

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1908

## RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. SWANSEA

CITY TEAM AT ST. HELENS

AN UNDESERVED DEFEAT

Gloucester paid their annual visit to Swansea to-day to engage the famous All Whites. This was the fourth match in eight days for several of the City players – not a fit preparation to meet such a formidable side as Swansea – and it was feared this would considerably militate against the chances of the visitors.

Several members of the team complained of hard knocks received in the Australian game, and Neale and Elliott had to stand down. This necessitated a change at three-quarter, Hudson playing on the wing, Berry taking Elliott's place, and W. Hall filling the other vacancy at centre. Hollands came into the forwards.

Swansea had several doubtful starters, and the side was not definitely settled until Saturday morning. The teams were finally constituted as follows : –

Gloucester. – F. Welshman; A. Hudson (capt.), W. Hall, H. Berry, and F. Smith; D. R. Gent and J. Stephens; W. Johns, G. Vears, D. Hollands, G. Griffiths, B. Parham, R. Craddock, J. Wyburn, and G. Holford.

Swansea. – J. Bancroft; Lewis, H. Thomas, Toft, and Hopkins; Owen (capt.) and Bateman; Morgan, Smith, D. Thomas, Hayward, B. Davies, D. Davies, and Hunt.

Referee : Mr. T. L. Williams (Newport).

## THE GAME

The weather was gloriously fine, and there were about 5,000 spectators. Owen captained the Swansea side in the absence of Trew. Swansea started, and opening play was fought out in the City half.

A mistake by Lewis allowed Gloucester to gain some twenty yards, but they were quickly driven back. Passing by the Swansea backs did not make much headway, but Thomas gained them a good slice of ground with a well-judged punt. For an infringement Gloucester were penalised, and Bancroft dropped a lovely goal from near the centre.

Gloucester re-started, and Gent opening out, some neat exchanges followed. Berry, however, threw the ball wildly, and the home forwards dribbled to Welshman, who was tackled off-side. Gloucester relieved with the resultant penalty, and later Hudson and Stephens rushed down finely. Lewis passed back to Bancroft, who lost the ball, which was taken over the line. Wyburn scored, but the try was disallowed, and a scrum was ordered five yards outside.

Swansea cleared luckily, but neat passing by Gloucester saw Hudson beat Lewis, but he just failed to clear Bancroft. Gloucester continued to attack strongly, and again experienced hard lines. Pretty work by Gent and Stephens gave the Gloucester backs possession. Berry burst away strongly, but having worked out a nice opening he sent a bad pass to Smith.

Ensuing play was confined to the Swansea half, the City doing all the pressing. Hudson punted well down to Bancroft, who was pushed to touch by Hall a few yards outside. Swansea eased the pressure by useful kicks, and reached the centre.

From a line-out a home forward knocked forward badly, but he was allowed to dribble clear. The ball was kicked past Welshman and over the line, Morgan being credited with a gift try. Bancroft failed a goal.

The score appeared to dishearten the City men for a time, and Swansea nearly added to their lead. Just afterwards Hall was instrumental in bringing relief, and the forwards supplemented with some fine loose work.

Gloucester heeling well, the City backs passed beautifully, Hall being nearly through. Swansea cleared luckily, and then from near midfield Owen brought off a splendid run and pass to Morgan, who scored near the posts for Bancroft to goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Swansea ..... 2 goals (1 p) 1 try

Gloucester ..... Nil

Swansea were indeed fortunate in leading at the interval by 11 points, for on the play Gloucester had done better work all round, but got no luck. Gloucester restated, and Swansea returned well past the centre. From a line-out Holford broke away with a clever dribble, which Toft checked with a neat pick up and kick to touch.

The Gloucester forwards again got going, and Bancroft only saved from a dangerous rush in the nick of time. A penalty against Gloucester gave Swansea relief, and operations were fought out at midfield. Owen opened out, but passed poorly, and Hudson with a flying kick sent to Bancroft, who was upset.

Swansea made headway with well-judged kicks, and later a hot attack was made on the City lines. The defence, however, was sound. Eventually, in loose work, the ball was sent out to Lewis, but the Swansea sprinter failed to cross with a fine chance.

Gloucester by desperate work found a more favourable position, but they were forced back to their 25. Gent showed rare pluck in stopping the home forwards when looking dangerous, and next Frank Smith and Berry checked a likely score by good tackling. Swansea were getting the best of the scrums now, and Owen was continually in possession. The backs, however, were at fault in handling.

A strong run by Berry gave Gloucester welcome relief, and Hudson, with a splendid kick, found touch near the home line. H. Thomas was hereabouts injured and had to retire. Resuming, Hopkins changed the venue with a nice kick, and a penalty further improved their position. The City, however, worked out with a fine loose rush, and Swansea were given plenty to do.

A mistake in gathering lost the visitors ground, and then Hall was violently tackled by a burly forward after he had kicked, and laid out. There was a delay, but fortunately the Gloucesterian was able to continue.

Grand play by Welshman was heartily applauded by the crowd, and later from passing Hudson raced away and kicked, but a home player saved. Gloucester, however, were not to be denied, and Hudson was only pushed to touch a few yards outside after a great effort. From the throw-out Johns secured and handed to Hollands, who burst over under the posts but was held up – hard lines for Gloucester.

Immediately after the City were on the attack again, Smith and Hall only just failing to beat the defence. Swansea continued to be hard pressed, but just before the end they eased the pressure and carried the game to midfield.

#### RESULT :

Swansea .. 2 goals (1 p) 1 try (11 points)  
Gloucester ..... Nil

#### REMARKS

Gloucester did not deserve to be beaten, for on the run of the game they were equal in all respect to their opponents. The City's form all round was very gratifying, and it was cruel luck that robbed them of two or three tries. The Gloucester forwards were seen to great advantage, and they heeled better than in any previous match at Swansea. Gent and Stephens, too, worked beautifully together, and gave nothing away to Owen and Bateman.

Behind, the City gave a capital display, and with Neale or Elliott in the line the All Whites would have gone under. Berry made one or two strong burst, but was a bit wild in passing. The other men were all prominent, Hudson and Hall especially. Welshman gave a grand display at full-back, and the Swansea spectators cheered him again and again.

Swansea were nothing like so resourceful as usual at three-quarter, and the forwards had nothing in hand. Owen was the shining light, and the opening he made which led up to the first try was cleverly done. The other point was palpably a present from the referee.

#### GLOUCESTER A v. ST. MARK'S SECONDS' SUBSTANTIAL VICTORY

These old rivals met at Kingsholm in almost tropical weather before a small attendance. The game opened at the centre, and Dix and Smith started a good round of passing, but Hamblin was collared. A little later A. Pegler ran down and kicked, but Etheridge, the St. Mark's back, returned well. Gloucester, however, had gained a good footing in the Saints' 25. A penalty brought some relief, but an exchange of kick left the profit with the Saints.

Some good following up by Gloucester again put them in a favourable position. Savage, one of the home forwards, hurt his arm and had to retire, but the Gloucester boys kept up the attack and forced a minor. St. Mark's came away with a strong burst, and reached the Gloucester line, but Perry ran back and punted well out.

The St. Mark's left wing returned, but the Seconds rushed the succeeding scrum. Gloucester were penalised, but Hayward's kick went wide, and Gloucester reached the centre. Savage returned at this point.

Play was not very interesting, but Gloucester were having the best of it, and were very near the line. A nice bit of passing looked promising for the Seconds, but an opponent cleverly snapped up the last transfer, and cleared out of danger.

Gloucester were quickly attacking again, and Lister was very nearly over in the corner. The St. Mark's men, however, put in another telling rush and centred play again. Gloucester were not to be denied, however, and after attacking for some time Bird got over after a cut through by Lister. The extra points were not added.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A .....	1 try
St. Mark's .....	Nil

The opening incident of the second half was a capital try by Hamblin after two or three well-judged passes. Hayward added the extra points from straight in front.

From the succeeding kick-off the Gloucester forwards obtained possession, and a series of pretty transfers gave F. Pegler a chance, and he got over with a smartly earned try. There was no goal.

A beautiful bit of combined play, with inter-passing between Dix and A. Pegler ended in the latter getting over in the corner – a capital try. There was no goal.

Dix was the next to score near the posts, and Perry added the extra points.

Two of the Gloucester men's kicks were charged down, and St. Mark's went over the line, but Hubert Smith kicked dead in the nick of time. Hubert Smith dashed right away from the line-out, but was collared and a scramble ensued, the result being a scrum right on the Saints' line.

St. Mark's cleared, however, and rushed to the other end. Their stay there was short, and Gloucester were soon attacking again. Several scrums were formed quite close to St. Mark's line, and eventually Dix dived over in the corner. No goal resulted.

Gloucester were soon at it again, and Dix put Cook over in the opposite corner. There was no goal.

Dix made an opening for A. Pegler, who got over in the corner. Again no goal resulted.

Play was of a give and take nature to the end, but there was no more scoring.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 2 goals, 6 tries (28 points)

St. Mark's ..... Nil

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