

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1898

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. NEWPORT

WEAK GLOUCESTER TEAM SEVERELY DEFEATED

The return encounter between these old opponents was played at Newport.

Owing to various causes Gloucester had to make the journey with a terribly weakened team, no less than seven reserves having to be called upon to fill the places of Hipwood, P. Stout, Taylor, Clutterbuck, Cummings, F. Stout, and Smith respectively. As will be seen by the names most of the absentees were from the back division.

Newport had a powerful side doing duty, for though M. Hannen, Boucher and Sawtell were unable to play, Arthur Gould was announced to assist his old club.

Under the circumstances Gloucester entered the contest in a very despondent mood, and a severe drubbing was generally expected.

The Great Western Railway Company ran a cheap excursion to Newport in connection with the match, but it was not largely patronised by football enthusiasts.

The weather was beautifully fine, and the ground was in grand trim.

Newport played A. J. Gould for Lloyd, the latter going half vice Hannen, whilst Gorvin and Williams replaced Price and Ince in the forwards.

The following were the teams : –

GLOUCESTER	Positions	NEWPORT
G. Romans	Back	J. B. Smithson
J. Cook	Three-quarters	T. W. Pearson
W. Dovey	"	A. J. Gould
F. M. Luce	"	R. T. Scrimshire
C. Smith	"	F. H. Dauncey
A. Stephens	Half-backs	G. Ll. Lloyd
G. Hall	"	L. A. Phillips
C. Williams	Forwards	J. Jenkins
C. Hall	"	G. Boots
C. Rose	"	J. H. Dunn
F. Oswell	"	– . Gorvin
A. H. Click	"	G. Jones
F. Goulding	"	J. Hodges
B. L. Watkins	"	– . Williams
W. Hughes	"	C. D. Phillips

Referee : Mr. Gil Evans (Swansea)

THE GAME

Newport started, and after an exchange of kicks play opened at the centre. From the first scrum formed Lloyd started a bout of passing, and after Gould had handled Scrimshire was given possession. The latter ran clean through the opposition, and scored behind the posts in less than a minute. Dauncey easily goaled.

Gloucester re-started, but almost immediately Newport returned to the attack and a fine round of passing nearly ended in another score. Out of some loose play the ball eventually got across to Pearson, who sailed round easily and scored. Dauncey converted.

On the kick-off the visitors' forwards showed up with some capital loose work, but Newport quickly recovered the ground, and a fine effort by Gould put Dauncey in near the corner. No goal resulted.

Gloucester dropped out, but play continued to favour Newport, whose backs exhibited some brilliant exchanges. Gould nearly scored again after grand passing, the veteran only being hauled down just outside. After this let-off, the City front rank, Watkins leading, was conspicuous with a splendid combined movement, which eventually ended in Smithson conceding a minor.

Gloucester continued to play a fine forward game, but they were outclassed behind, and Dauncey added another try before the interval, which he converted.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Newport 3 goals, 1 try
Gloucester Nil

Charlie Hall started the second half, but Newport at once assumed the aggressive. The home forwards held out splendidly, and one brilliant series of exchanges amongst the backs looked certain for a score, but Pearson failed to gather properly.

By useful forward play and tricky run Cook gave Gloucester an advantage. The Newport forwards, however, came away with a superb rush, and were not stopped until Romans was reached on the quarter line. Here the Uskside rear division was several times given possession, but mistakes in handling lost ground.

Using their feet to advantage the City front rank got dangerous, but Pearson saved cleverly. Gloucester were now holding their own splendidly, and play was mainly confined to the Newport half. Rose, C. Hall, and Goulding took part in a pretty movement, but Smithson spoiled it. Then Dauncey receiving from Phillips, got clear down the touch line, but Romans tackled his man finely, and Cook intercepting the pass found touch nicely.

Newport now attacked strongly again. Skrimshire and Gould narrowly missed dropping goals. The Gloucester defence was severely taxed, but the Newport back play fell off.

Eventually Skrimshire got an opening, and the Newport centre tricking Romans cleverly went over with a good try. Dauncey failed at goal.

From now to the finish Newport had all the game, and Dunn added an unconverted try from a line-out.

RESULT :

Newport 3 goals, 3 tries (24 points)
Gloucester Nil

REMARKS

All things considered Gloucester accomplished a creditable performance in escaping a more heavy defeat.

Newport commenced in such a manner that something approaching a massacre was fully expected, but as events turned out it was far from being this. It is true Gloucester were distinctly out-played, but it was not a runaway victory by any means.

Forward Gloucester at times showed up splendidly, and had their efforts been properly backed up the game would have been very close.

Newport scored their first four tries in less than a quarter of an hour, but they did not get over again until the last ten minutes. The Uskside backs exhibited brilliant combination at the start, Gould playing wonderfully well. In the second half they fell off a good bit.

For Gloucester, Romans played a fine game at full back, considering the immense amount of work he had to do. Goulding, Watkins, Hall, and Williams were the pick of the forwards.

GLOUCESTER A v. NEWPORT A

SOME COMPENSATION AT KINGSHOLM

USKSIDERS SOUNDLY BEATEN

At Kingsholm. The homesters were called upon to surrender some of their best men for the premier fifteen, and therefore were not at full strength.

The teams lined out as follows : –

Gloucester A. – F. Griffiths, back; F. C. Weaver, A. Finch, R. Goddard, and F. Miller, three-quarter backs; A. D. Lansley and E. T. James, half-backs; W. Payne, B. Hough, W. White, H. Manley, J. Greenhill, F. Hughes, A. Mills, and J. Lewis, forwards.

Newport A. – A. R. Pearce, back; S. Jenkins, T. Allison, W. Harvey, and M. Hard, three-quarter backs; W. G. Jones and G. R. Wade, half-backs; E. Hulman, P. J. Pritchard, F. J. Richmond, A. E. Jones, C. E. Wood, J. Russell, G. Lang, and J. R. C. Partridge, forwards.

Referee : Mr. H. Smith (Gloucester County Union).

Gloucester won the toss and elected to defend the Dean's walk goal. Newport kicked off with the sun in their eyes. Gloucester were early awarded a free, but the Newport men returned well into touch, and Weaver getting possession, made a good run, but was put into touch by Jenkins.

The game was carried right to Newport's line, and Lewis got hold and passed to James, who, however, spoilt the opening by falling and letting the ball go forward. Griffiths fielded badly, and let the ball go into touch, losing a lot of ground. Allison and Hard looked dangerous, but Weaver brought the latter down well, and play ranged near the centre, till Griffiths relieved with a good kick, though he was hampered.

Griffiths nearly let his side down by mulling badly and Newport pressed. The homesters were equal to the occasion, and Goddard relieved with a kick along the ground into touch. Pearce returned with a good kick with two or three opponents on top of him, and Gloucester were forced to touch down.

Miller took the drop-out, and Hard returned into touch at the centre. James spoilt a grand effort by passing forward; he was not backed up at all or the line could have been crossed. Gloucester were awarded a free for off-side, but no ground was gained. James and Payne went away well, and the line was in jeopardy; and Finch gaining possession dropped a splendid goal with his left foot amidst loud cheers.

Payne broke away from a host of opponents, and got in a good kick, which Pearce failed to return, and Hough was on him, but the ball got out, and play was carried to the centre. Then Newport were placed on the defensive, and only just saved themselves by touching down in the scramble.

Goddard was next conspicuous with a grand dodge and kick into touch. A Newport man was warned for threatening to strike Miller, and immediately afterwards Gloucester gained a free, Goddard making a good shot for the goal. Gloucester pressed hard and Greenhill scored a good try. Griffiths took the kick, but the ball hit the upright.

Gloucester pressed again and Newport were forced to concede a minor. Gloucester were not to be denied, and kept the visitors busy defending. Finch spoilt a good passing movement by holding the ball too long, but the game was still near the Newport line where a splendid bout of passing occurred, all the Gloucester backs handling. Weaver was unfortunately brought down, though he tried hard to get through. Goddard and Finch both showed to great advantage the latter dropping another splendid goal from the 25 line.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 2 goals (d), 1 try
Newport A Nil

On resuming, play opened near the centre. The home forwards took the ball with them in grand style, thus giving the halves splendid opportunities, which were invariably taken. E. T. James showed up well with a nice little run, and the Gloucester men carried the ball right to the line, Pearce saving in daring fashion.

Newport now gained some ground, and Harvey put in a good run. Then Goddard broke away finely, and Weaver following up prevented Pearce returning. Griffiths followed up his kick well, and kicked the ball again before a Newport man had touched it. Gloucester had it all their own way for a moment or two, and Goddard only just missed dropping another goal.

An exchange of kicks followed, and Harvey made his mark, but the kick was returned, no ground being gained. F. Miller was conspicuous with a clever screw kick into touch. Then Griffiths claimed a mark, and a series of kicks followed, till Hough got away at a good speed down the field; he was, however, grassed.

Weaver claimed a mark and after an altercation between the Newport captain and the referee no charge was given. Griffiths made a good shot but the ball fell short. The same player soon after made a good kick into touch, and soon after Finch nearly scored in the corner.

The Gloucester forwards carried a scrum in fine style, and the ball came out to Lansley, who passed to Finch. The latter, after a short run, transferred to Goddard, who ran round and scored behind the posts. Griffiths' kick failed.

Lansley put the Newportonians on the defensive, again with a kick into touch, and Gloucester were again the aggressors. Goddard claimed a mark right in front of goal, and Griffiths kicked a splendid goal amidst loud cheers.

Gloucester were again having all the best of matters, and James, after a pass from Finch, only missed scoring by slipping down. Lansley had a drop for goal, but failed.

Gloucester again pressed, and Finch put in a splendid run and passed to Goddard, who in turn handed to Weaver, who scored a clever try between the posts. "No charge" was given, and Goddard kicked a goal amidst renewed cheers.

Weaver dashed down the line from the kick-off, but he let the ball go. Newport got up, but Weaver again sent them back with a good kick, and James broke away down the field, but was stopped. No-side was immediately called.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 4 goals (2d, 1m), 2 tries (23 points)
Newport A Nil

REMARKS

A grand game from the spectators' point of view, but not for Newport, who were beaten, and well beaten too.

Gloucester did as they liked almost in the latter half, and were continual aggressors. The visitors seemed to go to pieces. Behind a winning pack James and Lansley were in great form, and the three-quarters were well fed, all distinguishing themselves in turn.

Finch's two goals were splendid, and Weaver's last try was one of the prettiest bits of play in a good match. Too high praise cannot be given to Goddard, who in defence and attack shone conspicuously. Griffiths was good at full-back, only making one slight mistake.

Of the forwards it is hard to select any as distinguished for individual prowess, as all were so good, but Manley, Greenhill, and Lewis were perhaps the pick of a good lot, especially in the open, where Gloucester showed to advantage throughout.

The second string have never played such a game before this season, and thoroughly deserved their substantial victory.

Pearce was good at back for the visitors, and Hard, Harvey, and Allison at three-quarter.

It was the opinion of several Gloucester enthusiasts that they had never seen the second team play such a splendid game against a Welsh combination.

JC