, and Woods, the English International, was in grand form. He should be assured of getting his place for England again.

ANOTHER WIN FOR THE RESERVES

GLOUCESTER A SUCCESSFUL IN KEEN STRUGGLE WITH BREAM

In view of the fact that when visiting Bream at the commencement of the season Gloucester A were only successful by one point, a keen contest was anticipated at Kingsholm when the Foresters visited the city. There was a very encouraging attendance.

Teams :

Gloucester A : G. Smith; S. R. Crowther, D. J. Brown, F. Bloxsome (capt.), and H. Ashmeade; W. Collins and R. Cook; S. Bayliss, T. Taylor, E. Richardson, A. Wright, T. Bridges, J. Merrett, E. Curtis, and J. Hawker.

Bream : A. Vaughan; J. Wasley, A. C. Robbins, G. Hancocks, and F. Kent; J. Baker and A. Jenkins; H. Gilbert (capt.), W. Robbins, J. Worgan, W. Preest, J. Flavin, F. Moore, W. Edwards, and F. Yorke.

Referee : Mr. F. T. Lawrence.

Gloucester kicked off, and a good return being made, Smith was quickly called upon. He fell, but Collins put in a good kick which went over the visitors' line, but one of their backs carried on and kicked down to Smith, who made a splendid attempt to drop a goal, which only just failed.

Then Baker was seen in a smart run which took the Foresters into the home territory, but the Gloucester threes secured and a pretty bit of handling put them again on the attack. Getting the ball out Baker nicely fed his threes, but Hancock's transfer was wild, and a promising movement failed. Again the ball came out to Bream, but their handling was faulty, and what might have been a possible opening was lost by Kent, muddling his pass.

Bream were now attacking strongly, and the home line was in danger for several moments. Then a free brought relief, and from a scrum, although Baker got the ball out, Bloxsome secured and put in a strong run, but was pulled down. The same player, however, immediately afterwards usefully kicked to touch, and the Bream quarter was invaded. Smith, with several good touch-finders, kept his side well up, and the Foresters' defence was strongly tested. Brown was prominent with a solo dash, but it would perhaps have been better had he given Crowther a chance.

Then came Gloucester's first score. The Foresters were penalised for off-side, and Smith took a place kick from outside the 25 line and landed a splendid goal. Following up this advantage the Reserves again advanced to the attack, and from some loose footwork on the Foresters' line Curtis touched down, securing an easy try. The kick failed.

A period of play at mid-field gave place to a forward attack, which placed Bream well up. Then their threes secured, and after a smart bout of passing the ball went to Kent, who ran strongly, shook off his pursuers, and scored in the corner. The necessary points were not added.

A series of penalties carried Bream to the Seconds' quarter, where Smith was tackled in possession and held on to the ball, but the penalty kick was a poor effort, and a possible chance was missed.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	1 goal (p) 1 try
Bream	1 try

Resuming, Bream began to get the ball out, but they relied chiefly upon their kicking to gain territory. Their threes, however, put in some good work, and it looked as though they would score, but Wasley fumbled a transfer and the movement broke down when he had practically a clear field. A collision occurred, which made it necessary for one of the visitors to leave the field. Then Smith was injured, but resumed.

Bream put in another good run, but the defence was staunch, and following the ensuing line-out the Reserves' forwards came away with the ball at their feet and Ashmeade went over, but was called back for an infringement.

A free to the visitors brought relief, and a loose rush saw them work out of danger. The injured man returned, and the game was very fiercely contested, two Bream players having to go off. Then the ball came over to the right wing, where Crowther and Brown dribbled down touch, and beating Vaughan carried the ball over at their feet, Brown touching down. Smith failed with the kick.

The restart saw the Foresters rush to the home 25, where an obvious foul, overlooked by the referee, and followed by a penalty in favour of Bream, gave the visitors a chance for goal, but the kick was a poor attempt.

The Breamites were not discouraged, however, and in spite of their depleted side caused the Seconds several anxious moments. Their play was not clean enough, however, and the home defence was keen.

Bream continued to press strongly, and the ball being kicked across the field to Wasley, the right-winger found himself without serious opposition and notched three more points. The attempt to convert was not successful.

RESULT :

Gloucester A	1 goal (p) 2 tries (9 pts.)
Bream	2 tries (6 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester A were set no easy task this afternoon, but despite their formidable opponents they were successful in retaining an unbroken record.

There was really little to choose between the teams, the Reserves, perhaps, deserving their margin; but had the Foresters played throughout the game as they did with 13 men in the last ten minutes, the tale would have been a different one.

That the game was a strenuous one may be judged by the fact that first Gilbert (the visitor's captain) had to retire for a short time, and in the last quarter of an hour both the Bream halves (Jenkins and Baker) had to leave the field, the former sustaining a dislocated elbow, for which he had to be treated at the Royal Infirmary.

Gloucester played quite a good game in all departments, but there was still a noticeable weakness in the scrum work of the forwards, the visitors getting the ball out much too frequently.

Collins and Cook worked well together, but they were up against a tough and experienced scrum half in Baker, who was well supported by Jenkins. The home threes all played well, and were superior to the Bream threes in handling, if not in dash. Smith was a tower of strength at full back.

The Bream forwards were a dashing lot, the whole team having plenty of vim. Their strong kicking was an outstanding feature.