

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1938

GOAL & PENALTY INCIDENTS AT NEWPORT

GLOUCESTER'S SECOND TRIUMPH IN WALES

ANOTHER FINE PERFORMANCE

CITY CAPTAIN'S PROUD RECORD

FROM W.B.'s NOTEBOOK

In Club football, Gloucester came into prominence again with a splendid performance at Newport, where the City gained a well-deserved victory by 8 points to 6, thus repeating their success in 1935.

Following so closely on the defeat of Llanelly, at Stradey Park, the second triumph in Wales, from where few English clubs return with winning points, is particularly pleasing.

The achievement equals the record of the team of 1935-6, under Fred Wadley's captaincy, when Llanelly and Cardiff were both defeated away.

THREE YEARS AGO

Gloucester's last win at Newport, previous to Saturday, was three years ago (January 12, 1935), when the Usksiders were beaten 8-3. Roy James and Ivor Williams scored tries, and Boughton converted one. The personnel of the side has undergone considerable change since then, and only four members of Saturday's victorious fifteen figured in the two games, viz., Hook, Meadows, Carpenter, and Price. The other eleven players in 1935 were Grahame Parker, James, Pugsley, Hordern, Fifield, Wadley, Ken Smith, Ricketts, Welshmen, Ivor Williams, and Franklin. Of these, eight have retired from football.

BOUGHTON'S RETURN

With Boughton resuming his place at full-back, Gloucester were at full strength last week, and Newport also fielded their best team – a more representative side than the one which captured the City's ground record at Kingsholm in December.

In a game which furnished many exciting exchanges, and one or two incidents, reference to which I will make later, Gloucester were fully entitled to victory.

The combined back play on either side did not reach a very high standard – there were far too many handling mistakes to make the game spectacular – but the City outsidemen were more convincing in general work, and their defence was admirable.

Judgment and length of kicking, too, gave Gloucester an advantage, and in this particular department Meadows, Boughton and Manning excelled.

Boughton, who had benefitted by his three weeks' rest, gave a splendid display, and won yet another match for Gloucester, with a magnificent goal kick from Hook's second try. As far as I could see, one slight knock-on was the only mistake that could be laid against the City vice-captain, and he was in some very tight corners on occasions. His relief kicking was of immense service, and one clearance, after he had to run back 30 yards to gather the ball, was a remarkable piece of work.

ANOTHER GOAL POSER

It was Boughton who led up to the first try, Hook scoring from his drop at goal – a very fine shot. From my position in the grand stand it appeared a certain goal; other Press colleagues agreed, and the Newport players (I gathered after the match) were practically unanimous on the point. The referee, however, was against, and that settled it.

Fortunately Hook, who was joined by Phillips, followed the ball over the goal line, and the former touched down for the try. No Newport player troubled to challenge the race for the ball, so convinced were they, apparently, that Boughton's shot for goal had succeeded. As the try awarded was not converted Gloucester lost a point over this score. This was incident No. 1.

INCIDENT No. 2

There was a second near the end of the game, when excitement was at its highest, and this caused a good deal of discussion. Newport had just a chance of snatching victory, with about three minutes to go. Allen started a strong burst upfield, and cleared the Gloucester centres. He was moving at a good pace to Boughton, when Meadows dashed across, and making a dive touched the Newport man's heel with his outstretched hand. Allen stumbled and fell, and the ball rolled out of his arms towards Boughton. The latter stated he touched the ball with his foot and then punted to touch.

The Gloucester players were amazed when the referee awarded Newport a penalty, for what I understand he stated at the time was for tripping. Meadows and Hughes confirmed this in a conversation I had with them on the return journey.

In a chat I had after the match with Mr. Vincent Griffiths, the old Newport and Welsh international, however, he stated the penalty was given for not playing the ball with the foot after a tackle. This was a new point, and raised the question of the interpretation of a tackle. In any case, Meadows definitely did not trip Allen, and I think the referee later realised the mistake he made on the field.

It would have been very hard luck on Gloucester to have lost the match under such a decision, but it was a near thing, for Legge's place-kick for goal from the penalty only fell a yard short of the cross-bar. He had previously put two over, Newport's only scores, as against Gloucester's two tries (one converted).

FEW COMBINED PASSING MOVEMENTS

Gloucester's aggressive back play was directed more to individual than combined effort, and the result was that few passing movements were developed. Manning was distinguished for some mighty kicking, especially with the left foot, but he was not so certain in handling as in previous games, and Burke was rarely employed. The latter brought off some beautiful tackles, and in defence he has so far proved his value. But I should like to see the United wing fully tested in attack.

The City's midfield play, however, is not good, and has been a source of weakness all the season. Hook fared little better than his right wing colleague with passes from the centre, and both his tries were the reward of keen following up and opportunism. Phillips' best work was in tackling.

GOUGH UNLUCKY

Gough and Meadows were a more successful combination at half-back than Hawkins and Tovey on the opposing side. The Newport pair did not strike a very happy understanding, and transfers from the scrum too often went astray.

Gough came under the ban of the referee for off-side tactics, but the Gloucesterian was unlucky in that the official did not see infringements by the Newport scrum worker in tapping the ball back into the scrum after it had been heeled.

Allen and Knowles were the best of the Newport third line. Both were dangerous at times, but at no point did the home players approach the standard expected.

On the whole, it was a disappointing back division for Newport, Legge alone being the exception. The Welsh international had one or two lapses, but he more than made amends with some wonderful work under pressure.

EXPERT HOOKERS IN OPPOSITION

Forward the struggle was very keen, fierce at times, with some heavy tackling. Carpenter, opposed to Travers, the expert Welsh hooker, held his own splendidly, and the rivals shared honours on the day.

Gloucester's best forward – and I should not be far wrong in naming him the leading forward on the field – was Tom Price, who reached a standard little short of international class. Price's display attracted a good deal of attention at Newport, and his play throughout warranted the highest commendation.

The Gloucester eight came through this test against one of the strongest club packs in the country, with an enhanced reputation, and the victory secured was in a large measure due to their dashing efforts.

Hughes' brilliant raiding was a constant source of trouble to the Newport backs, and the old Oxford Blue is just now playing fine football. Dr. Dick had a good match, and he was naturally immensely pleased that his association with the club concluded with such a noteworthy success.

JOHN A'BEAR'S PROUD RECORD

To John A'Bear congratulations on leading his side to another memorable victory. The popular captain has now been on the winning side on each of the leading Welsh club grounds – Cardiff, Swansea, Llanelly (twice), and now Newport. And this in his fifth season! Gloucester's one solitary win at Swansea was in season 1934, and the City had to wait 38 years before recording a second victory at Llanelly.

A'Bear had grand support in the loose from all his colleagues last week, but I should like to see the players give more attention to line-out work. Albert Welshman has not so far been adequately replaced in this important phase of play, and Gloucester have suffered in consequence.

RECORD AND FIXTURES

PLAYED 29 – WON 22, LOST 6, DRAWN 1.

					Points	
					F.	A.
SEPTEMBER						
11	v. Lydney	...	W	30	3	
18	v. Moseley	...	W	9	0	
25	v. Bristol	...	W	6	3	
OCTOBER						
2	v. Old Cranleighans	...	W	5	0	
9	v. Cardiff	...	L	6	20	
16	v. Torquay Ath.	...	W	23	0	
23	v. Bedford	...	W	9	5	
30	v. Richmond	...	W	3	0	
NOVEMBER						
6	v. Leicester	...	W	14	9	
13	v. Old Blues	...	W	23	3	
20	v. Bath	...	L	0	3	
27	v. Oxford University	...	W	10	8	
DECEMBER						
4	v. Blackheath	...	W	13	11	
11	v. Cheltenham	...	L	3	8	
18	v. Newport	...	L	5	8	
27	v. O.M.T.'s	...	W	29	3	
28	v. Cheltenham	...	W	3	0	
JANUARY						
1	v. London Scottish	...	L	3	15	
8	v. Leicester	...	D	6	6	
15	v. Bedford	...	W	9	8	
22	v. Bristol	...	W	3	0	
29	v. Guy's Hospital	...	W	11	3	
FEBRUARY						
5	v. United Services	...	W	8	7	
12	v. Cardiff	...	L	9	11	
19	v. Bath	...	W	10	0	
26	v. Devonport Services	...	W	17	4	

MARCH

5	v. Llanelly	...	W	13	11
12	v. R.A.F.	...	W	6	0
19	v. Newport	...	W	8	6
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				294	155

APRIL

2	v. Devonport Services	...	A		
4	v. Torquay A.	...	A		
9	v. Harlequins	...	H		
16	v. London Welsh	...	H		
18	v. Universities A.U.	...	H		
19	v. Lydney	...	A		

"AULD LANG SYNE"

Regret at Dr. Dick's departure from Gloucester and good wishes for his future success were voiced by John A'Bear, captain of the City team, on behalf of the players, at the usual dinner after the match at Newport.

Messrs. H. J. Balchin, Harry Berry, and J. H. A'Bear, who accompanied the team, represented the Committee. Dr. Dick, whose health was drunk with musical honours, acknowledged the kindly references made, and said he should ever remember his football days in Gloucester and the many enjoyable games he had had with the team. The company sang "Auld Lang Syne" before separating.

Dr. Dick has taken up his new appointment at the Northern General Hospital, Edinburgh.

DEVON TOUR

Gloucester meet Devonport Services and Torquay Athletic on their annual Devon tour next week-end. This trip is always keenly anticipated by the players, and for this season it will be a wind-up of out matches with the exception of the visit to Lydney on Easter Tuesday.

The City won both fixtures at Kingsholm – Torquay by 23 pts. to nil, and the Services' by 17 pts. to 4. Next year Gloucester will play the Services and Redruth on tour.

It had been hoped to strike new ground with a visit to the North next year, playing Sale and Birkenhead Park, but the train service for the return journey did not fit in and the idea had to be dropped.

JC