

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1927

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER'S ONE POINT WIN

NEWPORT BEATEN AT KINGSHOLM

CITY TEAM'S SPLENDID RECOVERY IN SECOND HALF

For their return match with Gloucester at Kingsholm, Newport, owing to the International match at Dublin and injuries to players, were below strength, the absentees including Andrews, Stock, and Harold Davies (three-quarters), and Phillips, Herrera, Roberts, Collins, and T. Jones (forwards). The City were still short of Hughes, but Voyce returned to captain the side, and Roy James was given another trial at centre.

The weather was fine, but the attendance showed a distinct improvement on recent weeks, and there were some 6,000 present when the teams took the field. Previous to the kick-off there was community singing, led by the band, in which the crowd heartily joined, Mr. Eric Keys acting as announcer.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. N. Loveridge, Roy James, J. Stephens, and S. R. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and T. Millington.

FORWARDS: A. T. Voyce (capt.), M. Short, L. E. Saxby, G. McIlwaine, H. Pitt, G. Foulkes, A. Rea, and J. Russell.

NEWPORT

BACK : W. Everson.

THREE-QUARTERS : J. O. Lloyd, G. Goldsworthy, M. McGregor, and T. Nicholas.

HALF-BACKS : C. Jerman and V. M. Griffiths.

FORWARDS : Dr. W. J. Roche, W. T. Morgan, G. F. Evans, W. H. Lewis, W. H. Davies, E. Smith, J. Hughes, and H. Peacock.

Referee : Mr. F. G. Stephens (Moseley).

THE GAME

The ground was in splendid condition for a fast game. Gloucester lost the toss, and Voyce kicked off from the Dean's Walk goal, the return going to touch just inside the home half. From the first set scrum Gloucester got the ball out, James punting to touch. Newport quickly replied, and smart handling left the ball with Nicholas, who cross-kicked, but the Newport forwards were ruled off-side practically on the line.

Gloucester cleared with a useful kick by Voyce, and later Short dribbled to Everson, who was upset. The ball going to Loveridge, the latter punted well down the field, but Goldsworthy made a fine reply.

Newport attacked after this, but the City gained relief. James was pulled up for a knock-on when clear, with Voyce in attendance, and then came a clever effort by Jerman, who burst clear away with a couple of forwards close up. The second transfer, however, was not accepted, and Gloucester luckily escaped.

Subsequent play was evenly contested at the centre. From a penalty Gloucester got well down, and Short made a smart dash down touch and pass inside, but nothing further resulted. Ensuing play was scrambling, and mistakes occurred on both sides. The Newport forwards gained an advantage with some sharp footwork, but McIlwaine checked, and the City retaliated.

Stephens just missed taking an awkward pass from Millington when well placed, and later the Newport backs fumbled after a clever opening by Jerman. Gloucester being penalised, Everson had a long shot for goal from near half-way, a fine effort narrowly missing the goal.

Newport, though lacking their usual finish, had the better of ensuing play, the home tackling being very poor at times. After Gloucester had conceded a minor, Stephens, from a pass by James, broke through strongly, and dropping the ball dribbled ahead. Everson, however, effected a remarkable save and kick to touch 30 yards up the field.

Fast work by the Newport forwards gave Gloucester anxiety, and then came a round of passing ending in Nicholas making a bold effort to score. Thomas, however, waited for his man and brought off a great tackle. Gloucester cleared from a dangerous position, but the City were beaten back, and after fumbling the ball was kicked over the line, where a visiting forward just missed the touch.

Gloucester, on the drop-out were confined to their 25, where McGregor tried hard to break through but was foiled. So far Newport had had most of the play, but bad handling spoiled several good openings.

Gloucester had another narrow escape following a dashing burst by the Newport front, who appeared too fast and keen for the home players. The Welshmen were again seen to advantage forward, and the ball was rushed right to the line. The City were hard pressed, and the ball coming out to GOLDSWORTHY, the latter, manœuvring for position, dropped a neat goal.

Following the re-start, Russell showed up with a strong run, but he was smothered in a tackle and could not pass. Newport, with the aid of a penalty, quickly transferred play to the other end. Here James, from a pass by Milliner, slipped through and handed to McIlwaine. The latter handed to Voyce, who let the ball go. It was kicked ahead, but close in Everson managed to save.

From in front of the posts Griffiths brought relief to Newport, and a passing run and big kick sent to Thomas who was collared in possession. The City custodian threw a pass inside, but it was knocked on. Play was fast and keen forward, the City men doing better work, but behind the visitors held the advantage, their kicking being splendidly judged. Everson, at full back, too, was very safe.

HALF-TIME :

NEWPORT 1 goal (d)

GLOUCESTER Nil

On the play Newport had shown superiority in all departments, and might easily have increased their lead with more finish. On the resumption the Gloucester forwards were early prominent with a fine burst, and the ball bouncing nicely Foulkes gathered and passed. There was a fine chance of a score, but Stephens' transfer went behind James, and the opportunity was lost.

Newport cleared with good kicking, and then followed at mid-field some desperate exchanges between the rival packs. Gloucester tried to get the ball out, but the marking was too close. Eventually there was a series of exchanges between Milliner, Millington, James and Stephens, but the latter was collared in trying to cut inside, and his pass was captured by McGregor, who ran some 20 yards before being upset by Milliner. The Gloucester backs, a little later, were again in possession, but it was the old-fashioned style of straight across the ground, not a single opponent being drawn and nothing being gained.

Centre play followed for several minutes; but the combination of both sides was often at fault. The football, as a result, presented no spectacular features, and there was little of incident to record. Penalty kicks ensued to either side, Everson giving the advantage to Newport. From inside their own half the Gloucester forwards brought off a great burst, but Everson dived for the ball and checked grandly. Fumbling by the home backs let Newport in, and the City line was in jeopardy.

Scrum followed five yards out, from one of which Jerman opened out. Goldsworthy's pass, however, was taken by Crowther, who punted past Everson. There was a big race for possession, but Griffiths and another player got back just in time to save.

Gloucester lost their position through mistakes, but they came back through the combined efforts of Milliner, Loveridge and Crowther. Loveridge cross-kicked, but the ball went to touch ten yards from the line.

Gloucester redoubled their efforts to effect a score, and Stephens, with a sharp pick-up and big dash, was nearly through, being held up almost on the mark. There was a stoppage for attention to a Newport player, and the game was resumed in front of the Newport posts. Gloucester had a fine chance now, but a drop at goal by James was charged down, and gave the Welshmen relief.

The City, however, persevered, and the best combined effort of the home men ensued. Millington, working on the short side of the scrum, fed Loveridge, who dashed down touch and repassed. Millington gave to McIlwaine, and the ball went back to the wing via Millington. LOVERIDGE had an opening and, seizing it, dashed over the line amidst tremendous cheering, which was renewed when Millington added the extra points with a lovely kick, thus giving Gloucester the lead.

The restart saw Gloucester in fine form, the forwards doing splendidly. A penalty kick helped, and the City attacked resolutely. Milliner was nearly over after a clever bit of work, and the excitement was very intense.

Gloucester tried hard to add to their score, but the defence held out against repeated attacks. Gradually Newport improved, and Jerman opening out, the ball was got out quickly to Nicholas, who got well away. Facing Thomas, he threw a pass inside which was missed, and Gloucester cleared.

From a long kick which went over the line Thomas touched down, and on the drop-out James shone with a delightful run. Turning cleverly, he cut clean up the field and punted over Everson's head. The latter raced back and recovered, though he was tackled in possession. Gloucester worked hard to cross, but they were beaten off, and Newport set up an attack. McGregor kicked to Thomas, who fielded cleverly, dodged a couple of opponents, and sent to touch beyond the centre. Gloucester, in the last few minutes, put forth a special effort to add to their lead, and might have done so with a bit of luck.

The closing stages furnished more excitement, Gloucester attacking desperately. There were more players laid out, and a couple of minutes to time something happened near the Newport line – it was impossible to see what actually occurred from the Press seats – which called forth the intervention of the referee, and Jerman was singled out, and ordered off. The City finished strongly, but nothing further was scored.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (5 points)
NEWPORT 1 goal (d) (4 points)

REMARKS

It was rousing football – desperately keen and providing plenty of excitement – but it was not a game to enthuse over as regards spectacular incidents. Gloucester were clearly outplayed in the first half, and were fortunate, indeed, in being only four points in arrear at the interval.

Newport's failure to accept scoring chances was surprising, for up to a point the attacking movements were well carried out. The absence of so many regular players no doubt affected the combination, but the Welshmen's attack to-day was a good bit below standard.

Gloucester were a vastly improved side all-round in the second half, and for their splendid recovery the City just about deserved their narrow victory. The forwards could not seem to get together early on, and were repeatedly beaten both in the scrums and loose.

The Newport men, well led by Roche, were particularly fast on the ball and swept through the home defenders on several occasions. Fortunately the City defence was pretty sound, though more than once a bit of luck helped the Kingsholm players. With the change of ends Gloucester were thoroughly warmed to their work, and for the major portion of the second half the advantage rested with the home team.

It was rush and counter-rush, with some brilliant footwork on both sides. On the whole the tackling of the visitors was the more certain, and the smothering tactics of the rival wing forwards did not allow much scope for opening out.

Voyce played vigorously all through, and McIlwaine did a lot of useful work. But for real graft I liked Saxby, Short, Russell and Rea, all of whom came into prominence at various periods of the game. The heeling on both sides left something to be desired, and this made the work of the scrum half-backs very hard.

Milliner revelled in the close exchanges, and his fearless stopping of rushes was remarkable. Jerman also did well for Newport, and on the whole the couple were well matched.

Millington and Griffiths served their respective sides splendidly, even if their moves in attack did not always succeed. Millington had a big hand in the scoring of Gloucester's try, and his goal-kick which gave the City victory was a beauty.

At three-quarter, if there was little in the way of brilliant combination on the part of the home players, there were distinct signs of improvement. Stephens was distinguished with several strong bursts, and if he could only "find" that quickness off the mark and judgment when to feed his wing he would prove of infinite more value to his side. James, reinstated at centre, made one of the best individual runs witnessed during the match, and his display this afternoon warranted his return to the team.

Loveridge had the distinction of scoring the only try of the afternoon – it was the one real chance he had – and accomplished other good things; whilst Crowther tried hard without getting any luck. Thomas made one or two mistakes, but no errors of judgment in tackling to-day, and kicked well, though outshone in this respect by Everson.

Newport are fortunate in the possession of such good class reserves. The forwards failed to keep up the pace and dash set in the first half, but the men were all keen workers, with Roche, Lewis, Morgan and Smith especially noticeable. At three-quarter, McGregor and Goldsworthy accomplished some clever work at centre, and the wings ran hard, but fumbled at times when good openings presented themselves.

Next week's matches :– Thursday : Gloucester v. R.A.F., at Kingsholm (kick-off 3.15). Saturday : Schools International – England v. Wales (kick-off 3.30).

I understand the Gloucester Committee have had under consideration the question of the Allen Warren Fund, and it has been decided to take a collection at the Boys' International match next Saturday. The case (referred to in another column) is one that deserves the greatest sympathy and support of all football enthusiasts, and I trust the appeal will meet with generous support. Subscriptions to the Fund sent to "The Citizen" Office will be duly acknowledged.

GLOUCESTER A v. NEWPORT A

CITY SECONDS LOSE NARROWLY

Gloucester's second fifteen travelled to Newport to meet the latter club's reserve side. The Gloucester forwards and backs opened strongly on a dry ground in delightful weather, and Newport were hard pressed. Abbey scored a try for Gloucester. Shortly afterwards Carter scored for Newport, while after a long period of pressure Weare scored another unconverted try for Newport.

Half-time :

Newport A 2 tries
Gloucester A try

In the second half both sides tried to develop attacks by passing, but the defences were excellent. Newport had a slight advantage forward, but there was little in it, and Gloucester had quite as many opportunities. The tackling was very keen, and Newport missed two easy penalty kicks.

Result :

Newport A2 tries (6 points)

Gloucester A ... 1 try (3 points)

JC