

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1914

## FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. NEWPORT

CITY TEAM WELL BEATEN

NO STING IN THE ATTACK

Gloucester's one and only victory at Newport dates back some 30 years, and with the knowledge that the City had been beaten on each visit to Wales this season – Pontypool, Llanelly, and Abertillery – did not encourage much hope that a win would be recorded this afternoon. Gloucester had two disappointments, both Washbourn and Smart (the latter suffering with a kick on the thigh sustained against Cheltenham) being unable to play. Powell and Ayliffe, of the A team, filled the vacancies.

Teams : –

| GLOUCESTER         | POSITIONS     | NEWPORT             |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| C. Cook            | Backs.        | H. Wreford          |
| T. Powell          | Three-Quarter | * H. Plummer        |
| A. Lewis           | Backs         | * F. Birt           |
| S. Sysum           | "             | J. Kerr             |
| F. Webb            | "             | * G. Hirst          |
| A. Hall            | Half-Backs    | T. Baker            |
| J. Baker           | "             | * W. Martin         |
| G. Halford (capt.) | Forwards      | * H. Uzzell (capt.) |
| F. Ayliffe         | "             | R. Dibble           |
| J. F. Lawson       | "             | J. H. Wetter        |
| N. Hayes           | "             | M. Williams         |
| A. Saunders        | "             | A. Bell             |
| W. Parham          | "             | H. Shepherd         |
| S. Millard         | "             | R. Edwards          |
| A. Cook            | "             | L. Attewell         |
|                    |               | * Internationals    |

Referee : Mr. J. Southby (Bristol).

## THE GAME

There were four changes in the Newport team, J. Wetter, Vile, Willis and Spanswick standing down for J. Kerr, T. Baker, Jones H. Wetter and M. Williams respectively. The weather was dull and threatening, and the recent heavy rain had rendered the ground very heavy. Mr. J. C. Hartley, a member of the English Selection Committee, was present for the purpose of watching Hall and Baker for International honours.

Halford kicked off, and early on the Newport forwards broke away with a good burst, but Cook checked nicely. Gloucester were penalised for off-side, and Birt had a shot for goal, but sent wide. Lewis punted out cleverly, the forwards taking the ball on, and Wreford was forced to kick to touch. Gloucester made further headway, but a fine bout of passing by Newport looked dangerous. The movement was checked, but Birt securing narrowly missed dropping a goal. From a subsequent scrum Martin opened out, and Plummer raced over with a try, Birt failing at goal.

Newport attacked strongly on the restart, but Webb and Sysum, with smart efforts, changed the venue, and Wreford being tackled lost the ball. With a superb rush the Gloucester forwards made tracks for the Newport line, but Martin averted disaster. From inside their own 25 Newport started passing from a line-out, and there appeared a certain score. Webb, however, intercepted the final transfer and punted clear.

Gloucester were beaten in the scrums and lines-out, and Newport took some holding. At length the City burst through finely. With a solo effort Wreford managed to save, but a couple of minutes later the visitors had another dash and Newport were lucky in saving. A brilliant run by Sysum looked promising, but he slipped on the treacherous turf and fell at the feet of Wreford. Gloucester tried hard to gain an equalising try, but finish was lacking. Newport relieved with fine forward work, and Plummer was given another chance, but Cook stopped him.

The Gloucester forwards with splendid loose work reached the centre before being caught up. Later Halford led another dribble which Martin checked, but Gloucester ought to have scored from a breakaway by Hall. With the three-quarters well placed the outside half threw yards wide of Powell, the ball going to touch. This was a splendid chance missed.

Subsequent play was fast, exciting, and even, Gloucester having now found their form. The backs, however, could not get any luck, things going awkwardly at the crucial moment. A remarkable series of exchanges by Newport promised well, but Webb spoiled it a few yards from the line. The Usksiders worked cleverly on the short side of the scrum, but the defence was alert and nothing resulted. Lewis shone in some clever individual work which took Gloucester to the centre, were there was a spell of heavy forward work. A long punt sent the ball to Cook, who, however, was perfect in fielding and kicking.

#### HALF-TIME SCORE :

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Newport .....    | 1 try |
| Gloucester ..... | Nil   |

Gloucester showed up well on the resumption with some good foot-work, but they were beaten back with a series of passes which ended in Kerr being forced to touch a yard from the line. The City were twice penalised close in for scrum infringements, but Birt failed with his kicks at goal.

Powell punted out nicely from the second kick at goal, and Gloucester gained slight relief. Back Newport came with a sharp attack, and Martin only just failed scoring a try – a lucky escape for Gloucester.

Play was confined to well inside the City half, and their defence was hotly assailed. In tackling Martin, Hall had his eye cut open, and during his retirement the Newport forwards dribbled away from the scrum and scored. Birt failed at goal.

Hall returned immediately afterwards, and the Gloucester forwards got in a fine loose rush. Wreford sent them back and more attacks followed on the Gloucester line. The defence held out, but there were a couple of narrow escapes.

Subsequent play was chiefly forward, but though the Gloucester eight shone in more good work, Newport were better all round. The City did not heel cleanly, and when the ball did get amongst the backs little combined work was witnessed. Hall could not seem to get a chance owing to close marking, and was consequently unable to make any impression.

Millard made a splendid run from a line-out and started a dribble which Wreford checked with difficulty. Then Uzzell retaliated with a similar effort, Gloucester just managing to stave off a try. Hall, with a capital run, set Lewis and Webb on the run, but the effort died at the centre.

Working well together Newport resumed their attacking position, and Birt, intercepting, sent Uzzell over with a good try. The place kick again failed.

Gloucester played up pluckily on the drop-out, Lawson being prominent, but the Newport backs were safe. After a brief stay in the Newport half the home backs came right away with good passing. Plummer ran hard, but being pressed transferred to Birt, who returned the ball for Plummer to put Martin over easily. This time Martin converted.

Gloucester resumed, and with a capital effort reached the Newport 25, but there was no sting in the visitors' attacks, and the home forwards quickly changed play to beyond the centre. Newport were playing a winning game now, and were opening out well. The tackling, however, was good. Then Gloucester did their best bit of passing, Halford, Hall, Lewis and Sysum handling, but the final transfer was dropped and the ball lost.

Newport dribbled back, and Birt taking a drop for goal the ball hit the upright and rebounded into the arms of Edwards, who scored easily. The goal points were added, and Newport were well ahead. The last few minutes were fought out at the centre, but Gloucester never looked like scoring.

RESULT :

Newport ..... 2 goals, 3 tries (19 points)  
Gloucester ..... Nil

REMARKS.

It was a bad beating, but, to be candid, Gloucester were outclassed.

The Newport forwards revelled on the heavy going, and it was the grand work of their pack that laid the foundation to the handsome victory. The City forwards put in some good work, but they were not together like their opponents, and also lacked the dash and initiative displayed by the Newport men.

Behind Gloucester did not make much impression, and most of their best work accomplished was of an individual nature.

Baker worked hard, and Hall occasionally shone, but I am afraid he spoilt any chance of being picked for England.

Sysum and Webb were the most useful of the backs, but it was rarely the ball got out to the wing men. C. Cook played well at full back, kicking a splendid length.

The Newport backs all-round gave a bright display, and the absentees were not missed. Gloucester's luck on the Welsh grounds is still clean out.

## GLOUCESTER A v. NEWPORT A

### SECONDS' WELL-DESERVED VICTORY

These two teams met at Kingsholm after the Boys' match, when as a result there was a bigger attendance than usual. It was expected that a keen game would result from the encounter. The Seconds were well represented, A. Hudson turning out in place of Powell.

The teams lined out as follows : –

Gloucester A. – A. Marmont; A. Hudson, W. Wilkes, A. Millington, and F. Bloxsome (captain); W. Wotton and T. Burns; E. Collins, C. Mumford, W. Dovey, J. Harris, H. G. Kingscott, L. Smith, J. H. Webb, and E. Osborne.

Newport A. – A. Hobbs; J. Rust, H. Phillips, J. B. James, and C. B. Francis; H. Pengelly and J. Pritchard; G. Boots, W. Phillips, J. Williams, A. Fairfax, W. Parker, E. Garland, J. Harris, and W. Wernet.

Referee : Mr. F. Abbey.

Immediately after the start Wotton showed up with a clever dribble which took play to the visitors' 25. Newport returned to the centre, but Hudson punted down and a visitor was tackled in possession, the Seconds regaining their position in the visitors' territory. They were here awarded a penalty for off-side, Burns landing a good goal.

On the restart Newport became dangerous, but Millington effected a clever punt to touch when under difficulties. The homesters at this juncture set up a warm attack, the forwards carrying the ball right over the line, where unfortunately it was punted a little too hard, going out of play.

Newport attempted passing, but it broke down badly, but a minute later a similar bout looked promising. Webb, however, got back and effected a grand tackle.

The home pack now took a hand in affairs, and Wotton with a smart bit of work again gave his side a good position. They, however, made little use of it, and from a long punt Burns was tackled in possession, and a free was awarded against him for refusing to play the ball.

Gloucester made headway after the kick, but the visitors returned to the attack, one of their three-quarters cutting through strongly, but his pass was not accepted. At last relief was brought by clever kicking and following up by Hudson and Wilkes, the game being transferred right to the Newport line.

The homesters made strenuous efforts to cross, but they were beaten off, and the exchanges were again fought out at the centre. The Seconds' pack obtained possession of the ball, and keeping it at their feet, rushed to their opponents' line, where J. Harris was successful in touching down in the corner. Burns failed at goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester A ..... 1 goal (p) 1 try  
Newport ..... Nil

On the restart Gloucester, with the advantage of the wind, quickly made headway, but the visitors soon made matters even by transferring the ball right to the home line. The Seconds defended gamely, and J. Harris punted out to the half-way line, but Hobbs returned beautifully.

Bloxsome was prominent with a good tackle, and then Wotton burst away from his own 25 and punted over the full back's head. Hudson raced up, but he could not quite prevent Hobbs recovering and sending to touch.

Newport worked out of danger, but Wotton again set them on the defensive with a lovely punt to touch. From a passing bout Rust obtained possession with a good opening, but he failed to clear the opposition.

Give and take play followed, neither side gaining much advantage until L. Smith broke away from a scrum and kicked over the line. Wilkes and Hobbs raced for possession, the latter just securing the touch.

Gloucester continued to press for some time, but they could not penetrate the defence. During the closing stages Newport tried hard, although unable to get over, Gloucester being too good for them, brilliant work by Wotton nearly securing them another try.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 1 goal (p), 1 try (6 pts.)  
Newport A ..... Nil

#### REMARKS

It is not often that such a really keen, exciting, and occasionally brilliant game is seen at Kingsholm, but to-day's was the exception, both sides giving a capital exhibition. The honours, however, rested with the homesters, and they thoroughly deserved their win. They were much cleverer behind the scrum, the Newport backs, although fast, being at times very faulty in their handling.

The heavy visiting pack during the greater part of the first half controlled the ball in the scrums, but the lighter 'Cestrians gradually wore them down, and in the second half, although only seven men were available – Harris having been injured – they were undoubtedly superior. In the loose, the Seconds did exceedingly well, time after time telling bursts gaining large slices of ground. It was by sheer hard lines that Gloucester did not add to their score, the visitors effecting clearances which were not by any means the result of good judgment, but more of the character of a lucky accident.



Although, as we have stated, Gloucester were full value for their points that does not detract from the good showing of the visitors. Their forwards played a hard strenuous game, and if the backs had taken full advantage of the many opportunities given them, the score sheet might have read differently.

It is only necessary to individualise in the case of one man, and that is Wotton, who played a magnificent game.

JC