

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1921.

FOOTBALL.

GLO'STER'S HARD LUCK AT NEWPORT.

VIGOROUS FORWARD GAME.

CITY'S DESPERATE FIGHT AGAINST FATE.

With the exception of Major Roderick (whose injured ankle is not quite fit, though he hopes to play next Saturday), Gloucester had their strongest available team on duty at Newport to-day, and the City had hopes – despite the long run of ill-success at the Rodney Parade enclosure – that the side would make a close fight. Both clubs were beaten last week, and both lost ground records, Newport suffering their first defeat at home since 1918. The Usksiders, however, were not at full strength against Cardiff, and the combination selected to oppose Gloucester carried much more confidence. The G.W.R. ran a cheap trip to Newport in connection with the match, and the train was well patronised by supporters of the City team. Teams : –

## GLOUCESTER.

BACK : A. J. Kerwood.

THREE-QUARTERS : N. Daniell, F. Webb, E. H. Hughes, and W. Washbourne.

HALF-BACKS : W. Dix and T. Millington.

FORWARDS : S. Smart (capt.), T. Voyce, A. Hall, J. F. Lawson, S. Bayliss, F. W. Ayliffe, J. Harris, and A. Ford.

## NEWPORT.

BACK : F. Baker.

THREE-QUARTERS : L. M. Basden, W. Jones, J. Shea, and A. Stock.

HALF-BACKS : H. Davies and J. Wetter.

FORWARDS : N. McPherson (captain), J. Whitfield, T. Jones, W. Radford, C. W. Jones, –. Skuse, D. L. Jones, and J. V. Waite.

Referee : Mr. Huntley (Cross Keys).

## THE GAME.

A thick mist hung over the ground, and the attendance was down, between eight and ten thousand being present. Newport started the game, and play opened in the Gloucester half, where the home team were awarded a free. The kick gave them little advantage, and from the next scrum Voyce dribbled cleverly, gaining a dozen yards or so before being checked.

Gloucester made further headway, but Baker with a fine kick sent to touch at the centre. Here the Newport backs brought off a sharp bout of passing. Stock, the last to receive, punted across, but Voyce got back and fielded in good style. Newport set up a warm attack, but the handling was at fault, and nothing resulted.

Playing strongly, Gloucester worked out of danger, but McPherson, with a strong burst, gave trouble. The defence, however, prevailed, and Gloucester, aided by kicks by Dix and Millington, reached midfield. From this point the City forwards with a desperate rush got dangerous, and Newport were hard pressed, but the tackling was sound. From a flying kick Webb marked, Millington hitting the cross-bar with his shot for goal.

This was very hard luck for the visitors. Newport cleared with useful kicking, and centre play followed. Newport eventually worked down to the City quarters, where a Gloucester player had a kick charged down. The ball rebounded over the line, and T. Jones followed up and scored a soft try, which Baker failed to convert.

Resuming, Gloucester showed up strongly, Webb making a tricky run and kick which placed Newport in danger. The ball coming out to Hughes, he ran nicely, but his pass was knocked on with a splendid opening. However, a couple of minutes later Stock failed to accept a pass, and the ball being snapped up by Washbourne, the right wing dashed over with the equalising try. Millington missed the goal points.

On the restart the game was very fast. The Gloucester forwards were playing magnificently, and were beating their opponents in the loose. Holford and Lawson dribbled finely from a line-out, and gradually Gloucester gained the upper hand. From passing Washbourne received and punted ahead. Racing up he regained possession, and being collared from behind he let the ball go to Hughes, who slipped his immediate opponent cleverly and scored a try. Millington failed at goal.

Encouraged by this success, Gloucester played up brilliantly, and Newport were severely pressed. A great forward burst nearly beat the defence, and then clever work by Daniell and Dix gave the latter a try, but touch was given. After this Newport swept down the field with a loose dribble, and the defence was beaten. T. Jones picked up and scored near the posts, for Baker to convert.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
NEWPORT ..... 1 goal 1 try  
GLOUCESTER ..... 2 tries

Newport were lucky indeed in being in possession of the lead, for on the play Gloucester had done more attacking and had experienced hard luck in missing a couple of scores. Smart resumed, and Gloucester twice got the ball out smartly, but they did not gain much ground.

Hughes checked a Newport forward smartly with a pick up and kick to touch, which put play in the Newport half. Here Dix fed Millington on the short side, and the vice-captain broke away in fine style. With a left foot punt he sent into the centre of the field, where he again secured possession, making a bee-line for the goal posts. He looked all over a scorer when Baker just nabbed him.

Exciting play followed, Gloucester working manfully in the scrums and the loose. Loose kicking eventually changed the venue, and Newport started an attack, but Shea was finely tackled. For a few minutes Newport confined operations to the Gloucester end, but they were never really dangerous.

Then the City forwards, with splendid work in the lines-out, rushed beyond the centre, where Baker was forced to kick straight to touch. With a fine round of passing Newport came back, only to find the defence too great. Gloucester held their own for a time, but Wetter at length gave Newport a good position, and from a scrum a few yards out Wetter took the ball over, and he was given a try. Baker added the goal points, and Newport now held a lead of seven points.

Millington, getting a kick charged down soon after the restart, gave Newport a footing in the Gloucester half. Wetter was penalised for knocking the ball back in the scrum, and the resultant kick gave the City a position at the centre. Newport heeling, the backs several times resorted to passing, but the handling was very faulty and ground was lost. Gloucester lost a good slice of ground through off-side, but Kerwood recovered with some well-judged kicks.

Clever work by Millington put Gloucester well down, but a lucky punt out eased the pressure for Newport. The City, however, got on top again, and struggled hard to score, but fate was against them. Newport luckily cleared from a dangerous position, a long kick down the field being well followed up.

A wild pass by Wetter, however, allowed Dix to pick up and punt to Baker. who was collared by Daniell. Gloucester attacked desperately in the last few minutes, and were all over their opponents. The desired score, however, did not come, and the end came with no further addition.

#### RESULT :

NEWPORT ... 2 goals, 1 try (13 points)

GLOUCESTER ..... 2 tries (6 points)

#### REMARKS.

Gloucester put up their best game at Newport to-day for many years, and were very unlucky on the run of the game to be beaten. It was a vigorous game forward, with the City pack at the top of their form. For the most part they beat their opponents in the scrums and the loose, and their work in the lines-out, with Ford the shining light, was brilliant.

Newport's tries had all the element of luck about them, though credit must be given Tom Jones for his opportunism in scoring his two tries. Newport were a shadow of the past behind the scrum. There were few smart movements, but generally speaking the combination behind was poor and the passing extremely faulty.

Dix outplayed Wetter at times at the scrum, and Millington showed a return to his best form, his kicking especially being admirable.

The Gloucester three-quarters had plenty to do, and all four players shaped well, Hughes being indefatigable. Their defence was excellent. Kerwood was fully equal to all demands. To the City forwards every praise is due for a really great display. All played gamely to the end.

W.B.

#### GLOUCESTER A'S RECORD GONE.

#### NEWPORT A TOO GOOD FOR THE CITY RESERVES.

While the premier team were in Wales engaging the Newport premiers, Gloucester A were at home to the Usksiders' Reserves. The City Reserves have for some time past succeeded in inflicting defeat upon Newport at Kingsholm, and with a representative team they anticipated further success to-day. There was a good attendance.

Teams : –

Gloucester A. – J. C. Collett; S. Brown, F. Meadows, S. R. Allen, and S. Crowther; T. Gough and T. Burns (captain); M. Evans, E. Curtis, G. Mumford, W. H. Collier, F. Mansell, J. H. Webb, E. Richardson, and H. G. Mountford.

Newport A. – W. Charlton; T. Vaughan, J. T. Mathias, A. McGregor, and G. Andrews; W. Jones and C. Jarman; Ebb Williams (captain). A. R. Tilney, W. B. Butt, W. Sparkes, G. Collins, F. Powell, F. Harding, and A. Webb.

Referee : Mr. G. Hall.

Gloucester A kicked off, and the visitors, fielding smartly, started a round of passing, which carried them to the home 25. Here the ball went to touch, and from the line-out W. Jones gathered, ran across, and dropped a beautiful goal.

On the restart Gloucester handled, but Crowther over-ran Meadows and failed to take his pass, a mistake which allowed Vaughan to run strongly to the Gloucester quarter before he was pulled down. Gloucester were getting the ball back in the scrums, but the threes were not quick enough with their passes, and several times the visiting threes robbed them and went dangerously near the line.

Collett waited for the bounce of the ball from a mark kick, and when he gathered, his kick was charged down, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that Gloucester cleared. Then the City Seconds came away with a grand dribble, only for Charlton to pick up at their feet, and jump into touch. The home team were now attacking, and a scramble on the Newport line looked hopeful, but a scrum was ordered. Newport kicked free, but Brown made a mark and tried a kick for goal without success. A minute later Gloucester opened their account, Collett with a superb effort goaling from a penalty.

Newport came again, and there was a fierce struggle on the Gloucester line after the visiting threes had handled, but the home defence held out. Gloucester rushed again with the ball at their feet, and Burns picked up and passed to Allen, but the centre was held up and his pass was taken by one of the visitors, who ran to midfield. The City Reserves were now having more of the game, principally through their forwards, who were playing well, but they could not beat the stern defence of the Usksiders.

After a period of desultory play Gloucester made another dash for the visitors' line, and Meadows crossed with the ball, but he was held up, and a scrum ensued. Then Brown made a very pretty run, failing, however, to round the opposition. An injury to Webb's shoulder made Gloucester a man short, and Newport, feeling this relief, again attacked.

In the course of an [word/ oblit.] bout of passing the ball travelled to Vaughan, who with a splendid dash scored a try wide out. The goal points were missed.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Newport A ..... 1 goal (d) 1 try  
Gloucester A ..... 1 goal (p)

Gloucester were unlucky to be four points down after pressing for a large part of the first half, but the Newport backs were much superior and took advantage of every chance, while the home threes could do nothing right.

On the resumption Newport worked to the home quarter, but Burns cleared, and the forwards changed the venue with a smart bit of foot-work. Gough, by offside tactics, lost territory, but Allen and Meadows improved matters with a useful run. Collett tried a penalty kick from a few yards inside the half-way line and only just missed.

Then a wild pass by Meadows to Crowther saw the Newport wing gather and race for the line. He kicked over Collett's head, but Brown ran across and managed to kick to touch, when a score seemed certain. Fumbling by McGregor brought a promising Newport passing movement to nothing, but the visitors were attacking with vigour, and Gloucester narrowly escaped another drop goal being recorded against them.

Brown was putting in some useful defensive work, but it was all the home team could do to keep the visitors out. They rallied again, however, and there was some exciting play, but although Gloucester tried hard they were out of luck, and when things were looking better for them Vaughan gathered a punt by Brown, kicked across, and McGregor took the ball in his stride and, giving the "dummy" to Collett, scored under the posts, The kick for goal was a failure. A further period of play at midfield gave place to another attack by the visitors, and Collett was forced to concede a minor.

Again the home forwards carried play to the Newport quarter, and although Meadows made a likely dash for line he was pulled down and the Welshmen again worked free. The City Reserves attacked strongly during the last ten minutes, but the never looked like scoring, although Crowther put in a spectacular run, and punting forward was only just beaten for the touch. Evans, by a superb run and tackle, prevented what looked like a certain score by Vaughan.

#### RESULT :

Newport A ..... 1 goal (d) 2 tries (10 pts.)  
Gloucester A ..... 1 goal (p) (3 pts.)

#### REMARKS.

November has been a disastrous month for football at Kingsholm, the supporters of the City Club witnessing the breaking of the ground records of the Premier and Second teams on successive Saturdays. The Reserves had held their ground record since early in 1920. Newport A deserved their victory, although the home team were unfortunate to lose Jack Webb at a time when his defensive work would have been valuable.

There was not much to choose between the rival packs, both sets of forwards getting a share of the ball, and both working strenuously in the loose; but behind, Gloucester were quite outclassed, the Welshmen being faster, surer, and altogether more clever.

With the exception of Brown, who worked really hard to stave off defeat, the Gloucester threes were disappointing. They could do nothing right. Collett played a good game at back, but the visiting forwards were always on top of him, and he was often tackled in possession. Burns and Gough were but little inferior to the opposing pair. There could be no doubt as to Newport A being the better team.