

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1912

GLOUCESTER v. NEWPORT.

FINE DISPLAY AT KINGSHOLM.

USKSIDERS WIN WITH DROP GOALS.

The meetings between Gloucester and Newport are always very keen and generally exciting matches, and it was rather unfortunate for Gloucester that their persistent ill-luck in the matter of injuries still dogged them. Hudson was injured again last week, and C. Cook was absent from the full-back position. This was unlucky, but Newport also suffered by having Vile, the half, on the injured list, and Williams, one of the forwards absent. The weather was fine and the ground in capital trim, while the crowd was easily the biggest of the season. There was a feeling of tense excitement when the teams faced each other as follows :

GLOUCESTER.	POSITIONS.	NEWPORT.
F. W. Hayward	Backs.	H. Wreford
W. Washbourne	Three-Quarter	J. Wetter
L. Hamblin	Backs	H. J. Rowlands
A. Lewis	"	F. W. Birt
E. Bowen	"	R. C. S. Plummer
W. Dix	Half-Backs	Ivan Pritchard
W. Hall	"	W. J. Martin (capt.)
G. Halford (capt.)	Forwards	H. Uzzell
G. Vears	"	H. Wetter
S. Smart	"	R. Dibble
N. Hayes	"	A. Bell
S. Millard	"	A. R. Williams
W. Dovey	"	J. Beames
A. Saunders	"	Dr. Anderson
J. Meadows	"	R. Summers

Referee : Mr. P. J. Parkes (Midland Counties).

## THE GAME.

Uzzell started for Newport towards the Dean's Walk goal, and Lewis returned smartly to touch at the centre. From the first scrum the Gloucester forwards, with Saunders in the van, went away with a fine burst, and Dix carrying on the movement cleverly, Gloucester got well up, Birt being forced to punt short to touch. At the next scrum Newport were penalised, but although putting in a good kick Hayward could not quite do the trick from long range.

Newport got an advantage from the drop-out, but Halford, with a nice touch-finder, put Gloucester well up. From an ensuing scrum the ball came out well to the threes, and Lewis cut through finely. A high punt followed, but the Gloucester forwards over-ran or missed the ball with a fine chance.

Uzzell headed a dangerous dribble, but Hamblin saved in daring manner, and a brilliant bit of work between Dix and Hall looked promising, but the defence was very keen. Plummer had to leave the field here with an injury – hard lines for the visitors.

From a scrum just inside the Newport half a magnificent movement was initiated by Dix. He passed to Hall, who cut away splendidly and passed back inside to Dix. The clever little half beat his man beautifully, and handing once more to Hall, the latter went over in the corner amidst great enthusiasm. Hayward failed with the kick.

The Gloucester forwards were playing a great game, rushing the ball away with them time after time. Just now, however, Newport more than roused themselves, and in some very hot loose forward work they got the better of the argument and carried the game into the home quarter. A drop for goal by Rowlands went wide, and a minor resulted. But Newport were now getting the ball back, and their outsides showed some capital handling. Once Rowlands got right away, but when confronted by Hayward he punted across, Hall making a mark under difficulties, and thus saving a dangerous situation.

Gloucester went away again after this and centred play, and just when the left wing looked like getting going, Birt proved the insurmountable stumbling block. Alec Lewis burst through in great style, shaking off man after man, but he eventually succumbed to weight of numbers.

A misfield of an awkwardly bouncing ball let Newport well up into the home half. Here Plummer (who was only off for five minutes) and Pritchard very nearly brought off a corner try. For a minute or two the desperate attack of the Newport men seemed to quite put the 'Cestrians off their game, and only the great resource of Hall saved a certain score.

Newport now attacked hotly, and Bowen being at fault in not kicking, Gloucester had an anxious time. Again Hall came to the rescue and punted out. An abortive drop at goal by Rowlands again ended in a minor. Birt was fed again, and he beat his men well, but when he kicked clear Hayward marked and Gloucester relieved. The relief was only short lived, however, for the Usksiders were quickly back on the attack again, and after two attempts they were rewarded, Jack Wetter getting over after some very clever passing by Pritchard and Rowlands. Birt failed at the long kick.

Some long kicks on both sides followed the drop-out, but the pace was materially less for some minutes. Dix and Hall opened out, but Lewis failed to take his pass. Bowen retrieved the slip nicely, but he could not get clear. A beautiful long kick by Birt from a penalty put the game in the Gloucester half again. The home front were pushed off the ball here, and Uzzell nearly dribbled over. As it was the ball was carried over the line, but Lewis punted out from the ensuing scrum and adding to his advantage another touch-finder, Gloucester cleared.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester .....	1 try
Newport .....	1 try

Halford re-started, and there was a return to half-way. Wreford, when pressed by Smart, threw into touch, but from the ensuing penalty Gloucester gained very little. Hall went away beautifully from the next scrum, and with a run and punt put Gloucester in the Newport 25. Newport punted clear, but Hayward replied with a finely judged kick to touch, and matters were as they were.

A desperate struggle for mastery ensued near the centre, both sets of forwards working with tremendous energy. Eventually the Newport outsiders got possession, but the marking was very close and the movement did not get far. Off-side against Gloucester did not gain anything for Newport, the back missing the return. But Dibble went off on a strong dribble, Hall and Hayward saving.

The crowd were delighted immediately after by a fine rush by the Gloucester forwards, who carried the ball well with them. Just when Newport appeared to have cleared Hayward sent them back with another admirable touch-finder, and Gloucester were well in Newport territory, Hall being prominent with a neat touch. Again Newport endeavoured to get clear by passing, but they broke down, and then Alec Lewis distinguished himself with a grand burst through. He passed just by the line, but the ball went astray when it looked odds on a score.

Gloucester were now playing up strongly together again, and Newport were hard put to it to keep their lines intact. Gradually, however, yard by yard, they worked their way out of danger. Gloucester came back again, however, and when Pritchard punted away from the base of the scrum Hayward returned with interest. Then Williams got hold from some inter-passing, but Millard bowled him over well.

The battle continued to be of the fiercest between the forwards, but at last Gloucester got the ball out, and Dix, Hall, Hamblin, Lewis, and Washbourne handled, but the latter was bored into touch. Hayward was conspicuous again with a good line, and then Newport got going, but the passing was upset altogether by the close marking, and very little ground was gained.

Wreford, however, gave them a nice slice just after with a touch-finder. A fierce struggle ensued in the Gloucester 25, and then from a really brainy pass flung wide out to Birt that famous opportunist dropped a splendid goal.

As might be expected the exchanges after this were terrific, but gradually Newport forced their way into the Gloucester 25. An unfortunate accident occurred here, the ball being kicked with great force straight into the Newport touch-judge's face, cutting his eye open.

Newport got back at once into the Gloucester 25, and after a series of short passes Martin got possession and dropped another goal. The game was keenly contested for the remaining minutes, but there was no more score.

RESULT :

Newport ..... 2 goals (d) 1 try (11 points)  
Gloucester ..... 1 tri (3 points)

REMARKS.

Well, the long-looked forward to and much discussed game is over, and Gloucester have lost, but not even the most ardent Welsh partisan would dare to urge that Newport were 11 points to 3 the better side on the day's play. To say that they were lucky winners is not fair, because that would deprive them of their due mead of praise for having exploited their opportunities to the best effect, but apart from that brilliant opportunism Gloucester had quite as much of the game all through as the victors.

Although Gloucester were the losing side, it was a magnificent match to watch football that did one's heart good to see – brilliant at times, and it is bound to do the Kingsholm men a lot of good. They were beaten, but by all that's square and honest they were not disgraced. The men played as they have seldom played before, and the enthusiasm at times was boundless.

Those who saw the match will remember it for many a long day, and in spite of the adverse result, I cannot do otherwise than congratulate the boys on the magnificent showing. The struggle between the forwards was positively thrilling at times, and raised cheer after cheer from the crowd. The rival eights were as nearly evenly matched as it is possible for sixteen men to be. Gloucester's loose rushes were splendid, and the tackling was of the most deadly character. No quarter was given on either side, and if there was at times more heat and force than usual, who can wonder at it in such a great ding-dong struggle when every man was putting in the last half-ounce to turn the scale in his side's favour. Brilliantly led by Halford, the pack to a man played at the very top of their form, and I decline to individualise in a game where each man strove his uttermost.

Dix, though very closely marked indeed, was very clever, and as to Willie Hall, too much cannot be said of his superb display. His defensive work – always good – was something even above his standard, and the way, time after time, he checked opposing movements and even turned them into advantage for Gloucester, was a treat to watch. He was a host in himself, and his work will be long remembered.

Of the three-quarters, Alec Lewis was at the top of his form, cutting through brilliantly, again and again, and also in defence he was splendid. Hamblin was quite sound, and Washbourne did all he had to do thoroughly and well. Bowen was a little bit shaky – nervous probably in such an important game – but he tried very hard, and several times tackled well. In the full-back position Hayward played one of the best games he has ever put up. His kicking was long and well-judged, and he saved well and tackled keenly. For Newport, Birt was the stand-by, the pivot one almost says, and his drop goal was a beauty. Pritchard surprised even his friends by his work, and in the forwards Dibble and Uzzell were the pick of a keen and resolute pack, while at back Wreford was safe and sound.

Scorer : W. Hall.

Next Week : Stroud, at Stroud.

## RESULTS AT A GLANCE.

Below are the results of the last fourteen matches between the teams : –

		Gloucester.					Newport.		
1905-6 .....	(A) L	1	0	5	...	0	3	9	
	(H) W	1	0	5	...	0	0	0	
1906-7 .....	(H) L	3	0	9	...	*3	1	17	
	(A) L	1	0	5	...	*5	0	24	
1907-8 .....	(A) L	1	0	3	...	2	2	16	
	(H) W	1	2	9	...	1	0	3	
1908-9 .....	(H) L	0	1	3	...	1	1	8	
	(A) L	0	0	0	...	1	0	5	
1909-10 .....	(A) D	0	1	3	...	0	1	3	
	(H) D	0	1	3	...	0	1	3	
1910-11 .....	(H) L	0	0	0	...	1	0	5	
	(A) L	0	0	0	...	1	1	8	
1911-12 .....	(A) L	1	0	5	...	2	3	19	
	(H) D	1	1	6	...	1	1	6	

\* One dropped.

### GLOUCESTER A v. NEWPORT A.

#### BAD LUCK AT NEWPORT.

Within two minutes from the commencement James scored a try for Newport, and Hobbs converted. Gloucester played up and invaded the Newport half, but had the misfortune to lose a forward hurt, while later Ruck also left the field. Newport almost scored on a couple of occasions, but Gloucester tackled finely, and kicked back. Newport kept up the pressure till the interval, but could not score again.

#### HALF TIME SCORE :

Newport A ..... 1 goal  
 Gloucester A ..... Nil

Gloucester fielded a full side on resumption, but shortly afterwards Ruck was hurt and again left the field. Gloucester, for a time attacked, and had hard luck in not crossing. Newport relieved, and then Gloucester had Sysum hurt, but he resumed.

After some time Newport put in a couple of attacks, and Francis scored a clever unconverted try. Playing up, Gloucester forced a minor, but could not pierce the Newport defence.

RESULT :

Newport A ..... 1 goal 1 try (8 points)  
Gloucester A ..... Nil

JC