

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1921

FOOTBALL

NINE GLOUCESTER RESERVES ON DUTY AT SWANSEA

PLUCKY SHOW BY THE CITY

WELSHMEN WIN BY SIXTEEN POINTS

Gloucester decided to fulfil the fixture with Swansea to-day, but whether the team stayed over the week-end to play Llanelli on Monday depended on developments in the industrial position.

It was only the skeleton of the premier fifteen, however, that was able to make the journey. In addition to Tom Voyce, J. F. Lawson, C. Cook, and A. Robbins, several other players found it impossible for various reasons to get away; these including Norman Daniell, T. Burns, W. F. Warde, J. Harris, J. H. Webb, and A. Hall. Permission was obtained from the Drybrook Club to play S. Burford (who appeared against Bridgwater), and the other vacancies were filled by Second teamers – J. Phelps, E. Richardson, and E. Curtis, with C. Mumford and F. Mansell (who were originally selected).

Swansea, who are much stronger than when beaten at Kingsholm earlier in the season by 10 points to nil, had something like 20 players to select from, a number of promising recruits having been discovered during the past few months.

At St. Helen's the All Whites are always a formidable opposition, and Gloucester, with their weakened ranks, were set an almost hopeless task. Scratch sides, however, have afforded surprises before now, and it was the City's hope that the men would rise to the occasion this afternoon and put up a good contest.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : F. Ashmead.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. A. Brown, F. Webb (capt.), S. Burford, and J. Phelps.

HALF-BACKS : W. Dix and T. Millington.

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe, G. Holford, S. Smart, C. Mumford, F. Mansell, T. Taylor, E. Richardson, and E. Curtis

SWANSEA

BACK : Joe Rees.

THREE-QUARTERS : B. J. Wilkie, I. Evans, E. Gwynne, and F. Palmer.

HALF-BACKS : Tudor Williams and W. Bowen.

FORWARDS : Tom Parker (capt.), Bert Palmer, P. Evans, J. John, W. Tanner, H. Thomas, W. Stanton, and A. Wheeler.

Referee : Mr. Ned Roberts (Llanelly).

THE GAME

The counter-attraction of the Association International at Swansea militated against the attendance, which was less than 5,000. Swansea were without Harding at three-quarter, but were strong in other respects.

Gloucester opened with a stiff breeze, and Ashmead kicking into the open had the better of the exchanges with Joe Rees. Webb ran strongly, but when he kicked Rees ran fifteen yards and sent well to touch. A burst by Palmer made Gloucester defend, the Swansea wing cross-kicking and causing a scrum to be formed close up. Dix was penalised here, but Bowen's shot for goal went across the field.

The City derived benefit from the wind, and from faulty passing by Swansea three-quarters Phelps found touch nicely. A free kick to Gloucester was the means of the City pressing for the first time, but the passing started by Millington broke down at Webb. Then Brown kicked over the line for a minor.

Gloucester kept up the pressure, Millington sending out of bounds. Swansea gained relief through quick following up by Tudor Williams. It was by kicking that Gloucester generally made progress, for the handling was faulty. Swansea nearly scored through a forward rush led by Parker, and Joe Rees did effective running and kicking.

The Welshmen pressed again, Frank Palmer being the shining light. Tackled by Burford, he sent along the ground to Islwyn Evans, and after the latter had found touch Joe Rees just missed a drop for goal. Swansea hereabouts did great work in the loose, especially Tom Parker. Ashmead made the mistake of kicking into the open for Joe Rees to find touch well up, but relief came through Burford, who lost the ball in an endeavour to give the "dummy" to Palmer.

The Gloucester forwards were heeling well, and Dix and Millington combined nicely, but the Welshmen were better in the loose. Wilkie missed a pass which might have sent him over on the left, and Frank Palmer stumbled just outside. There was still a lack of polish about the play, but Swansea were more aggressive, and after brilliant passing Islwyn Evans sent Frank Palmer over with a try. Evans had hard lines with the kick, the ball striking the upright.

Kicking took Gloucester to the Swansea line on the restart, and Millington had a drop for goal charged down. Relief came through a brilliant burst by White, who ran half the length of the field. Both sides were now playing better football, and there was good passing among the Gloucester forwards, Smart being prominent. Millington broke through nicely without getting much support. Then long kicking compelled Joe Rees to concede a minor. With play at mid-field Tom Parker dribbled nicely, but Burford intervened, and the movement did not develop. Swansea had held territorial advantage, and the wind was expected to help them materially.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
SWANSEA 1 try
GLOUCESTER Nil

The Welshmen resumed with interest, a passing bout, in which eight men took part, leading to Bert Parker sending Bowen over, the latter being recalled because the ball was forward. Then Joe Rees missed a penalty goal by inches. Millington brought much-needed relief. Swansea came again and forced a minor. Gloucester were given no real respite, for Bowen receiving at the centre broke inwards, and dropped a wonderful goal.

Bert Palmer dribbled so well as to cause Ashmead to send back over his own line, but the City heeled from the next scrummage and Webb did some effective running. A hailstorm now broke over the field, and playing against it Gloucester were handicapped. However, they played up pluckily, Phelps contributing a praiseworthy run on the right, and Dix backing him up well. Further Swansea passing ended in Palmer being stopped by Brown just outside. The storm had now spent itself. Swansea had a spell of attacking, at the end of which Bowen scored an unconverted try after running corkscrew fashion and beating several men with the "dummy." It was the best try seen at Swansea for a long time. Following this up Bowen landed a penalty goal at long range.

The Welshmen were having nearly all the play, the feature being their fine dribbling. Joe Rees delighted the crowd with clever dodging, but the Gloucester backs kicked well enough to drive Swansea back to the centre. Ashmead here used the touch line well. Bowen continued to be the star artist in the game, which was proving a bright spectacle in spite of some faulty handling.

Burford kicked across the field, giving Swansea possession, but Palmer was not able to take advantage. Then Joe Rees made an opening for his three-quarters, and Frank Palmer, the last to receive, ran in with a try half the length of the field. Bowen missed converting from the easiest of angles.

RESULT :

SWANSEA ... 2 goals (1d 1p) 3 tries (16 pts.)
GLOUCESTER Nil

GLOUCESTER A EASY WINNERS

RECRUIT SCRUM HALF SHAPES WELL

THREE TRIES BY WASHBOURNE.

Gloucester A played their return match with Gordon League at Kingsholm. Owing to the calls of the Premier team there were several changes, particularly in the pack, but the Reserves anticipated no difficulty in maintaining their ground record, although the League had a strong team out.

Gloucester A : H. Adams; H. Ashmeade, F. Bloxsome (capt.), W. Washbourne, and N. Daniell; F. Brown (Hucclecote) and F. Meadows; J. H. Webb, A. Wright, T. Bridges, D. Collins, J. Hawker, M. Evans, J. Merrett, and G. Turner.

Gordon League : R. James; L. Tovey, L. Marmont, R. Lucas, and W. Poole; A. Langford and W. Hamblin; S. Taylor, C. Taylor, W. Wagner, F. J. Hinton, J. Pinkney, A. Hopcroft, E. C. Williams, and H. Hook.

Referee : Mr. Ivor Brain (Drybrook).

Gloucester started, but the League fielded well and sent play to the home 25. They made further progress, and from a line-out the ball was sent to the three-quarters. Marmont received and dropped a magnificent goal a couple of minutes from the start.

Following this reverse Gloucester reached the League quarters, where Langford was penalised for off-side. Brown got the ball out nicely, and it travelled across to Ashmeade, who, however, found the defence too strong; Daniell, on the other wing, had a similar experience. The Gloucester forwards were getting the ball, and Brown opened up smartly several times.

After a couple of bouts of passing the backs successfully opened the Reserves' account, Ashmeade running well and timing a pass to Bloxsome, who went over behind the posts, but being closely tackled left Bridges to touch down. Adams goaled.

The League advanced to the attack on the restart and tested the home defence, James putting in some good touch-finders and Hamblin also working well. A loose rush by Gloucester changed the venue, and from a scrum near the League line Brown gathered, and cleverly dashing round, scored Gloucester's second try. Adams was again successful with the goal-kick.

A free to the League for feet up by Gloucester saw Marmont take a kick for goal, but it was a forlorn attempt from a yard inside the half-way. Gloucester again visited the League end, but the defence was safe, and by good work in the loose the League secured a safe position.

Merrett, taking the ball from a line-out, led a forward dash to the League quarter. Here Brown sent out smartly to Meadows, who fed the threes, and, following up, received a re-pass from Ashmeade. He went over the line, but was recalled. The visiting forwards relieved temporarily, but Washbourne, picking up in the loose, made a dashing individual effort, and, rounding the opposition, scored splendidly. The extra points were not forthcoming.

Washbourne scored again after a useful bout of passing, in which the halves and threes took their share. Adams' attempt to goal was unsuccessful.

The Gloucester forwards were putting in some excellent work both in the scrums and in the loose, but the game was by no means one-sided.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 2 goals, 2 tries
Gordon League 1 goal (d)

On the resumption the game was fought at mid-field for some time, neither side being able to break away. The League were the first to attack, and worked to the home 25, but although they got the ball out from the scrum they could do nothing. Hamblin hung on too long and lost a possible chance of putting his wing man in. Gloucester lost a forward (injured), but they advanced to the League 25, where James made a timely mark and eased the pressure. Hamblin made a useful run, but his dash was cut short.

A free to the League failed to gain much ground for them, but one of their forwards made a fine burst which carried play to mid-field. The backs carried on the movement, and had hard lines in being beaten for the touch. This was surely Washbourn's day out, for he secured his third try after a beautiful run, the ball coming to him through Meadows from a line-out. Adams missed with the kick from a difficult angle.

The League continued to play a plucky game, but they lacked scoring ability, and were unable to counter the passing movements of the City backs. Gloucester were at full strength again, and kept play well in the visitors' territory, but they were not handling so well as in the first half. Brown, giving the "dummy" to Langford, ran and sent out wide to Bloxsome, but there was an infringement and nothing resulted. The League were pinned on their line, but play was ragged for some time, until the forwards heeled and the ball travelled nicely along to Daniell, who rounded the opposition and scored in a position from which Adams easily converted.

Merrett made a mark and tried a drop for goal without success, and the League worked out to the centre, where Gloucester were penalised. The League did not find touch, and Adams making a good return wrested the advantage from them. The visitors were again hard pressed, but a minor helped them somewhat.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 3 goals, 3 tries (24 pts.)
Gordon League 1 goal (d), (4 pts.)

REMARKS

The League were a beaten side from the start, but they put up a plucky fight; otherwise the total against them would have been much greater. They lacked combination, and were out-weighted and out-manœuvred in the scrums. The Seconds' forwards did remarkably well, and in the loose they were also effective.

Brown, the new scrum half, shaped especially well, opening up smartly, and when opportunities occurred getting in smart runs on his own. He was altogether too good for Langford. Meadows also did well, and the threes were on the top of their form. Adams played a creditable game, but his task was easy compared to that of James, who was hard pressed all the time. The young League back, however, put in some useful work.

JC