

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1914

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. NEWPORT

CITY'S GROUND RECORD LOST

NEWPORT DESERVEDLY WINNERS

Newport were visitors to Kingsholm this afternoon for the return fixture, and the match excited keen interest. Three weeks ago Gloucester suffered a serious reverse at Newport by 19 points to nil, so there was additional reason for the City putting forth their utmost to make things even to-day. Newport, who came with a record of seventeen wins and seven losses this season, were beaten at Leicester last week, but the Usksiders were short of several good men, including Harry Uzzell, regarded just now as one of the finest forwards in Wales.

Gloucester were still minus the services of W. Washbourn, the left wing three-quarter, who is suffering with a bad wound on the leg, similar to that which kept Lionel Hamblin out of the field for several weeks. The clever centre resumed a fortnight ago, but against Llanhilleth he received a kick on the old injury, opening the wound again. There was some doubt about his playing this afternoon, but he decided to turn out. Lawson reported that the doctor said he was fit to play, and Millard stood down from the team published yesterday.

Newport were short of Dibble and Edwards forward.

The weather was dull and threatening, but serious rain kept off before the start, which was made before a big crowd, including a goodly contingent of Newport supporters.

GLOUCESTER	POSITIONS	NEWPORT
C. Cook	Backs	H. Wreford
S. Sysum	Three-Quarter	R. Plummer *
L. Hamblin	Backs	F. Birt *
A. Lewis	"	J. Wetter *
F. Webb	"	G. L. Hirst *
A. Hall	Half-Backs	T. H. Vile *
J. Baker	"	W. Martin *
G. Halford (capt.)	Forwards	H. Uzzell (capt.) *
S. Smart *	"	M. Williams
N. Hayes	"	P. Jones *
A. Saunders	"	D. Spanswick
J. F. Lawson	"	F. Willis
W. Parham	"	R. Shepherd
A. Cook	"	L. Attewell
F. Ayliffe	"	J. Fairfax

* Internationals

Referee : Mr. J. Holt

THE GAME

Despite the heavy rain overnight the ground was in a very fair condition. Both teams met with a hearty reception on entering the field. Halford kicked off with a big kick, and Wreford knocking on in fielding, a scrum was ordered on the visitors' 25. Newport heeled, but Martin, who received from Vile, could do nothing with his kick. From the next scrum the Welshmen wheeled beautifully and gained some few yards before being pulled up by Hamblin.

A free to Gloucester was well returned by Wreford to touch, and then another dashing burst by the visiting forwards took play to the home half. Some exciting work followed, Newport playing with rare dash and vim.

An attempt at passing broke down and then Wreford, fielding from a clever punt by Webb, took a drop for goal, but only a minor resulted. Newport confined play on the drop-out to the City half, but some flying kicks sent the ball to Plummer, who easily beat a couple of opponents and sent to touch. Working well together in the loose, Newport became dangerous, but they were held, and Gloucester worked to mid-field.

The visitors were getting the ball in the scrum, and from a clever move by Vile, who jumped over the scrum, the Newport backs handled beautifully. Wetter served Hirst nicely, and the International, with a dashing run, beat Cook, and though collared from behind near the line managed to touch down for a fine try. Birt added the goal points.

Gloucester resumed in dashing style, and by dint of hard work secured a footing in their opponents' end. Birt drove them out, but Gloucester were not to be denied and were soon back again. Here Baker opened out, but the passing was not so successful. In some loose play A. Cook picked up and with a left-foot punt found touch a dozen yards from the Newport line. Gloucester pressed strenuously, and the Welshmen's defence was hotly assailed. The ball was eventually carried over the line, where Wreford, in trying to kick out, had the ball charged down by Hayes, a minor resulting.

Cook replied finely to the drop-out, and then came a pretty passing bout, ending in Sysum being tackled outside. Newport worked out a few yards, but A. Cook returned and play was fought out desperately in the Welshmen's 25. For off-side by Uzzell, Gloucester were awarded a free, and though "No charge" was allowed Hamblin failed with the goal-kick.

Gloucester were holding their own splendidly now and, the forwards heeling, Baker served Hall. The latter burst through the defence and cut out a grand opening. Hayes received, but on reaching the full back he transferred to Parham, who failed to hold the ball, a glorious chance being lost. Gloucester again got the ball out, but there was nothing doing, and Newport rushed out to more favourable quarters.

C. Cook returned with interest and a splendid dribble by the home forwards took them very close. Martin picked up and tried to clear, but mis-kicked, and Gloucester looked certain to score, but no one could field the ball. Right on his line Vile tried to set his backs going, but Birt fumbled, and the visitors' lines were again in danger. The ball coming out to Baker, the inside half had a drop for goal, but the ball went wide, and only a minor resulted.

Exciting play followed the resumption, the Gloucester forwards executing a grand rush which only just failed in its ultimate success. The City kept at it strongly, but relief came to Newport with a nice touch-finder. This was succeeded by a forward burst, which Cook cleared at the expense of a temporary knock-out. He was soon able to continue, and Newport asserted their superiority strongly. Knocks-on spoiled a couple of movements, but later Wreford, gathering from a long kick down, was allowed to slip through easily, and only failure to handle lost a try. Then Vile took a drop for goal, which, however, was unsuccessful.

Gloucester came again now, the City profiting by mistakes by Vile and Martin. A kick took the ball to Wreford, who lost it, but recovered and threw it away with a couple of Gloucester forwards well up. Newport were playing bright football, but things did not go kindly for them at times. Hall showed up twice with strong dashes, but he was smothered from behind. Next C. Cook stopped a rush of the visiting forwards in clever style, but the ground he gained was soon lost. In the open Baker kicked straight across the field, and Hirst racing up gathered, but was finely tackled by Webb. The effort, however, led to a Newport attack, and Birt narrowly missed dropping a goal after some neat passing.

Gloucester with a splendid effort reached the centre on the drop-out, and then came a lovely round of passing by the Gloucester backs. Webb was the last to receive, and the right winger made a grand effort to round Wreford, but the Newport full back just managed to push him out of play. A strong burst by the Welshmen changed the venue, and Gloucester later had a lucky escape, C. Cook relieving in good style.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Newport 1 goal
Gloucester Nil

Newport restarted, and early play favoured the visitors, who were aided by some good kicking by Birt and Hirst, the latter forcing a minor from an attempt to drop a goal. The City forwards, getting away with the ball at their feet, rushed to the centre, where Newport initiated a passing bout. Wetter, however, threw wildly over Hirst's head and into touch.

From the throw-out Hayes secured and made a few yards before being pulled down from behind. The play was desperately keen forward, but the backs on either side could not do much. At length Baker, Hamblin and Sysum made headway for the City, and the game hovered in the Newport 25. Hall was well tackled before he could get away from a pass by Baker, but Lewis received and took a drop for goal, the ball falling short, and Wreford making his mark.

From a line-out Uzzell broke away in fine style and started passing, but it broke down before the centre line was reached. Weak, hesitating play by a Gloucester back allowed the Usksiders to break away, and the ball was taken half the length of the field and over the line, where Sysum touched down.

Centre play followed the drop-out until the Newport forwards, headed by Uzzell, were off again, another minor being conceded. The football so far in this half had been keen enough, but was too close to be interesting. The Newport forwards were the stronger, and they got in some dashing work, but scoring chances did not come. Halford twice came into prominence with grand play from the line-out, but Newport recovered wonderfully.

Newport had the better of subsequent exchanges, but most of the play was confined to the forwards. Now and again the Usksiders tried to open out, and Baker once or twice fed Hall, but nothing spectacular was accomplished.

Gloucester at length handled smartly up to a point, but Hamblin cut inside and was collared. Fumbling by the Newport backs looked to give Gloucester a possible opening, but Hirst made a remarkable recovery, running round and finding touch. From a throw-out Hayes broke clear and gained some 20 yards, only to see his pass go astray. The City were now well inside their opponents' half, and Baker opening out, Hamblin ran well, but could not beat the excellent defence.

In the last five minutes Gloucester played up desperately to save the record, and the Newport line was hotly assailed. The ball several times came to the backs, but scoring power was lacking. Newport came again just before the finish, and after some smart work by Vile, Plummer and Uzzell the latter scored, and Birt kicked a goal.

RESULT :

Newport 2 goals (10 points)
Gloucester Nil

The City have lost their ground record, but no one will question the fact that it was surrendered to a side that was fully entitled to victory on the day's play. All round Newport were a bit the better, and in skilled tactics they certainly displayed superiority. Gloucester had chances of opening their account, but the City men had not the finesse or the sting in attack to-day to press home their advantage.

Whilst keen enough for anything, the football shown was not up to the standard expected from such opponents. Newport tried many times to open out, but it was on few occasions combined movements were carried out without mistakes.

The second half was deadly dull as regards open play, the Usksiders being apparently content with the lead established early in the game. Prior to Uzzell scoring at the finish Gloucester were going very strongly, and with their old-time penetrative power they should have drawn level. But it was not to be, and the splendid record of home successes was smudged.

The contest forward was exceptionally keen, with Newport the stronger and more dashing pack. At periods, however, Gloucester showed up splendidly, Halford being a notable performer in the open. On the other side, Uzzell stood out prominently, and Percy Jones also accomplished much fine work.

There was not a weak spot in either pack, and all the men put forth their hardest. There was naturally plenty of deadly tackling, but the game was contested in the best of spirit, and nothing occurred to mar the enjoyment.

At half-back Vile and Martin were perhaps more effective than the Gloucester couple as a pair. Baker worried Vile a good deal at times, and Hall got in several good dashes, but the latter's work was not properly backed up.

At three-quarter honours rested with the Newport four, of whom Hirst and Birt were the more useful. The visitors were smarter away, and played with more confidence than the home set, whilst they all kicked with splendid judgment. Webb was the pick of the Gloucester line, and if he had been fed he would have given trouble, despite the fact that he was opposed to Hirst. Neither Hamblin or Lewis were at their best and Sysum did not get much chance.

Both full backs had plenty to do, and there was not much to choose between the players – C. Cook and Wreford.

GLOUCESTER A v. NEWPORT A

CITY SECONDS BEATEN AT NEWPORT

At Newport, before a good crowd. Gloucester were early aggressive, Bloxsome nearly scoring. Powell (Gloucester) was badly injured and left the field. Newport scored twice in the first half through Webb and Budd.

The second half was evenly contested, Gloucester playing sparkling football, and keeping the home line in danger. Nothing further was added in a grand open game, which delighted a large crowd.

RESULT :

Newport A 2 tries (6 points)

Gloucester A Nil

JC