

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1924.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER BEATEN AT NEWPORT.

UNABLE TO SCORE IN A HARD GAME.

For this return match at Newport, both Clubs suffered from absentees. Gloucester were still without both their regular half-backs (Collins and Hughes), and Voyce was engaged for England at Twickenham. Newport, who were beaten at Kingsholm in the first match by 8 points to 6, were short of Harold Davies, Reg Edwards, and Macpherson.

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : R. James.

THREE-QUARTERS : N. Daniell, S. R. Crowther, T. Millington, and L. F. Ryde (Oxford University).

HALF-BACKS : G. Poole and F. Meadows.

FORWARDS : A. Hall, F. W. Ayliffe, S. Bayliss, J. Hemmings, T. Coulson, P. Carter, H. W. Collier, and F. Ford.

NEWPORT.

BACK : A. Currey.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. Stock, R. Vaughan, M. Rosser, and G. E. Andrews.

HALF-BACKS : J. J. Wetter and E. G. Dowdall.

FORWARDS : J. Whitfield, H. Phillips, T. Jones, T. Roberts, Mapson Williams, Dr. W. J. Roche, J. V. Waite, and W. Bown.

## THE GAME.

The weather was gloriously fine, and the ground was in excellent condition. In the early stages the Gloucester forwards set up a hot attack, but when Andrews kicked through the ball bounced awkwardly for James. He was tackled, and Newport dribbled and kicked to the visitors' 25. Millington regained the ground from a free kick, and when the Newport passing broke down Millington snapped up the ball and gave Ryde possession. He ran strongly, but was overhauled ten yards from the line by Andrews.

Rosser and Stock worked well together, and by good passing they invaded the Gloucester half. There was a desperate struggle forward, and eventually Bayliss and Ayliffe relieved with a fine dribble. Pool was not doing well at inside half, and Dowdall repeatedly slipped him, while Gloucester made difficulties for themselves by tackling high. After more Newport pressure a minor gave Gloucester relief.

The Gloucester forwards settled down to scrummaging, and they heeled splendidly, while Millington and Crowther made good headway, but they found the Newport defence keen.

In a favourable position Gloucester were penalised, and Tom Roberts took a place kick at goal, but the ball went wide, and a penalty to Gloucester for off-side enabled Millington to kick to half-way. The Gloucester forwards dribbled magnificently, but when the ball went to the left, Millington passed out of reach of Ryde, and the ball rolled to touch. Millington attempted a place kick at goal, but sent the ball wide, and Crowther had hard lines in not getting through after intercepting.

Vaughan lost the ball on the line when Newport attacked by passing, but Tom Roberts charged the drop-out, secured possession, and dropped a goal. The ball touched a Gloucester player in flight, but went over the bar, and the points were allowed, despite Gloucester's protest.

Millington missed an easy place kick after another great Gloucester dribble, and, despite all their efforts, the visitors were kept out by desperate tackling. Newport forced another minor.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
NEWPORT ..... 4 points  
GLOUCESTER ..... Nil

Newport attacked hotly on the restart, but Carter and Ford broke away and kicked through. Curry ran back and saved splendidly, but Gloucester were left in a strong position with play at the Newport 25. The home side started passing, and Rosser made a great burst. Andrews ran half the length of the field, but ten yards from the line he was overhauled by Crowther.

The Gloucester forwards had slightly the better of the play in the loose, and as a result of their rushes Newport again had to defend. Poole set his backs in motion, but Millington was tackled, and though the forwards carried play to the line only a minor resulted.

A good kick by Newport changed the venue again and they started a passing attack at the Gloucester 25. Rosser burst through cleverly and Stock had a clear run in for Tom Morris to convert.

A moment later Gloucester were almost through following a high punt by James, which he caught himself, but the Newport tackling was deadly. Dowdall was injured and left the field for attention. Jack Wetter made a brilliant 40 yards' run but was overhauled by Crowther.

Gloucester continued to do well, especially forward, but their back play lacked directness and cohesion. Crowther made a couple of bursts, but lacked support, and there was far too much kicking by all the three-quarters.

Dowdall returned and opened up play, but the passing of the backs was slow, and the tackling of Gloucester was keen.

With play at half-way James put his side in an attacking position, but though they drove the ball over the line only a minor resulted. Twice subsequently the Gloucester forwards crossed, but were recalled for off-side play.

Then the Newport forwards broke away, led by Roche and Roberts, and they were not checked till ten yards from the line. James was a tower of strength at full back, and repeatedly made splendid saves, while his kicking, with that of Millington, was of great value.

Rosser's judgment was at fault on a couple of occasions when he had Andrews practically clear, and once Vaughan was thrown to touch-in-goal after good passing.

#### RESULT :

NEWPORT ... 2 goals (1d) (9 points)  
GLOUCESTER ..... Nil

#### REMARKS.

It was a hard, fast game, in which the Gloucester forwards excelled. Their loose footwork was excellent, but the back play was poor. There was little real attempt at combination, and though Millington and Crowther occasionally made bursts, they kicked far too much, with the result that the wings were starved.

James, at full back, though a little slow, kicked and tackled well. On several occasions he got his side out of difficulties.

Ayliffe, Bayliss, Ford and Hemmings were frequently conspicuous forward, but they lost because of the superiority of Newport behind the scrum.

Rosser and Stock, at centre, were clever, but the former showed a lack of judgment on several occasions, and towards the end received a slight injury.

## GLOUCESTER A v. NEWPORT A.

Gloucester A were at home to Newport A at Kingsholm this afternoon. There was only a moderate attendance, but the conditions were excellent.

Gloucester attacked from the start, Manship saving well with a good tackle. Williams made an attempt to kick a penalty goal but failed. Then Newport invaded the home quarter, but found a keen defence. They were quickly ejected and the City made another strong attack. Again Newport were penalised but Williams did not raise the ball sufficiently.

Then Newport worked down by passing, Channing making a good burst. Gloucester were penalised, and Hodges made a splendid attempt to kick a goal but the distance was too great for him.

The City again attacked but without sting and the Usksiders cleared them out and rushed to their 25, where a penalty was given against Gloucester. Hodges kicked a splendid goal.

### HALF-TIME :

Newport A ..... 1 goal (p)

Gloucester A ..... Nil

Newport marked the resumption by a smart round of passing, which ended in Goldsworthy being grassed. Then Sid Brown ran well and punted. Vaughan fielded and ran the ball out. Newport defended keenly, and despite several attempts by the Gloucester backs to burst through, the City were unable to do anything until Newport were penalised in a position from which Williams had no difficulty in placing a goal.

Even play ruled for a time, Williams and Baker putting in some fine touch kicking. A pretty round of passing by the Newport backs carried play to the home line, where Gloucester were only saved by an infringement by the visitors.

Again the visiting backs rushed for the line, the ball travelling from left to right, Brown getting across just in time to prevent Smith touching down.

Gloucester cleared at length, and Fisher dribbled to the Newport quarter, but they were sent back. Williams put Gloucester on the attack with a fine kick to touch but Smart got off-side, and the City lost ground. Newport then had a narrow escape, Hogg executing a dribble which took the ball to the visitors' line, but Smith got back and robbed him of the touch.

Gloucester secured the lead through E. Curtis, who scored an unconverted try wide out.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester A .... 1 goal (p) 1 try (6 pts.)  
Newport A ..... 1 goal (p) (3 pts.)

#### REMARKS.

Gloucester A found their task none too easy. It was chiefly by means of good forward play in the loose that they achieved success. The Newport backs passed in spectacular manner several times, but they lacked sufficient thrust to pierce the keen defence of the home team.

Sid Brown was the star of the home team putting in some splendid work. Williams also played a resourceful game, his touch-kicking being again remarkable for length and judgment. Both sides played five three-quarters during the second half.