

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1931

GLOUCESTER NIL; NEWPORT 5 PTS

DISORGANISED CITY TEAM BEATEN AT KINGSHOLM

SCRAMBLING GAME AND FEW FEATURES

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester were severely weakened for the match with Newport at Kingsholm this afternoon, the absentees including Roy James, A. E. Brookes, R. N. Loveridge (three-quarters), and Dr. Steel-Perkins (forward).

Last season Newport won both games – at home by 6 points to 3, and at Gloucester by 8 points to nil. There has been a remarkable change in the personnel of both teams since the last meeting, there being no fewer than eight changes in the City fifteen and ten in the Newport ranks.

Only McCanlis, of the Gloucester backs, remained. James and Loveridge are both on the injured list, and Brookes was called upon to play for Oxford University against the Harlequins. Everson was a notable absentee from the Newport side, which included Isaac (full-back) and Richards (three-quarter), former Chepstow players.

There was a further late change in the Gloucester team which necessitated a re-organisation of the backs. McCanlis, suffering with a chill, had to decline his place, and Brooks (Wycliffe College) was removed to centre three-quarter and Meadows came in at outside-half, this being his first appearance for the seniors since his injury against Northampton, though he had played for the United team. Hordern dropped out of the Newport side.

There was not the old-time enthusiasm in the visit of Newport, and the attendance, though probably the best of the season, was not up to the average of former years. The afternoon was fine and the ground in splendid condition.

The revised teams were : —

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : J. T. Andrews, J. C. Brooks, G. W. Parker, and L. Abbey.

HALF-BACKS : H. Aplin and Don Meadows.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby (capt.), F. Wadley, A. Carpenter, E. Comley, J. Hemming, K. Smith, L. Franklin, and A. Welshman.

NEWPORT

BACK : H. W. Isaac.

THREE-QUARTERS : J. C. Morley, K. Squire, J. R. Edwards, and K. J. C. Richards.

HALF-BACKS : R. T. Carter and A. R. Ralph.

FORWARDS : E. J. L. Shiner, J. R. J. Evans, D. Jones, J. Addison, D. E. J. Hughes, J. C. Slade, T. B. Danaher, W. R. Newton.

Referee : Mr. R. I. Scorer (North Midlands).

THE GAME

Boughton started the game for Gloucester, and at the first set scrum the visitors were penalised. Boughton, however, failed to find touch with his kick, and Isaac replied almost to the place where the penalty was awarded.

A long punt by Ralph sent to the home half, where Meadows had a kick charged down. A Gloucester player was off-side, and Evans had a shot for goal, but was wide. Boughton kicked out to Isaac, who dropped for goal, a good effort being lost a yard outside.

Another penalty fell to Newport for off-side by Hemming, but the Gloucester forwards neutralised with a good rush. There was another penalty against the City, but it availed the visitors little, and centre play followed.

FIRST SCORE TO NEWPORT

In some loose play the Newport backs opened out, and Morley was sent away by Squire, but Boughton tackled his man and forced him to pass inside. Parker, however, gathered and handed to Boughton, who found touch.

Another attack immediately followed by the Welshmen, and neat handling saw RICHARDS score in the corner. Evans landed a good goal and Newport were five points up.

Gloucester resumed, and fast play followed. The home forwards shone in some loose work, and the backs tried to break away, but the tackling was too good. Newport showed decided superiority behind the scrum, Morley being prominent with a smart pick-up, but he was pulled down before he could get clear.

NEWPORT AVERT DISASTER

The Gloucester forwards twice heeled smartly, and Meadows fed Brooks, but the latter's attempt to break through was quickly checked. The ball came to the other side, but Abbey shared a similar fate. From loose work by the home forwards threatened danger,[*sic*] the ball being taken past Isaac, but support was forthcoming at the critical moment, and Newport cleared.

Scrambling play in which there were many mistakes on both sides followed, and there was little constructive work. Gloucester had the better of the exchanges, but the disorganised backs failed to take advantage.

For two or three minutes play was wholly confined to the Newport half, until Ralph made a clever opening and pass to Morley. The latter made headway, and with colleagues in support a certain try appeared in view. The final transfer, however, was ruled forward – a lucky escape for the City.

Gloucester replied with a splendid loose rush, Saxby, Hemming and Comley leading, and only fearless dropping on the ball checked. In the open, however, Newport went ahead, a knock-on spoiling another certain score.

It was evident if Gloucester had any chance of winning, it was by the aid of the forwards, for the backs were not in the same class with the Welshmen. Boughton, too, had an off-day so far with his kicks, missing the touch line frequently.

Another deadly rush by the home forwards promised well, but it petered out and the ball being lost, Newport transferred operations to the other end. Here Aplin sneaked away on the blind side of the scrum and fed Andrews, but the wing man was sent into touch before travelling far.

There was another spell of scrambling play after this, and the display as a whole was much below the standard usually associated when the teams meet.

Gloucester continued to hold their own forward, but behind the City were not able to make much of an impression. Play favoured Newport to the interval.

Half-time :

Newport 1 goal
Gloucester Nil

Newport had asserted superiority in the back division, where Gloucester, with several reserves doing duty, were weak, especially in defence. Forward, the City had had the better of the exchanges, but on the play the Welshmen deserved their five points lead.

WEAK TACKLING

Soon after the restart, Gloucester were sent away on the left, but Abbey could not do anything. Close forward play ensued, Aplin doing good work for the City. Welshman next kicked through to Ralph, who handed off a would be tackler, and passed, touch being found with the resultant kick.

Newport took further advantage of loose play on the part of the home team, and worked beyond mid-field. Here the City heeled, and the ball came to Abbey via Aplin and Meadows. The wing man kicked ahead, but Isaac got to the ball first and punted to touch.

Newport next opened out through Ralph, but Parker effected a grand tackle of Edwards and smothered the movement. Forward play continued keen, with Gloucester slightly on top, but the City were very moderate behind the scrum, especially in attack.

Play progressed without any distinguishing incident, and continued mainly a contest between the Gloucester forwards and Newport backs. The tackling was very fierce at times, but the football was of poor quality.

SUPERB DEFENCE

A mistake in gathering by Boughton let Newport in the home 25, and Richards receiving had a dash, but was well tackled by Brooks. Heavy work between the rival packs followed, an attempt by Meadows and Boughton to relieve failing owing to the latter dropping his pass.

Then came some exciting work. The Gloucester forwards carried a scrum finely, but over-ran the ball, and the visitors rushed back. The City line was twice in danger, but the situation was saved by superb defence.

Newport put on severe pressure in the next few minutes, and Morley made a beautiful opening, but the pass was ruled forward. Gloucester gained relief by the aid of a penalty, and play was at the centre again. Abbey and Parker shone with dashing bits of work which helped Gloucester to keep their position. For feet up Newport were penalised and Boughton had a 40 yards' shot for goal, but he was short, and Edwards punted back.

GLOUCESTER ATTACK

A short kick ahead by Parker enabled Andrews to get up and force Isaac to touch in his 25. From this point Gloucester put up an attack, but forward was given. In the loose Wadley picked up, and the ball passed quickly from Davies and Parker to Abbey. The latter dashed away but was tackled by Morley and Squire. Next Meadows took a drop for goal, but was unsuccessful and Newport touched down.

Newport took up the aggressive again, Richards making a fine effort to clear, just failing. Gloucester cleared effectively, and then Boughton damaged his knee and had to be carried off the field.

In the remaining minutes Parker went full-back, Franklin came at centre, but nothing further was done.

RESULT :

NEWPORT 1 goal (5 points)
GLOUCESTER Nil

REMARKS

The defection of McCanlis and Brookes from the Gloucester back division practically settled the City's chances of victory, for the substitutes lacked the necessary experience to successfully operate against a side of Newport's calibre.

On the whole it was a poor, scrambling game with few features. Newport deserved their success as being the best side in attack, but they had to fight desperately to maintain their early lead.

ANDREWS' LIMITATIONS

Gloucester were well served forward, and all through the City were the more dangerous pack. But the support behind was not good enough to press home any advantage held in the front. The third line especially had little constructive skill, and though the tackling of Parker, Brooks, and Abbey was good at times, they had not got the speed or individual ability to beat the opposition. It was something accomplished, however, to keep Newport's scoring down to one try.

Andrews never got a fair chance of displaying his sprinting abilities in attack, but his limitations in all-round football ability were noticeable this afternoon. Richards, on the opposite side, exposed his weakness in defence, and was clearly the more finished player in all respects.

RIVAL HALF-BACKS

Aplin got through a lot of hard work at the scrum to-day, despite the very close attentions of Jones and the other Newport wing forward. The visitors did not always observe the off-side rule, and were lucky to escape more frequent penalties.

Meadows did one or two good things, and connected up fairly well, but, like the centres, he was too closely marked to effect an opening. Carter and Ralph were more successful on the other side, but the International has been seen to far better advantage.

The Newport third line were a far more impressive set all round. They were quicker off the mark, handled better – though not free from mistakes – and had a better conception altogether of what was required.

The inside men – Edwards and Squire – were smart in their movement, and Morley and Richards, on the respective wings, took a lot of looking after. The latter is a recruit to Newport this season from Chepstow, and should make good.

DESPERATE FORWARD STRUGGLE

The forwards were engaged in a terrific contest, but in all departments the Gloucester eight more than held their own. In the scrums and lines-out especially, the City men showed to advantage, and they brought off some fine loose rushes in which Saxby, Comley, Hemming, and Welshman were prominent. Newport fielded some hefty players, who put plenty of vigour into their work, but there was not the cleverness of old in the open. Slade, Newton, and Jones were the more conspicuous of the pack who were at their best in the close exchanges.

BOUGHTON INJURED

Boughton, who injured his ankle in the concluding stages, was not at his best to-day in kicking, and missed finding touch pretty often. His saving, however, at close quarters was excellent.

Isaac, who replaced Everson for Newport, was the more successful on the whole, and gave a very sound display.

Next week : Gloucester v. Oxford University, at Kingsholm (kick-off 2.45).