

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1921

FOOTBALL

NEWPORT'S REVENGE

COMFORTABLE VICTORY OVER WEAKENED GLOUCESTER TEAM

SHEA IN BRILLIANT FORM

Owing to injuries and other causes Gloucester were weakly represented at Newport this afternoon, six of the side who took part in the match at Kingsholm when the Usksiders lost their record being absent. These were C. Cook, Stanley Cook, Sid Brown, A. Robbins, Tom Voyce, and J. F. Lawson.

The two Cooks, Robbins and Lawson are on the disabled list, and Voyce, of course, was with the English team in Paris for the match with France on Monday.

The fixing up of the back division occasioned some difficulty, as D. J. Brown is also on the "crooked" list, and W. Washbourn declined the invitation to play at three-quarter. A. Hall was, therefore, withdrawn from the forwards to outside half. F. Mansell took Hall's place in the pack.

Newport had selected a powerful side, nearly all their injured players being fit again.

There was a further change in the Gloucester team this morning, Ashmeade giving place to S. Langston.

Jack Wetter was making his first appearance since his injury in the England v. Wales match last January.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : T. Burns.

THREE-QUARTERS : N. Daniell, F. Webb (capt.), T. Millington, and S. Langston.

HALF-BACKS : W. Dix and A. Hall.

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe, G. Holford, S. Smart, J. Harris, W. F. Warde, J. H. Webb, F. Mansell, and C. Mumford.

NEWPORT

BACK : F. W. Birt.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. C. S. Plummer, Jack Wetter, J. Shea, and J. Rees.

HALF-BACKS : A. Brown and H. Davies.

FORWARDS : N. Macpherson, Tom Jones, Percy Jones, J. Whitfield, R. Dibble, L. Attewell, Dr. Roche, and A. Ball.

Referee : Mr. Best (Penarth)

THE GAME

The weather was bright and the ground in capital condition, and the attendance was estimated at 12,000. Newport kicked off against the wind, and the start was sensational. From a line-out Brown secured and kicked ahead. Rees raced up and gathered and put in a short punt, which was followed up by the forwards. Burns tried to save, but failed, and the ball being dribbled over, Attewell scored a try in the first minute. Birt converted.

This was a surprise with a vengeance, but Gloucester restarted in plucky fashion, and Dix and Smart, taking advantage of loose passing, dribbled through and over the line, but only a dead ball resulted.

Following the drop-out Gloucester rushed well, and Birt, from a long kick by Burns, had to run back over his line to clear. The City forwards were working hard and well in the loose, and Birt was again in difficulties.

Then Dix opened out nicely, the ball getting out to Langston. The recruit made a fine dash for the corner, being held up outside. Newport cleared from a dangerous position with clever kicking and mid-field play ensued. From passing Shea cut out a grand opening, and sent Attewell over with a good try. Birt added the goal points. This try was a very fine one, but due entirely to Shea.

Gloucester played up strongly on the resumption, the forwards doing finely. Newport, however, broke away, only to be penalised, Fred Webb punting well to touch at the centre. From this point the City made further headway and held their own well. A penalty enabled the visitors to retain their position, and Dix, working the short side, secured a possible opening, but passed forward. Newport changed the venue with good passing, and Shea was nearly in on the right.

A big effort by the Gloucester forwards brought relief, and Shea was collared in possession. Newport were kicking well just now, and there was one lovely round of passing, which was stopped through Wetter kicking to touch. Gloucester were doing well in mid-field play, but the Newport backs were smarter and faster.

Near the centre Brown cleverly worked out an opening for Plummer, who dashed for the corner, knocking the touch-flag over, but the referee allowed a try. Birt missed the goal from the difficult angle.

Newport were now eleven points up, but they did not deserve this lead on the play. Their attacks, however, had method, which was lacking on the part of the visitors.

Following the drop-out, Macpherson was prominent with a fine run, but Daniell responded with an equally good effort, and from this Ayliffe scored. Burns failed at goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

NEWPORT 2 goals 1 try
GLOUCESTER 1 try

Gloucester's try just before the interval was mainly due to Daniell, who, intercepting, raced away and beat Birt, but was collared from behind. He, however, let the ball go, and Ayliffe and Harris taking it over the line, the vice-captain was credited with the try. Daniell was heartily cheered for his performance.

Gloucester, eight points in arrears, resumed, but Newport at once attacked through Davies, a forward pass spoiling a certain try. The City were sorely pressed for a couple of minutes, but a touchdown eventually gained relief. Play, however, was confined to the Gloucester end, the Newport backs kicking to touch with good judgment . . .

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. . . brought the visitors to between the 25 and half-way, where Dix, picking up neatly from the scrum, sent Hall away. Langston was, however, immediately held, and nothing resulted. Gloucester, however, made further ground, and Dix and Hall opened out, only to see Webb collared in trying to break through. Back Newport came with a loose rush, which beat the defence. Daniell, however, got back, and touched down, with Tom Jones in close attendance.

Newport were playing strongly now, but judgment was lacking on several occasions when attacking movements had been initiated. Again Gloucester had to kick dead from a punt over the line by Attewell. The wind was bothering the Gloucester backs in kicking, but Fred Webb did his best, and the captain also worked tremendously in defence. Once he bottled up Shea when the International looked dangerous, and at other times he stepped into the breach at critical moments.

Newport continued to do nearly all the heeling, but the backs did not handle with their accustomed accuracy. Gloucester bore up pluckily against a stronger opposition; and then the line was crossed again by Wetter, Birt failing at goal.

RESULT :

NEWPORT 2 goals, 3 tries (24 pts.)
GLOUCESTER 1 try (3 pts.)

REMARKS

Newport avenged their defeat at Kingsholm in no uncertain fashion. All round the Welshmen were clearly superior, but especially behind the scrum, where their fine kicking abilities were utilised to the best advantage.

In combination the winners did not reach the standard of old, though there were notable individual efforts by Shea and Wetter. Forward the contest was more equal, but the City pack, though playing with fine dash, did not reproduce their home form.

Dix had a clever opponent in Brown, and though Hall played a strenuous game and did a lot of tackling and saving, he did not open out with the success of Millington. The three-quarters did not get many chances, but Webb, Daniell and Millington accomplished a lot of sound work. Langston also shaped well, and should be given a further trial for Gloucester.

Of the forwards, Holford, Smart, Ayliffe, and Harris were the pick, but all worked strenuously, though with no luck.

GLOUCESTER RESERVES' FINE VICTORY

NEWPORT A 23 POINTS DOWN

There was quite a good crowd at Kingsholm on Saturday afternoon, when the City Seconds were at home to Newport A. Gloucester had been successful in defeating the Usksiders on their own ground by a drop goal to a try, but it was expected that the visitors would do their utmost to deprive the home team of their ground record.

Gloucester A : F. Ashmead; J. Phelps, F. Bloxham, W. Washbourne, and H. Ashmeade; W. Collins and S. P. Ball; T. Taylor, S. Bayliss, E. Richardson, A. Wright, T. Bridges, E. Curtis, J. Merrett, and J. Hawker.

Newport A : W. Charlton; T. E. Vaughan, J. T. Mathias, K. Morgan, and H. Stitchbury; H. C. Phillips and C. German; E. Wetter, T. Barnfield, W. Coakham, R. Arnold, C. Pile, F. Powell, T. Bailey, and J. Collins.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis.

Newport kicked off against the wind, and the ball went to touch in the Gloucester territory. Collins got the ball from the first scrum, but he lost it, and Newport dribbled to the Gloucester 25. The threes relieved, and a tackle of Phillips, the Newport stand-off half, put the home team well up. Play crossed the field, and Ashmead made an excellent, but unfruitful attempt to kick a goal from a penalty.

Gloucester came again after the kick-out, and a fine forward burst deserved success, but it broke down. The home forwards were not to be denied, however, and another strong burst carried the ball over the Newport line, Bayliss beating one of the Newport men by inches for the touchdown. Ashmead made no mistake with the kick.

The home team continued severely to test the Newport defence, and they had to concede a couple of minors. Their pack was wheeling beautifully, however, but Collins was working hard and gave German few chances of getting the ball away. Then from a melee in front of goal Ball picked up and made a high drop for goal, which was successful.

With nine points to the good Gloucester did not slacken off, and with great dash the forwards raced down the field, Bridges picking up near the 25 line and giving the dummy to Charlton, scored a very pretty try, which Ashmead further improved upon.

Collins was next conspicuous with a clever dash for the line from a scrum in the Newport quarter, but he was pulled down, and a little later the visitors had to concede a minor to relieve the pressure. Then Newport had "a flash in the pan," their forwards breaking away, but they kicked too hard, and Gloucester had no difficulty in saving.

The City seconds were quickly back in the Usksiders' 25, and from a scrum Collins opened up, the threes handling, for H. Ashmeade to score in the corner. The position was too difficult to goal.

A regrettable incident now occurred, one of the Newport men making an insulting remark about the referee, and being ordered from the field.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 3 goals (1d), 1 try

Newport A Nil

Newport were playing a very poor game, and on the resumption a knock-on let Gloucester into the visitors' territory. Morgan was instrumental in relieving, putting in a good run and punt. After some mid-field play the home forwards made another characteristic burst, but were beaten for the touch. Charlton was severely tested, and proved rather weak, but Ashmead, on the other hand, was putting in some very good work.

The Gloucester threes now handled nicely, but Washbourne was pulled down, and a pretty movement failed. then from a line-out in the corner Hawker made a dash for the line and added further points to the score. The angle was too difficult for Ashmeade.

An injury to one of the Gloucester forwards made the sides even, and Newport worked to the centre, but Ashmead marked and found touch, sending them back again. Newport at length became aggressive, but a possible chance of scoring was lost through one of the threes essaying a drop for goal. The next feature was an individual effort by Washbourn, who dodged man after man and ran to the visitors' 25, where he was pulled down.

Charlton was now playing better and put in a good kick to touch, and Morgan was also playing a good defensive game, and succeeded in keeping the home team out for a time. Washbourne, Bloxsome, and Ashmeade, however, combined well, and after being checked the forwards eventually took the ball over the line, Bayliss notching his second try. The kick failed.

The injured Gloucester man had now returned, but Bridges was injured and had to go off. Continuing their pressure, Gloucester were giving the visitors the utmost difficulty to keep them out, dash after dash being made for the line. Collings, Ball, and Phelps carried out a useful bit of work, but could not get through, and then off-side by Gloucester gave Newport a chance to clear, but Charlton's kick was well fielded by Ashmead, who found touch splendidly.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 3 goals (1d), 3 tries (23 pts.)
Newport A Nil

REMARKS

Was this really Newport's reserve team ? If it was the crack Welsh team have some poor material to fall back upon in case of emergency. They were outclassed by the Gloucester Seconds in every department, and all the way through never came near scoring. Their defence was also very feeble, and they were lucky the margin of defeat was not greater.

The home forwards were all over the Newport front line, especially in the loose, where the Gloucester pack excelled. The visiting pack wheeled rather well, but Collins, who played well, was too good for German, who, however, played a hard game. Ball, who comes from the Old Boys' team, took some time to settle down, but towards the end he played up better. All the home threes put in some good work, but the bulk of the scoring fell to the forwards. Ashmead, at full-back, was a welcome surprise to those who had not seen him before. He certainly played a fine game, and on his present form should go higher.

Charlton, the visiting full-back, was a failure; and the threes lacked combination, although Morgan and Vaughan did some good defensive work.