

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1903

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. SWANSEA

There was an absence of the excitement usually attendant on the annual meeting of Gloucester and Swansea at Kingsholm to-day, consequent on the very moderate displays given by the City team this season. Last week's severe defeat from Newport had the effect of damping the enthusiasm of local followers considerably, and the prospect of Gloucester doing any better against the powerful combination representing Swansea was very remote indeed.

The All Whites came with a record of four successive wins and the distinction of not having a point scored against them, an achievement which denotes at once the all round strength of the team.

The side which Captain Parker had under his command this afternoon was the same which defeated Llanelly so severely last Saturday, and included no fewer than ten players who have gained International honours – the whole of the back division and three forwards.

The veteran W. J. Bancroft was not in his accustomed position at full-back, but in George Davies (who played for Wales against England at Gloucester three years ago) Swansea have found a worthy successor to the famous custodian.

At three-quarter the visitors introduced W. Arnold to a Gloucester crowd for the first time, but all the other notable players in the ranks are well-known at Kingsholm.

There was no change in the home team, "Whacker" Smith finding himself fit to turn out. The afternoon was gloriously fine, and there was a good attendance of spectators, including about 100 Swansea enthusiasts. The visitors arrived on the ground in good time, and a punctual start was made, the players lining out as follows :—

GLOUCESTER	Positions	SWANSEA
G. Romans	Backs	G. Davies *
C. Smith	Three-quarter	W. Trew *
F. Rooke	Backs	D. Rees *
A. Hudson	"	W. Arnold *
L. Vears	"	F. Jowett *
J. Stephens	Half-Backs	R. M. Owen *
L. F. Morgan	"	R. Jones *
B. Parham	Forwards	W. Parker *
F. Goulding	"	F. Scrine *
F. Westbury	"	W. Joseph *
W. Johns	"	D. Davies
A. Hawker	"	D. Thomas
A. Purton	"	W. Coles
G. Vears	"	J. Connick
H. Taylor	"	S. Bevan
		* Internationals

Referee : Mr. J. MILBURN (Bristol)

### THE GAME

Gloucester won the toss, and the visitors kicked off against the sun. Stephens received and replied to Jowett, who failed to gather, and Goulding rushed him into touch, just outside the 25 line. From the first scrum the Swansea forwards heeled, but Owen misfielded, and Jones was forced to kick to touch.

Then the Gloucester back got possession and sent out neatly to Morgan who fed Stephens. Hudson received in turn, but his pass went astray.

The Gloucester forwards, however, got on the ball, and they rushed to the Swansea line, where Davies saved. In a scramble Parham was knocked out, and he had to be assisted off the field.

Gloucester resumed a man short in the scrum, and Swansea at once cleared with a forward burst. A City forward, however, picked up and made a few yards, but he lost the ball, and Arnold kicked down the field. Romans made his mark neatly, and found touch at the centre. Passing by the visiting backs looked promising, but the tackling was safe. Then a kick sent the ball over the home line, but Romans ran out and cleared to the 25 line.

Subsequent play showed Stephens to advantage, and mid-field was the scene of operations. From here the Swansea backs brought off some splendid exchanges, and Rees feinting he looked a certain scorer, but Smith tackled him on the line. Gloucester were pressed hotly in the next few minutes, the visitors showing up with some clever tactics, but they could not get through.

From neat play by Jones, Arnold made a good effort to drop a goal, but it was not successful, a minor resulting. From the drop-out G. Davies forced another touchdown with his return kick. On the re-start Swansea quickly got to the home end, where Owen made a beautiful run and pass to Arnold, the latter scoring in the corner. Trew failed at goal.

Parham resumed now amidst encouraging cheers, but after a few minutes he had to retire again. With the advantage of an extra man in the scrimmage the Swansea forwards controlled the ball at will, and heeling smartly the visiting half-backs had plenty of opportunities. Jones and Owen were not slow in taking advantage, and the three-quarters exhibited some pretty passing. From one bout Jowett had a good opening, but Rooke came across and threw him into touch.

For an infringement Swansea were penalised, and by the aid of the free Romans sent play to mid-field. Here the Gloucester forwards heeled smartly twice in quick succession, and Smith and Stephens in turn made headway.

A clever punt by L. Vears under difficulties led to Gloucester finding a footing on their opponents' 25. Smart play by the home halves further improved matters, but Owen eventually set Jones on the move, and following a brilliant run by Arnold, Trew raced over with a fine try. The same player landed a good goal.

Gloucester, who again had the services of Parham, re-started, and held their own capitally. Heeling by the forwards saw Stephens get hold and punt down to Davies, who only got in a weak reply. From the next scrum Gloucester again got possession, and passing between Morgan, Stephens, Rooke, and Hudson nearly let the latter through after a smart dash. Then Swansea were penalised, but Romans failed to raise the ball with his shot at goal, and only a touchdown resulted.

Immediately after the drop-out Rees was conspicuous with a clever run which gained considerable headway, but his pass to Scrine was adjudged forward. A smart bit of work by Smith warded off threatened danger from the Swansea left wing, but immediately after the Welshmen combined in a superb piece of combination, backs and forwards taking part, the movement ending in Thomas beating Romans and scoring near the posts. The place kick failed.

Resuming, there was a short spell of even play, but the Swansea backs, with wonderfully clever running and passing, caused the home defence considerable trouble. Rees on one occasion put in a great run, and was all but through when he essayed a pass, which went forward.

More brilliant combination by the Welshmen was heartily applauded by the spectators, but though getting very near, the visitors failed to add to their lead before the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Swansea ..... 1 goal, 2 tries  
Gloucester ..... Nil

Hawker started the second half, and the Swansea backs were soon in evidence, but Jones held too long. Then the Gloucester halves started a bout of passing, but Rooke had his kick charged down, and Trew raced down touch with the ball at his feet. The move, however, was checked on the home 25 line. A smart effort by L. Vears, who kicked and tackled Scrine before the latter could reply [*sic*], helped Gloucester to get out of a dangerous position, and Stephens further improved matters. G. Davies, however, with some big kicks, sent play back to the home end, where Romans was pushed to touch by Trew, who had followed up smartly.

Passing initiated from a line-out saw Jowett try to get clear, but Hudson effected a fine tackle. Swansea were giving the ball plenty of air, and a grand run by Rees secured a fine opening, but his pass to Arnold was adjudged forward with only Romans to beat.

A good rush by the City front rank, and a useful kick by Romans, enabled Gloucester to clear and Goulding tackling Trew Gloucester reached mid-field. Some loose play followed, ending in Gloucester securing a good opening, but Davies was wonderfully safe. Swansea rushed down to the home end, but Stephens, who was playing a grand game, sent them back by clever play.

Twice the Gloucesterian got away splendidly, but he was not supported, and the movements stopped at the centre. Swansea had had little the better of the play for the last few minutes, but at length Owen started a series of exchanges, which ended in Rees getting possession and scoring with ease. Trew hit the cross-bar with his shot at goal.

Resuming, Swansea at once attacked, and passing in their own 25 nearly brought disaster to the home side. Romans, however, managed to get in a kick to touch, and thus saved the situation.

More brilliant work by the Swansea three-quarters kept the home backs on the move, and they had the hardest work imaginable in keeping their lines intact.

From a kick down the field Romans took the ball over the line, and a scrum was ordered five yards out. Here Stephens was penalised for off-side, and Trew added three points for the visitors by the aid of a penalty goal.

On the restart the game continued to go all in favour of Swansea, whose backs ran and passed in a manner which bewildered the home men. A forward pass, however, spoiled two or three certain tries. Parham retired again now and Swansea asserted their superiority more than ever.

Trew, racing across the ground, put Arnold in possession, but the latter was collared by Vears. Trew also had been tackled, and was laid out. Several players stopped on both sides, and the referee certainly appeared to blow his whistle. The game, however, was continued, and it ended in Thomas being credited with a try under the posts, Owen failing at goal.

Subsequent play was very one-sided, Swansea doing practically as they liked. Now and again there was a spasmodic burst on the part of the home team, but it died away. Just before the finish, Owen and Jones got away beautifully, and passing between Arnold and Jowett gave the latter a corner try after a sharp dash. No goal resulted.

Soon afterwards "no-side" was called.

#### RESULT :

Swansea .... 2 goals (1 p), 5 tries (23 points)  
Gloucester ..... Nil

#### REMARKS

To the winners must be accorded high praise for one of the most delightful exhibitions of football seen at Kingsholm for many a long day. At all points Gloucester, though playing up pluckily to the end, were clearly outclassed by a combination which was as near perfection in every department as one could possibly obtain on the football field.

It was a typical example of the best standard of Welsh football, and a remarkable tribute to the all-round efficiency of the Swansea team. Six times across the line did not over-estimate the pronounced superiority of the Welshmen, and the most rabid partisan of the City team would be forced to admit that the All Whites thoroughly deserved their handsome victory. After this the Kingsholm ground will not be regarded with so much trepidation by Welsh teams. Gloucester no doubt were handicapped in getting Parham injured so early in the game, but we question if the presence of the City vice-captain all through the game would have affected the scoring in the least degree.

On the whole Gloucester performed creditably forward, and got the ball a number of times. But the home backs suffered greatly in comparison with their opponents.

The International division were in grand form, and in pace, cleverness, and general combination they simply overwhelmed the opposition. Several of the tries were beautifully worked for, and but for forward passes in several final transfers the try-getting would have been appreciably augmented.

The Gloucester backs did their best in defence, and accomplished a tremendous amount of stopping, but it was impossible to altogether successfully withstand the persistent attacks of the Welshmen. On the Gloucester side Stephens, individually, did two men's work, and the City half-back certainly gave Swansea the most trouble. Morgan worked hard, but he could not get on terms with Owen, whose combination with Jones was perfect.

At three-quarter there was little combination on the home side, but Smith and Vears did wonders in defence; whilst Hudson was also prominent in this department.

The Swansea third line has already been referred to in general terms; individually they were a great force, and all brought off something brilliant.

Rees and Arnold worked together in perfect harmony in the centre, and the way they looked after their wing men was a treat to watch. What an object lesson to the home team !

Forward, Gloucester were best served by Goulding, Hawker, Purton, and G. Vears, though all packed well and did their fair share of pushing.

The Swansea eight were wonderfully clever in the open, and displayed splendid judgment and resource. At full-back, George Davies' exhibition was fully in keeping with the standard of excellence set up by the rest of the team, and on the day he outshone Romans. The City captain kicked well at times, but he was not in such good form as against Newport the previous week.

The match was contested in the best possible spirit, and nothing occurred to mar the pleasure of one of the most exhilarating displays we have seen for some time. At the close of the game the Welshmen were heartily cheered.

JC