

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

**FEBRUARY 28, 1903**

FOOTBALL AND SPORT

SWANSEA v. GLOUCESTER

Gloucester did very badly at Swansea, though it must be admitted that they had a weak team, Whacker Smith, Romans, Goulding, Morgan, and Lewis Smith being away, while on the other hand Swansea were at full strength.

Taking the game as a whole, Gloucester were terribly outclassed, though in the opening stages they more than held their own, being better in the loose than the scrums, the Welsh forwards heeling very finely.

The score at the interval was one goal and two tries to one try in favour of Swansea. Hudson, who scored for Gloucester, played a fine game, his try being the outcome of a determined individual effort.

In the end the Citizens were beaten by 32 points (4 goals 4 tries) to one try (3 points). Swansea all round were the better team, the passing of the three-quarters being a real treat to witness at times. Gloucester did not at all shine in this respect, Stephens and Collett both playing anything but their usual game.

Hudson was the best man on the Gloucester side, and though Parham and Keys had a hot pair in Rees and Jones to cope with, they nevertheless did some useful work. The forwards played a hard game, but tired very much in the latter stages.

The "Western Mail" says : "Gloucester were a weak team, and were beaten in the first five minutes. There was nothing for the team but a drubbing – that could be seen with half an eye.

Swansea's forwards beat theirs easily in the tight scrums, although they were more fairly coped with in the loose. As for the backs, the Swansea ones were in for an 'exhibition' – the others were their victims. They vivisected, phlebotomized, and scarified them."

The "South Wales Daily News" says except for a brief period in the first half Gloucester were hopelessly outclassed all round, especially in the back division, Pugh, their custodian, a substitute for Romans, being very weak, whilst on the other hand Bancroft was in his best form.

The Gloucester halves failed conspicuously in feeding their third line, whilst Rees – playing instead of Owen – and Dick Jones passed out to their quartet in a most effective manner. The Gloucester forwards held up very fairly, but Swansea worsted them frequently by wheeling the scrums and taking the ball with them.

For the defeated Click, Smith, and Oswell were the pick of the front rank. Parham, inside half, did a lot of good work, kicking and tackling well. Of the three-quarters, perhaps Collett and Hudson were the most noticeable. Vears, however, tackled at times very effectively.

The "gate" at the Somerset v. Gloucester[*sic*] match at Weston last week was £170.

JC