

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1913

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. NEWPORT.

USKSIDERS' GOOD FORTUNE.

LOST CHANCES BY THE CITY TEAM.

(BY W.B.)

Gloucester to-day commenced a series of four successive engagements with Welsh Clubs – three away from home and one (Swansea next week) at Kingsholm.

Newport was visited this afternoon for the return, and with Gloucester doing well just now, the City, on paper, were good enough for a close fight.

But in Wales Gloucester, like all other visiting sides, rarely do themselves justice, and it was counting too much to look for a break in the long record of defeats on the Uskside enclosure.

W. Johns was unable to take his place in the city pack, and Hudson (who re-appeared against the Harlequins last week) was not included, Bowen resuming at right wing three-quarter.

Newport, despite the absence of Geen, Dibble, and Uzzell, fielded a strong fifteen.

GLOUCESTER.	POSITIONS.	NEWPORT.
C. Cook	Backs.	H. Wreford
W. Washbourn	Three-Quarter	G. L. Hirst
L. Hamblin	Backs	F. W. Birt
W. Wilkes	"	J. Wetter
E. Bowen	"	H. J. Rowlands
W. Dix	Half-Backs	T. H. Vile
A. Lewis	"	W. J. Martin (capt.)
G. Halford (capt.)	Forwards	R. Summers
G. Vears	"	C. Bates
J. Harris	"	F. Jones
S. Smart	"	A. R. Williams
A. Saunders	"	Dr. Anderson
A. Cook	"	A. Bell
C. Mumford	"	J. Beams
S. Millard	"	M. Williams

Referee : Mr. D. B. Jones (Welsh Union).

THE GAME.

The weather was beautifully fine and the ground in good condition. Gloucester won the toss, and Newport started against the wind. The exchange of kicks saw Cook find touch nicely in the home 25.

The City heeled from the first scrum and Lewis fed Hamblin. The centre brought off a great run, beating man after man, but he was brought down ten yards from the line. Gloucester attacked strongly and Wilkes sent over the line for a minor.

From the drop-out Newport worked down to the City end, where a loose kick went to Dix. The Gloucesterian attempted to clear, but feebly punted into the hands of Birt, who had a walk in under the posts. The same player converted, and Newport were five points up very early.

Good kicking by Cook gave Gloucester the advantage on the restart and later, splendid footwork by Harris, Halford, and Dix just failed in a score, a knock-on taking place just outside. From the ensuing scrum, Dix received and threw to Bowen, who made a splendid though unsuccessful effort to cross in the corner.

Fumbling by Lewis allowed Newport to change the venue, but attempts at passing by the home backs broke down. Lewis and Dix enabled Gloucester to get back and Cook put his side to within a yard of the line with a lovely touch-finder. Gloucester got the ball out, but Lewis was stopped. Newport profited by some loose play by the visitors, but soon after Vile was penalised and Cook, with a fine kick, landed a goal.

On the restart Newport paid a visit to the City half, but they were soon beaten off, the Gloucester backs kicking with capital judgment.

From a line-out Harris broke away, but was tackled close in. Then a Newport forward cleared, and from a penalty Birt had a shot for goal but was a long way out. Securing from a throw-out Halford burst clear and punted past Wreford, but Hirst got across and saved.

A big dribble by the Newport front caused Gloucester trouble, but the movement was checked in time, and the City soon came back. A wild pass by Hirst gave Gloucester a splendid opening, but with the line at his mercy Halford dropped the ball.

A minute later Wreford made a marvellous save when a try appeared certain. A minor brought relief to Newport, but Hamblin returned with a grand run. Slipping the opposition in fine style he cleared Wreford but had to pull up to do so, and was tackled from behind. Gloucester continued to have the best of play.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Newport 1 goal
Gloucester 1 goal (p)

Newport were the luckiest team imaginable in holding a lead at the interval, for Gloucester had experienced terribly hard lines in losing at least three tries. Halford resumed for the City, and opening play favoured the visitors, for whom Hamblin was seen to advantage. Working splendidly together, the City forwards went very close.

Useful kicks enabled Newport to ease the pressure, and Birt, from a mark, found touch well inside the Gloucester half. The visitors defended well, but from the loose Ike Williams picked up and slipping the opposition, passed to Vile, who ran over with a good try. Birt failed at goal.

This try seemed to inspire the Welshmen and in the next few minutes they had all the play. Birt dropped for goal when he had a chance of putting Hirst in, and the latter passed forward to Vile with a certain try in view. Gloucester tried hard but could not make headway, and Birt securing he made a short burst and, though partly tackled, dropped a goal.

Newport were now leading by nine points, and they were playing a far better game now. There was some splendid passing on resumption, Rowlands cross-kicking cleverly, but the situation was saved.

Then Smart, taking advantage of misfielding by Birt, kicked through and past Wreford. The latter, however, got back and sent to touch.

Dashing play by the Gloucester forwards gave the visitors a good position, and Dix got the ball out to Lewis. The latter's lobbing pass, however, was intercepted by Hirst, who came through to Cook. He then passed and, after several other players had handled, Birt cross-punted to the line. Hirst received and handed to Bates, who scored Newport's third try. Birt missed the goal points.

Gloucester played up well on the restart, but could not get any luck. Out of some loose play Lewis gathered and, tricking Hirst, ran and fed Washbourn. The latter brought off a splendid run, but was tackled when looking dangerous.

Gloucester, however, maintained the pressure, and after a series of attacks Washbourn scored from a sharp pass. Cook failed at goal.

Newport [five, six words unreadable] but Birt's selfishness lost a good opening. Then from wild passing by Vile Gloucester had a fine chance, but a previous infringement spoiled it.

Just after Washbourn snapped up an opponent's pass and raced away to Wreford, but his transfer was not accepted, and the end came.

RESULT :

Newport 2 goals (1d) 2 tries (15 points)

Gloucester 1 goal (p) 1 try (6 points)

REMARKS.

Gloucester missed a fine opportunity of securing a substantial lead in the first half, chances of scoring being missed in the most disappointing manner. Newport were superior in the second half, but their play was very erratic, and only occasionally reached brilliancy.

The City forwards played a dogged game, and though beaten in the scrum they were splendid in the loose and lines out. Dix, except for that fatal error early in the game, played cleverly, and Lewis was good in defence.

Hamblin was easily the pick of the visiting backs, with Washbourn a good second, but combined passing runs were rare.

Cook was in capital form at full back, and Wreford also did well for Newport. The Usksiders may be counted a lucky side in winning by 9 clear points.

GLoucester A v. Newport A.

VICTORY FOR THE VISITORS.

Gloucester A were at home to Newport A at Kingsholm on Saturday, but despite this being one of the Seconds' best fixtures and the lovely weather, there was only a small attendance. There were changes in both teams, Sysum having to stand down owing to injuries, while other absentees were Harris and Mumford. Newport brought a strong team.

The teams were : –

Gloucester A. – F. W. Hayward; T. Powell, F. Bloxsome, J. Hamblin, and F. Webb; J. Humphries and C. Cummings; F. Pegler, W. Cromwell, F. Lewis, W. Parham, A. Russell, W. Rudman, E. Osborne, and J. Bryant.

Newport A. – A. Hobbs; J. Evans, J. B. James, J. Kelaher, and C. B. Francis; A. Williams and M. Moses; J. E. C. Partridge, G. Boots, T. J. Hopkins, A. Jenkins, Ebb Williams, W. Haskins, J. Hodges, and J. M. McLoughlin.

Gloucester started with the wind in their favour, but the sun in their eyes, and they had the advantage of the opening stages. There were one or two nice movements early on, and Powell and Bloxsome once looked dangerous, but the former was bored to touch. Gloucester, however, had their reward three minutes from the start, Bloxsome evading a would-be tackler and dropping a nice goal, the ball just clearing the bar.

After this reverse Newport played up strongly, and getting possession in the scrum nearly every time they worked their way into the Gloucester quarter and eventually forced the 'Cestrians right back on their line. Newport opened out, but the ball went astray and Hayward cleared with a good touch-finder.

The Gloucester forwards went away with a good burst, and a smart follow up and clean tackle by Powell stopped Hobbs getting in his reply, and Gloucester were well in the Usksiders' 25. A free to the visitors, however, cleared them, and then a clever cross-kick by Cummings gave the home outsiders a chance, and Hamblin was very nearly over. Hobbs, however, tackled him well, and Newport again got out of danger.

Play after this fluctuated in the central zone, but then Gloucester forced a minor with a kick over the line. Half a minute later Cummings also nearly did the trick from the base of the scrum, and immediately following Webb went over in the corner, but touched the touch-flag – hard lines.

Gloucester still attacked, and Powell had a very near thing in the opposite corner, but was tackled a yard out. Just before the interval Newport cleared to well beyond the centre.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 1 goal (d)
Newport A Nil

On the restart mistakes in fielding by the home threes let Newport right up to the Gloucester 25, but the forwards, with good work in the line-outs, gained ground. A wide pass out to the Newport threes, however, looked very dangerous, but just when Francis looked all over a scorer Hayward grassed him finely, and touch-in-goal resulted.

Newport attacked strongly now, but numerous mistakes behind the scrum lost them several golden opportunities. The Gloucester forwards cleared with a determined rush, and a free, taken by Hayward further helped them.

Newport's extra weight in front served them now and they attacked hotly, but a free-kick, again well taken by Hayward, helped Gloucester out of a tight corner. Newport continued to attack, and from a bit of loose play in front of the Gloucester goal James picked up and dropped a neat goal, putting the teams level.

Newport by keen following up and close tackling kept Gloucester penned in their own 25, and they were nearly over more than once. Many mistakes occurred behind the scrum, however, and the attack lacked sting. Once Bloxsome cut through nicely, but his pass was intercepted and centre play followed. The "boys" were putting up a strong defence against their heavier opponents, but they were having an anxious time of it.

A free to Gloucester followed, and from the succeeding kick Hobbs tried a shot at goal, but the ball went dead. A brilliant break away by the Citizens followed, and a capital tackle by Webb stopped Evans, and the home men attacked, but the visitors carried a couple of scrums well. Gloucester, however, got the ball out, and were quickly in the Newport 25 again. Here they were awarded a penalty, and Hayward only just missed the goal posts, the wind carrying the ball outside.

Open play followed at the centre, and then Newport were awarded a free, the ball going dead. Newport attacked again, and from a scrum close in Moses picked up and put George Boots over with a try near the posts. Hobbs goaled.

Newport were in Gloucester's 25 when the whistle went.

RESULT :

Newport A 2 goals (1d) (9 points)
Gloucester A 1 goal (d) (4 points)

REMARKS.

Both teams made lots of mistakes behind the scrum, but the Seconds defended splendidly in the second half, and it was only the visitors' extra weight which in the last ten minutes told the inevitable tale.