

THE CITIZEN
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1922.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER BEATEN AT NEWPORT.

BRILLIANT DISPLAY BY COLLETT.

GOUGH DISTINGUISHES HIMSELF.

Gloucester paid their annual visit to the Rodney Parade enclosure, Newport, to-day, for the first meeting of the season between these old rivals. Newport held an unbeaten record, and in view of the City's long sequence of defeats on the same ground, the visitors, though confident of putting up a good contest, did not expect to repeat the great achievement of two seasons ago at Kingsholm, when the Usksiders had their victorious career checked.

Gloucester were unfortunate in having to make the journey minus T. Voyce and Sid Brown, the International having recently undergone an operation to the nose, whilst Brown accepted the invitation of Lancashire to appear against Yorkshire in a county championship fixture. Newport had Reg Edwards away.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK: J. C. Collett.

THREE-QUARTERS: N. Daniell, F. Meadows, S. Stone, and E. Hughes.

HALF-BACKS: T. Gough and T. Millington.

FORWARDS: F. W. Ayliffe (capt.), Major Roderick, A. Hall, M. Evans, S. Smart, G. Holford, S. Bayliss, and T. Coulson.

NEWPORT.

BACK: F. Baker.

THREE-QUARTERS: G. Andrews, Wyndham Jones, Harold Davies, and A. Stock.

HALF-BACKS: S. Manship and J. Wetter.

FORWARDS: N. McPherson, J. Whitfield, T. Roberts, W. J. Roche, Mapson Williams, W. Williams, W. Radford, W. Friend, and J. V. Waite.

THE GAME.

The weather was gloriously fine. Newport kicked off, and after Gough had smothered Manship Newport were penalised, and fast following up drove the ball to touch at half-way. Collett saved finely under difficulties, and for a time play rested at half-way.

Again Newport were penalised, and Collett's kick found touch at the Newport 25. Newport put in a full round of passing, and Andrews dashed away, but was forced to kick, and after the ball had been touched by a Gloucester forward it rolled over the line.

Gloucester were penalised for off-side play, and Roche landed a goal, but the ball was touched in flight and the goal was disallowed.

Newport were heeling better than Gloucester, but Gough was very quick on Manship, and when the home backs handled Stone and Meadows broke up the attack.

A moment later Meadows and Daniell drove the ball through, but Baker kicked back to the Gloucester half, only to find his side penalised, and Collett kicked back grandly.

The Newport forwards were having the better of matters in the loose, and twice in quick succession Collett was called upon to save. Gloucester got a footing near the Newport line through quick following up, but faulty handling prevented a score, and when Millington essayed a drop at goal the ball went wide, and Baker conceded a minor.

Gloucester kept up the pressure, and for a moment were extremely aggressive, but great tackling by Manship and Harold Davies brought relief. Hughes and Wetter were temporarily injured, but returned. Then a cross-kick by Wyndham Jones completely caught the defence napping, and Harold Davies dashing up scored a good try, which Dr. Roche converted.

Immediately on the restart Newport showed up prominently and gained forty yards with handling, and further improved the position when Gloucester were penalised for obstruction. Stock crossed the line for Newport a moment later, but lost the ball. Again Newport were within an ace of scoring, but the Gloucester defence was excellent, and Collett gained relief with a fine punt to the Newport half.

Roderick and Ayliffe were prominent; but despite the fact that Stock was off the field for some time and McPherson went to the wing, Gloucester had all their work cut out to keep the Usksiders out.

Millington kicked poorly when pressed. Meadows and Millington gained much ground with brilliant passing and re-passing, but when they were almost clear a forward pass checked the best attacking movement put in so far by Gloucester.

More back play by Newport changed the venue, and Wyndham Jones was only just held ten yards out. Stock resumed, and inter-passing between him and Waite ended in the latter scoring a good try. The kick failed.

Gloucester reached the Newport half as a result of good kicking by Millington, but were driven back by good forward play by the home eight. Again Gloucester attacked, and a minor resulted.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
NEWPORT 1 goal, 1 try
GLOUCESTER Nil

Just before half-time was called Gloucester were attacking hotly. Baker fielded from an unsuccessful attempt to place a goal and ran the ball out, but was tackled and passed wildly. A Gloucester forward got the ball, but knocked on, and the try was disallowed.

On the restart Gloucester went away with a good rush, but were checked. Then Stone was held when he attempted a burst through, and Daniell knocked on when practically clear.

Radford started a movement in the Newport half which resulted in the ball being sent through clear of the defence. There was a race and Roche reached it first and sent it over the line, but only a minor resulted. Millington kicked finely when Newport were penalised, but the ball was wide of the posts and Baker kicked out.

Newport were several times penalised for their play at the scrummage, and as a result Gloucester were able to keep play near the Newport 25. Collett continued to kick a great length and with accuracy, and after Stock had given a forward transfer at a critical moment Millington made a futile attempt to drop a goal.

Newport tested Gloucester several moments later, and only bad judgment on the part of Wetter prevented a score. Whitfield crossed the line after a burst by McPherson, but was called back for a forward pass, and when Gloucester heeled Millington kicked to touch ten yards inside the home half.

A cross-kick by Hughes looked like bearing reward, but Harold Davies and McPherson got to the ball, and Jack Wetter relieved with a great kick to half-way. The Gloucester forwards were playing splendidly in the loose, but when they heeled at the scrum and the ball was worked out to the backs Daniell knocked on. Holford and Smart put in a good dribble, and for a time play rested at half-way.

A penalty against Gloucester, however, put Newport in a strong attacking position, but Millington gained slight relief. Gloucester put in a full round of passing, but Stone was held.

Then Hughes gathered and kicked on. Baker failed to catch the ball, and it was driven through, and Stone, picking up cleverly, dashed away and scored a good try. Millington failed with the easy kick.

Newport rushed to the other end of the field, and Collett, under great pressure, was forced to kick over his own line to save. At the ensuing scrummage Newport were penalised, and Collett kicked to his own 25.

The Gloucester forwards carried play back to half-way, but they were driven back by a fine kick by Wetter. From a penalty Collett regained the ground.

Then Stone intercepted a reverse pass from Stock to Harold Davies, and raced away. He shook himself free of Baker, but was brought down a yard from the line.

Newport were penalised, and Millington kicked a penalty goal. Later Andrews scored a good try for Newport, and in the last minute the same player scored again.

RESULT :

NEWPORT 1 goal 3 tries (14 points)

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (p) 1 try (6 pts.)

REMARKS.

Gloucester played a hard, finished game, but were met by a more confident and enterprising team, whose forwards held the upper hand and laid the foundations for the victory.

Collett was brilliant at full-back, and time and again gained huge slices of ground with his great kicks, but it was rarely that the three-quarters got moving in real English style, and when they did they found the defence very resolute.

Millington was not at his best, but Gough did grandly. The quartette showed a lack of initiative, but once or twice Hughes and Meadows made great efforts which deserved reward.

Holford, Roderick, Smart, and Ayliffe were the best of a really good pack, who did best in loose play.

Newport deserved their victory.

GLOUCESTER A v. NEWPORT A.

PENALTY GOAL VICTORY FOR THE CITY SECONDS.

Gloucester A were at home to Newport A at Kingsholm to-day, but in spite of the attractive nature of the fixture and the excellent weather, the attendance was poor. The City Seconds fielded a representative team, but the visitors were weakened by several changes.

Gloucester A : R. James; S. Crowther, W. Washbourne, T. Wadley, and P. C. Sykes; E. Abbey and R. Cook; F. Mansell (captain), A. Owner, A. Rea, A. Wright, J. H. Webb, H. G. Mountford, P. Carter, and T. Taylor.

Newport A : F. Lawrence; T. Vaughan, B. McCarthy, H. Stitchbury, and J. Rees; R. Dowall and C. Grey; W. Cookham, W. McNabb, D. L. Jones, W. Bowen, W. G. Freeguard, E. Lysaght, D. McPherson, and J. Ray.

Referee : Mr J. T. Curtis.

Mansell kicked off, and the home team set up an attack which carried them to the Newport quarter, where Abbey got off-side, and an excellent kick to touch eased the situation. A duel between James and Lawrence let the Usksiders into the home territory, but they lost their advantage through a scrum infringement. James failed to kick to touch, but he followed up quickly and charged down Lawrence's return. The advantage was short lived, and the visitors again entered the City half. Then Dowell got the ball smartly to Rees, who raced for the Gloucester line, but he had stepped into touch, and was recalled.

Feet up by the visitors led to a struggle in the visitors' 25, but the Newport forwards came away with the ball at their feet. They were stopped, and Gloucester dashed to their line as a consequence of a beautiful cross-kick by Crowther. After a narrow escape Lawrence cleared with a lovely touch-finder, and a period of play at mid-field ensued.

Taylor and Rea led a short dash for Gloucester, but Newport worked back. Up to this point the struggle had been largely of a forward nature, neither of the back divisions showing to advantage except in defensive work. Another cross-kick by Crowther was spoiled by Carter, who was off-side. Newport gained little from the penalty, Abbey putting in a useful kick to touch. An ugly rush by the home forwards was with difficulty countered by Lawrence.

Gloucester continued to attack, but they met with a sturdy defence and scarcely looked like scoring. Newport furnished the first combined movement, the backs handling nicely, but Rees' punt was fielded by Carter and the movement gained nothing tangible. Then the home forwards gave a splendid display of footwork, Mountford being prominent, but Rees cut across and, gathering the ball while in his stride, effected a beautiful save.

A free kick for a foul saw James take a shot for goal, but the ball struck the upright and went outside.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	Nil
Newport A	Nil

The City Second had had somewhat the better of the game, but it was evident that they would have to put more go into it to achieve victory. After some tame play at mid-field on the resumption the home forwards put in a couple of rushes, but Lawrence, who was playing a fine defensive game, saved easily.

Beating Abbey, Dowall again set his three-quarters going, but their passing was not sharp enough, and Sykes pulled them up. McCarthy kicked down to Jones, who made a mark and kicked to touch. Newport, however, continued to attack until Abbey, getting the ball out cleanly, gave Grey the "dummy," and, running well, sent to Cook. The fly half ran straight away, but was pulled down almost immediately. This gave Gloucester some impetus, and they in turn attacked for a time.

Then the Welsh forwards had a turn at handling, and passing in and out they managed to reach the Gloucester quarter, where the ball travelled to the other wing. McCarthy, however, was unable to pick up, and Wright managed to muddle them until help arrived.

Gloucester worked to the centre, where Jones showed up well with a burst through. Then Rees, who had been playing well, prevented a Gloucester rush up the line from maturing. As the result of a penalty taken by James, Rea and Taylor followed up and made a dash for the Newport line, but again they lost the ball and the Usksiders were saved.

Again the visitors were penalised, and James took a long shot for goal. He failed, but one of the Newport backs knocked on, and a keen struggle ensued inside the visitors' quarter. Crowther livened things up by a clinking run across the field, but the opposition was too keen, and his punt was turned to touch.

Then came Gloucester's chance. Newport were penalised for a scrum infringement just inside their 25, and James this time made no mistake, landing a lovely goal and giving Gloucester a three point lead.

Newport lost Dowall injured, and shortly afterwards the home team made a furious attack on their line. After some anxious moments Lawrence again cleared with a fine kick to touch.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 1 goal (p) (3 points)
Newport A Nil

REMARKS.

Except in the last quarter of an hour, when Gloucester A seemed to wake up, the game was anything but attractive. Rarely did the backs get into action, the forwards doing most of the work. The City were again beaten for possession in the scrums, except occasionally, and then for a long time Abbey was unable to do anything against Dowall. In the loose the home forwards were certainly superior, and were in that way largely responsible for victory. Mansell, Carter, Mountford, and Webb were the pick.

In the second half Abbey did much better, and at times showed considerable skill, but as a combination the Gloucester halves were not great.

The three-quarters were pretty evenly matched, neither side showing any special ability. Crowther for Gloucester and Rees for Newport were most prominent. The Welsh full-back, Lawrence, played a really good game, and James was in good form.

JC