

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1908

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. SWANSEA

DISORGANISED CITY TEAM AT ST. HELEN'S

GLOUCESTER'S CREDITABLE DISPLAY

BEATEN BY EIGHT POINTS

CITY CUSTODIAN THE STAR TURN

It was a sadly disorganised City team that made the journey to Swansea to-day to fulfil the return engagement with the All Whites. The county claimed the services of Hudson, Johns, Hollands, Quixley, and Parham, and in addition Gent and Gordon Vears were unable to play. Dix again deputised for Gent, and the vacancies forward were filled from the reserves. Swansea, who were keen on avenging the defeat at Kingsholm in October, had a good side out.

Teams : –

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; C. Smith, E. Hall, G. Cook, and H. Smith, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, J. Stephens, half-backs; A. Hawker, G. Griffiths, H. Collins, R. Craddock, F. Pegler, G. Matthews, G. Holland, J. Wyburn, forwards.

Swansea. – J. Bancroft, back; W. Trew, H. Toft, D. Edwards, P. Hopkins, three-quarter backs; R. M. Owen, R. Jones, half-backs; A. Smith, D. J. Thomas, H. Hunt, E. Morgan, G. Hayward, D. Griffiths, B. Davies, D. Davies, forwards.

There was a small attendance. For just ten minutes Gloucester had the better of the play, their forwards getting the ball from the majority of the scrums. Once “Whacker” Smith was tackled a yard outside after a strong run, and Swansea, in finding relief, were very lucky.

The Gloucester forwards were playing much the better game, and Welshman, too, was fielding and kicking well. Swansea played better as the game wore on, and Toft missed a certain try by failing to take his pass.

Then Stephens and Dix cleverly re-passed, the latter crossing, but he was recalled for being in touch. Swansea got on the attack after this and many times got near to scoring. At last, after clever play, Dick Jones doubled through with a try, but Bancroft failed to convert.

Succeeding play was at mid-field, but Gloucester were still playing well. Once Swansea had settled down Gloucester did not have so much of the play. Getting the ball from a scrum Dick Jones beat the defence on his own and scored a splendid try, but the kick failed. Trew then left the field as a result of an injury, but Dick Jones again went through and gave the ball to Hayward, who scored the third try, Bancroft converting.

Then Gloucester rushed to the Swansea line, and Owen was penalised for off-side play. Welshman kicked a splendid goal. This was well deserved, and indeed, in the general run of play Swansea did not deserve such a big lead.

Welshman was proving the star man of the Gloucester side, his kicking being an especially good feature. After Trew returned Swansea did a little better, but the Gloucester forwards were yet at least a good match for Swansea. Had Gloucester had a little more method at the critical moment they would have scored.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Swansea 1 goal 2 tries
Gloucester 1 penalty goal

Gloucester again pressed at the commencement of the second half, and in the first few minutes Smith almost got over. By means of a long kick Swansea relieved, but then Cook was given a great chance of scoring. From a pass he broke between the Swansea centres, and had beaten all but the full-back. Had he gone on he would have scored, but foolishly kicked, and the chance was lost.

The game fell off a good deal in this half, the one redeeming feature being the fine defence of the Gloucester men. Time after time the Swansea men were brought down near the line, and the defence indeed was better than the attack. Every now and again Gloucester had a turn at attack, but it was want of good combination which prevented them from crossing.

Twice Hayward crossed for Swansea, but each score was disallowed. Then Bancroft missed a penalty shot right in front of the posts, and Gloucester worked out, and but for a fine tackle by Bancroft Stephens would have scored a little later. "Whacker" Smith got away after gathering the ball well. When tackled by Bancroft he passed to Stephens, who before he could move was knocked over by Owen. At this time Gloucester were again playing well, and were having somewhat the better of matters.

Tackling Bancroft near his own line another fine chance was given Gloucester had the men followed up properly, but this was not done, and another possible score was lost. But for the fine defence of Welshman Swansea would certainly have scored a few tries, but the half-backs also tackled well.

In the concluding stages Swansea had all the better of the play, Ben Davies crossing, but again being recalled. All this time Gloucester were on the defence, but this was excellent, and all Swansea's efforts to score were stopped.

RESULT :

Swansea 11 points
Gloucester..... 3 points

REMARKS

The game was not a particularly good one to watch, but with a full team Gloucester might have come nearer winning. The best on the side was undoubtedly Welshman, the full-back, who was almost on the day's play as good as Wood, and much better than Bancroft. The best of the three-quarters was Cook, although Smith defended well. Both half-backs were good, and the forwards, except in open play, did all that could be expected of them.

GLOUCESTER A v. BREAM

CITY SECONDS MAINTAIN THEIR GROUND RECORD.

Bream arrived late, and it was after 3 o'clock before the teams took the field at Kingsholm. Gloucester were weak owing to the calls of the premier team, and there were one or two changes in the visitors' ranks. Gordon Vears was anxious to assist the Seconds, but permission not having been received from the County Union he had to stand down. Gloucester played in white jerseys as the visitors' colours were the same.

The Seconds started, and opening play was contested at mid-field. F. Arthur was early prominent with a neat breakaway, but Bloxsome, who received from Hall, was well tackled by Preest. Good kicking by Baker sent to Butler, who found touch nicely at mid-field. The Brothers Arthur, by good work, sent the game to the Bream 25, where Kent marked nicely.

The visitors cleared and a neat passing bout initiated by Baker took them to the Gloucester 25. The Seconds' forwards, with dashing footwork, got well away, but Moore stopped them cleverly. From some loose play Cook received and took a long drop at goal, but only a minor resulted. There was a period of centre play on the drop out, but at length the home forwards dashed away, only to be checked by Moore.

Beard, with a punt and follow up, put Gloucester in a good position, but Rudge, with a well-judged kick found touch in the home half. Here, S. Arthur was penalised for off-side, but the shot for goal went wide.

Good kicks by Cook enabled Gloucester to change the venue, but only for a brief period, the visitors retaliating with a splendid burst. A smart bit of work by Homer took Bream close to the home line, where some hot work took place. The Brothers Arthur relieved with clever passing and inter-passing, and later Gloucester reached the Foresters' end through Butler.

A penalty enabled Bream to get back, and in some loose play the visitors lost a good opening by knocking on. Gloucester looked likely to score, but a visitor picked up and punted to touch-in-goal.

Resuming, the Seconds had the better of the exchanges. Cook knocked on, and spoiled a promising movement, and in the next minute Bloxsome was hauled down when looking dangerous. J. Kent was hurt in tackling the Gloucesterian and there was a temporary delay.

Continuing, Homer saved off a sharp attack on the right wing, but the Seconds worried their opponents severely. After a slight cessation, owing to an injury to a visitor, the game was continued on the Gloucester 25. From a scrum F. Arthur beat Baker, and passed to Hall, who punted well down. Moore fumbled, and Berry, picking up, dashed away. He beat one or two opponents and then passed, but Bloxsome could not clear.

The game was taken close to the Bream line, where some scrambling play ensued. F. Arthur only just failed to cross in the corner, and then Hall, from the 25 line, brought off a brilliant run through his opponents. He looked all over a scorer, but essayed his pass, and the ball rolled to touch.

Bream worked out of danger with useful kicks, but Cook, with a big punt, sent the game back close to the visitors' line. Gloucester made strong efforts to cross, but they were unsuccessful.

Fumbling by Gloucester men allowed Bream to clear to mid-field. Here the Villagers started passing, but Hall intercepted beautifully, and was just getting clear when an opponent touched his heel and he came down. Soon afterwards the interval was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A Nil
Bream Nil

Baker restarted for Bream, and from the first line-out Berry secured and started a round of passing. The ball came out to Bloxsome, who hesitated and was easily pulled to touch by J. Kent. From a pass by Arthur, Hall worked out a pretty opening, but Moore effected a good tackle. Bailey, with a strong dash from a throw-out, made considerable headway, but he was finely upset by Moore.

Bream were hotly pressed for a few minutes, but their defence prevailed. Neat combination between Bloxsome and F. Arthur took the captain right to the line, but he was called back for going into touch.

Immediately after a couple of Gloucester forwards dribbled over the line, but Moore just managed to touch down. Following the drop-out play continued in the Bream half, but was very scrambling, and near midfield Baker robbed S. Arthur at the scrum and went through to Butler. There was a splendid opening for the visitors, but the pass went astray.

Faulty handling by Bream enabled Gloucester to rush back, and from passing Bloxsome had a dash for the line, but succumbed to numbers. Off-side by the visiting forwards gave the Seconds a penalty, but Purton's shot for goal fell a long way short.

Ensuing play was hotly contested, but the teams appeared equally matched, and few openings presented themselves.

Bloxsome had a possible chance following some loose kicking, but he turned the ball to touch. Gloucester struggled hard to effect a score, but they were met with a sterling defence.

Off-side by Baker caused his side to be penalised, but Purton's attempt for goal was a poor one. F. Kent received and punted to Cook, who with a lovely kick dropped a good goal.

Resuming, Beard showed up with a strong run, but held too long. Gloucester penned their opponents for some time until Baker relieved with a tricky run to the centre. The Seconds quickly worked back, and a lovely bout of passing saw Beard tackled a couple of yards outside. Gloucester had the better of the exchanges to the finish, but failed to add to their score.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 1 goal (d) (4 points)
Bream Nil

REMARKS

It was a hard, strenuous game, but the Seconds deserved to win on the run of the play. Bream were strong forward, especially in the loose, and at half Baker and Rudge proved a very nippy pair. The three-quarters showed good tackling, and Moore was an excellent custodian.

Gloucester did far more attacking than their opponents, and on several occasions they experienced hard lines in not scoring. The forwards proved a serviceable eight, Blackford, Bailey, and Berry being always prominent. The latter was especially good in the lines-out, and should develop into a very useful forward.

The Brothers Arthur did a lot of smart work at half, and of the three-quarters Hall and Cook (centres) were very conspicuous. Butler gave a creditable display at full-back, and gave nothing away.