

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1912

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v SWANSEA

CITIZENS' SPLENDID FIGHT

For the return match with Swansea, at St. Helen's, Gloucester could not command full strength, for neither A. Hudson, H. Berry, nor A. Lodge were able to make the long journey. The absence of these players was bound to be felt, and with Swansea turning out a powerful side the city, on paper, did not appear to have much chance against the Welshmen. At Kingsholm, in November, Gloucester beat the All Whites by 8 points to 3.

Gloucester. – C. Cook, back; W. Staunton, J. Hamblin, L. Hamblin, W. Washbourne, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, W. Hall, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), G. Holford, W. Johns, J. Meadows, S. Smart, G. Griffiths, N. Hayes, J. Harris, forwards.

Swansea. – W. J. Lewis, back; F. Holbrook, A. Waters, H. Lewis, F. Williams, three-quarter backs; R. M. Owen (capt.), W. J. Trew, half-backs; D. J. Thomas, I. Morgan, G. Hayward, B. Hollingdale, G. Evans, Rev. Alban Davies, E. Jones, H. Moulton, forwards.

THE GAME

There was a good attendance when Vears kicked off, the return going to touch inside the home half. Some clever exchange kicking reacted in advantage to Gloucester, who maintained a good position in the home 25. Here Swansea opened out splendidly, Holbrook dashing down touch and cross punting. Washbourne, however, saved near the line.

Carrying a scrum the City forwards came away, Johns leading, but they were checked by Trew. Swansea were awarded a free, and Waters following up a high punt collided with an opponent and had to leave the field. Ivor Morgan came out to three-quarter to fill the vacancy.

Useful forward work by the visitors brought them to the centre, where Hall with a clever screw punt found touch some thirty yards down the field. Waters now returned, and the Welshmen were immediately awarded a free.

This changed the venue, and Swansea further improved with a nice kick. Dix, however, robbed Owen prettily and dribbled clear. He was well backed up, and W. Lewis was upset directly he received. There was a possible chance, but Holbrook nipped in and cleared.

Soon afterwards Gloucester forced a minor with a kick over the line. Ensuing play was in favour of Gloucester, who were working well together. A wild pass by Owen allowed Gloucester to attack strongly, Smart being held up just outside from a scrum close in. Hall received and dropped for goal but missed.

On the restart Swansea attempted passing, but it broke down. Johns was prominent several times in the loose, and Gloucester were holding their own well. Near the centre Owen secured and passed to Trew, who broke through beautifully, and racing hard sent Holbrook over with a corner try. The place kick failed.

Johns came away with a fine burst on the drop out, and the City gained a footing in the home half. Dix here fed Hall, who passed to J. Hamblin, the latter kicking down the field to Lewis, who returned. Swansea replied with lovely passing, which ended in Gloucester being pressed right on their line. A penalty brought much needed relief, and then Holford and Hayes dribbled clear, only to be beaten by Lewis when looking dangerous. Gloucester heeled and tried attacking on the right, but L. Hamblin was swung round and lost the ball, Swansea taking advantage.

Ensuing play was somewhat scrambling, and numerous frees were awarded. Swansea eventually gained the upper hand and following a forward burst, Hayward scored behind the posts, a goal resulting.

Gloucester had the better of the play to the interval, but could not score.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Swansea 1 goal, 1 try
Gloucester Nil

Swansea resumed, and the Welshmen at once secured an attacking position, the forwards heeling well. There was a series of lovely exchanges, but the final pass was ruled forward. On the left wing Williams was just tackled in time by Washbourne from an opening by Trew. Dix brought relief with a timely punt to touch, and the forwards made further headway. Ivor Morgan dribbled back, J. Hamblin being forced to kick straight to touch to clear.

For an infringement Gloucester were penalised, but Cook marked from the kick and returned well. Though doing grandly in the loose and the lines-out Gloucester were beaten in heeling. Once or twice Swansea passed prettily, but the tackling was sound. A mistake by Trew saw Holford and Meadows dribble down, Washbourne following up and forcing Lewis to touch.

Swansea [2 or 3 words unreadable] the City forwards rushed [2 or 3 words unreadable] Welshmen were on the defensive. [2 or 3 words unreadable] the visitors broke away in a [2 or 3 words unreadable] taking the ball to the line. Hayes [2 or 3 words unreadable] and scored under the posts. L. Hamblin converted.

Rain fell heavily on resumption, and play was keenly contested. Swansea [2 or 3 words unreadable] sharp attack, but they were beaten off, [2 or 3 words unreadable] burst by the forwards took a lot of [1 or 2 words unreadable] but the home team checked on the 25.

[1 or 2 words unreadable] Dix twice sneaked away from the scrum, [1 or 2 words unreadable] passes in each instance went wide of [1 or 2 words unreadable] Gloucester still pressed, and Hall just missed dropping with a free [1 or 2 words unreadable] Swansea were able to ease the pressure [1 or 2 words unreadable] drop-out, big kicking taking them to the Gloucester end. Fine loose play ended in the [1 or 2 words unreadable] going across to T. Williams, but he was well tackled. Gloucester cleared effectively with [1 or 2 words unreadable] forward work, and in this department they did splendidly all round. Still, Swansea were always dangerous when they got the ball.

Gloucester had to battle against a storm of rain, but they worked heroically. Twice they were forced to touch down from kicks over the line. once after Cook had a return charged down. Swansea had the better of subsequent play territorially, but they were held splendidly. The rain was terrific for five minutes, and rendered the ground very sloppy.

Good kicking by Hall greatly assisted Gloucester, but Swansea returned strongly. Cook mis-kicking Holbrook fielded the ball over the line and scored, though the Gloucester touch-judge disputed the point. The place-kick failed. The game to the end was fought out desperately, despite the conditions, but there was nothing further scored.

RESULT :

Swansea 1 goal 2 tries (11 points)
Gloucester 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester put up a splendid fight, especially in the second half, and deserved another try at least. Holbrook's last point was decidedly flukey, besides being doubtful.

Forward, the City's pack gave one of their finest displays. Swansea were cleverer in controlling the ball in the scrums, but in every other department the Welshmen were out-pointed.

Some of the rushes of the Gloucester men were superb, and there was no finer forward on the field than Johns. He was splendidly backed up by the others, noteworthy performers being Hayes, Holford, and Smart. Behind the scrum Swansea had the pull, though it was rarely the All Whites carried out movements without mistakes.

Owen was given plenty to do by Dix, and the City scrum worker often worried the International. Trew led up to the first try, but he appeared to be saving himself. Hall got through a lot of useful work for Gloucester. Holbrook was easily the pick of the Swansea threes, showing splendid dash and resource. Gloucester's third line did not get many opportunities to shine, but no serious mistakes were made. Cook was good at full-back, and could be excused for that last slip, for the ball and ground were treacherous.

GLOUCESTER A v CHEPSTOW ST. MARY'S

EASY WIN FOR THE SECONDS

These teams met at Kingsholm before a small attendance. The men faced each other as follows : –

Gloucester A. – F. W. Hayward; Carr Cummings, H. Cook, A. Sysum, and F. Bloxsome; T. Humphries and F. Allen; W. Cromwell, H. Berry, F. Yates, S. Millard, P. Simmonds, A. Cook, A. Banner, and E. Osborne.

Chepstow St. Mary. – L. Marmont; A. Matthews, J. Morgan, T. Hobbs, and L. Powell; J. Miles and D. Davies; C. Holley, M. Holley, W. Fisher, B. White, H. Ashwin, H. Hayward, B. Jones, and F. Stockwell.

Referee : Mr. Lawrence (Cheltenham).

Gloucester started, but the ball did not go the requisite ten yards and a scrum was called. From this the home halves got possession, and some good passing took Gloucester well into the visitors' quarter. The Chepstow forwards, however, put in some telling work, and quickly reached the home 25. Gloucester cleared all right, but the game was in the home half for some time.

Millard broke away cleverly from a line-out, and the ball came across well, but Cook, in trying to cut in, was collared and the ball went to touch. This, however, had put Gloucester well up, and the forwards charged down a kick by Morgan and Millard went over with a try. Hayward took the kick, but the wind carried the ball outside.

Gloucester were very quickly back on the attack, but they could not get the ball back, and a series of scrums followed.

Gloucester continued to have the best of the close work, but the ball was given very little air. Sysum was responsible for a very clever bit of work, and Gloucester again pressed hotly.

The Gloucester forwards were distinctly superior and were getting the best of the scrums. They forced Chepstow back onto their own line, and Allen dodged over with a neat try. Hayward took the kick, but again just missed.

A beautiful opening was made by the halves, and Bloxsome cut up the ground at a great pace and put Sysum over with a capital try. Hayward goaled with a good kick.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	1 goal, 2 tries
Chepstow	Nil

Thanks to some excellent touch-kicking by Hayward and Sysum, Gloucester quickly obtained the advantage at the opening of the second half, and in a forward rush Albert Cook scored, Hayward landing a splendid goal.

Gloucester were feeling the advantage of the wind behind them, and maintained a hot attack. They forced a minor, and after this the game was all in favour of the 'Cestrians. Gradually the forwards worked up, and from a line-out Banner received and went over with a try. Hayward failed with the kick.

The Gloucester forwards continued to dominate the situation, and the visitors were compelled to defend. One of the visitors, when hard-pressed, kicked out, and Hayward gathering nicely, dropped a neat goal.

Centre play followed for some time, and then Chepstow forced the home men to touch down by a long kick over the line. Gloucester quickly got on the move again, and when well in the Chepstow quarter one of the visitors got a nasty smack in the face and had to retire.

Gloucester continued to press hotly, and a pretty passing move followed, but the home three-quarters were much too bunched up together, and Cook was bored to touch.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 3 goals (1d), 3 tries (23 pts.)
Chepstow St. Mary's Nil

JC