

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1929

GLOUCESTER'S SPLENDID VICTORY

NEWPORT BEATEN IN KEEN GAME

CITY TEAM AT THEIR BEST

BOUGHTON IN GREAT FORM

The break in the weather was very welcome to the Gloucester Football Club, as it enabled the City to bring off their important match – one of the most attractive fixtures on the card – with Newport this afternoon.

In the first engagement between these old rivals, at Newport, a remarkable scoring game ended in a draw of 19 points each.

For the return fixture to-day Newport lacked the services of their two internationals – Morley and Peacock – but a strong side was fielded, and one that was fully expected to give the Kingsholm men a testing time.

Gloucester had practically a full side out, the only change being the replacement of Dick Stephens by F. Benbow at outside half. Stephens, it is understood, has finished for the season as he is shortly going to London for coaching lessons in connection with his county cricket engagement.

The afternoon was dull and misty, and the attendance did not come up to expectations, though crowds were filing into the ground when the teams tuned out as follow : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. James, J. Stephens, M. A. McCanlis, and L. Abbey.

HALF-BACKS : A. J. Tomlinson and F. Benbow.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby (capt.), F. Wadley, J. Davies, A. Carpenter, T. Hiam, F. Seabrook, J. Hemming, and C. Cuffe.

NEWPORT

BACK : W. A. Everson.

THREE-QUARTERS : K. Watkins, V. M. Griffiths (captain), W. R. Davies, and W. E. Nicholas.

HALF-BACKS : C. J. Jerman and I. T. Davies.

FORWARDS : W. Morgan, W. C. Morgan, H. C. Day, R. C. Herrera, H. Dallimore, J. Addison, J. C. Slade, and F. H. Evans.

Referee : Mr. S. H. Budd.

It was five minutes after the advertised time when McCanlis started for Gloucester, but a couple of forwards were in front when the kick was taken, and a scrum was ordered at the centre. Newport early got the ball away and I. Davies found touch nicely in the home half; the City forwards, however, broke away from the line-out and quickly recovered the ground.

A kick through tested Everson later and Boughton, with a lovely punt, put Newport on the defensive. With a sharp dash the home forwards went very close, but the visitors saved right on the line.

Heeling from the subsequent scrum, the Newport backs were given possession and beautiful passing left the ball with Nicholas. He raced away to the centre and there he was met by Boughton, who effected a smothering tackle though with the expense of being temporarily laid out.

The ball was got away to an oncoming forward, but he threw the ball in front of him when collared from behind. Jerman, with a smart move, opened out for Newport, but a forward pass spoiled it. From a line out Joe Davies gathered and brought off a splendid burst for 30 yards before being upset, this effort leading to the City gaining a footing in the Welshmen's half. A wild pass by Tomlinson, however, lost the ground made. The Gloucester forwards were doing well in the line outs, and Hemming distinguished himself with a brilliant dash, only to see his pass go astray.

An attempt at passing by Newport was nipped in the bud by Stephens and James, and the latter, a little later, got in a pretty dribble, finally sending past Everson. Griffiths, however, saved the situation by picking up and punting to J. Davies; the City forward sent back and Newport were placed on the defensive.

Gloucester lost their position owing to a faulty transfer by James, and the Newport backs, taking advantage, tried to break through, but Stephens marked with deadly accuracy. At a scrum 20 yards inside the Newport half Jerman was penalised, and BOUGHTON, taking the kick, landed a beautiful goal, the ball going straight between the posts.

Newport restarted with vigour, and Jerman, slipping Tomlinson, secured a likely opening, but just as he was about to pass he was floored. A well-judged kick by Griffiths went to touch close to the home line, and Gloucester were placed in danger. Stephens, however, brought relief with a nice kick.

Newport were heeling better than the Gloucester pack, and the backs handled smartly, but the marking of the City players was very close and sure.

Another Newport attack failing, Stephens kicked ahead, and the ball came to Seabrook, who after going a few yards passed inside to Wadley, but several Newport players had got back and checked the movement.

Working well together Gloucester gained the advantage, and W. Davies was forced to run over his line to save. From the scrum which followed Tomlinson got the ball away to Benbow, and with the blind side of the scrum open Stephens sent JAMES over with a clever try amidst great enthusiasm. Boughton made a grand effort to cover the bar from near the touch-line.

Resuming, centre play followed for a time, and was keen and interesting. Gloucester were displaying splendid form, and the forwards, with a brilliant breakaway, again threatened danger. A forward pass, however, was given at the critical moment.

The Newport backs changed their tactics now and punted across to either wing instead of hand-to-hand passing, but the home defenders were keenly alive to the situation. Hesitation by Tomlinson in getting in his kick allowed him to be tackled in possession, and Newport had the better of the exchanges for the next few minutes.

The work was very close with the forwards, and there was some desperate tackling. I. Davies making his mark, had a shot for goal, but his kick was charged down, and Saxby led a rush which took the ball to the other end of the field.

Picking up ten yards out a forward threw to Stephens who handed to McCANLIS, for the old Oxford Blue to race over the line with a glorious try. Boughton kicked a fine goal, and Gloucester held the substantial lead of 11 points – and right worthily the team deserved it.

HALF-TIME :
GLOUCESTER 2 goals (1p) 1 try
NEWPORT Nil

Gloucester's form had surprised their most enthusiastic followers, and the improved methods of attack were most encouraging. The Newport backs had had more of the ball, but the City's marking was exceptionally good, and on few occasions was danger threatened.

Newport restarted, and from the kick-off James received and found touch at the centre. Keen forward play was witnessed from the outset, the visitors getting a bit the best of it. When the ball came out, however, the Newport backs made a sorry mess of things, and with a bit of luck Stephens would have had a clear opening.

Good kicking by Everson gave Newport territorial advantage, and then there was a delay owing to Carpenter being damaged in a melee. He was finally assisted off the field, but returned in a couple of minutes.

The standard of play had deteriorated just now, but at length Seabrook came into the picture with a lovely burst from a line out and ran down to Everson. He then passed to Hemming, but the latter was overhauled and brought low. Newport staved off a desperate attack, but Tomlinson put the City close again with a clever touch-finder.

A miskick by Stephens let Newport away, and only close tackling saved the situation. Subsequent play was very scrambling, and was mostly with the forwards, a good deal of unnecessary roughing being witnessed at times.

For some time there was nothing of interest to record, but at length Griffiths shone with a lovely reverse pass, only to see the next transfer intercepted. Newport several times got the ball out, but the passing and combination of the visiting outsides was only a shade of the Newport of old, and the movements broke down badly. In stopping a forward rush Benbow was badly hacked on the ground by a visiting forward, who was spoken to by the referee.

Continuing, Nicholas, served by W. Davies after passing, made a splendid effort to score, but Boughton was impassable, and he rolled him over into touch. Gloucester worked out of danger, and some Newport passing breaking down Stephens snapped up the ball and raced ahead. He fed James, but the wing man could not evade the clutches of Everson, and his pass inside was not taken.

Newport kicked down to BOUGHTON, who manoeuvred for position, and with a magnificent drop kick landed a goal, the cheering which greeted the success being prolonged.

With a fifteen points' lead Gloucester were on good terms with themselves, but the City did not give their opponents the slightest rest. There was a great rush by the home forwards on the left which only just failed, and Newport had to put forth their best to keep their line intact.

Eventually the Welshmen cleared to the centre, where Griffiths, with a smart reverse pass gave W. Davies a fine opening. He, however, ran across the field too much and Watkins was hemmed in.

Gloucester's defence was now tested hotly, but it held out until a bit of work on the right wing saw WATKINS slip through and score a good try, which Everson converted, making the scores 15-5.

Gloucester had the better of exchanges on the resumption, but the defence was too strong to penetrate. Newport worked out of danger with passing, but they were forced back, Gloucester putting in some dashing forward play. Once it looked certain the line would fail, but great tackling saved the visitors.

On the other wing McCanlis and Abbey tried hard to get through without success, but Newport were kept on the defensive. Wadley made a mark and had a place for goal, but it was a poor shot, the ball going across the field.

Play to the end was keenly contested, but nothing further was done in the way of scoring.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER .. 3 goals (1p. 1d.) 1 try (15 points.)
NEWPORT 1 goal (5 points.)

REMARKS

Gloucester's two performances against Newport will stand out as the City's best this season. At Newport, Gloucester drew a great game; to-day the Kingsholm men went one better, and the famous Welsh club were fairly and squarely beaten on their merits.

The Gloucester team were fairly on their mettle this afternoon, and in no previous home match have they set a better standard all-round. It was rousing football between the forwards – too much vigour, perhaps, at times – and the City pack can take credit for a fine display against a very resolute opposition.

Newport held a slight advantage in heeling in the scrums, but it was only in this one department they could claim superiority. In the loose the City players hung together splendidly, the backing up was excellent, and all tackled relentlessly.

In line-out work there was a great advance in general tactics, and specialising was not left to one man. Davies, Saxby, Hemming and Seabrook were all distinguished, and with just a little more speed and judgment when the defence was practically beaten more tries would have been scored.

But there was hard work for every member of the eight to-day, and not a man shirked his responsibilities. Wadley, Carpenter, Cuffe and Hiam got well into the thick of it, and the eight as a whole reached a standard hard to beat for a club pack. The forwards had real help from the backs this afternoon and the result was revealed in the handsome triumph achieved.

In the early stages Jerman tricked Tomlinson several times at the scrum, but as the game progressed the Gloucester player tumbled to his opponent's tactics, and finished very strongly. Tomlinson did many useful things in defence, and by getting back staved off some ugly dashes by the Newport front.

Benbow played consistently and well and if his service was somewhat hampered by the close attention paid him by the opposing loose forwards, he got the ball away a sufficient number of times to give those behind a fair number of chances. Jerman accomplished a lot of smart work in the first half, but there were occasions when he was overwhelmed and I. Davies was not over-conspicuous in the pivot position.

The two tries scored by Gloucester followed well directed attacks, and the visiting defence was completely outwitted on each occasion. The City's greatest work was in defence, and in this respect Stephens – who did the damage against Newport in the first match – was again outstanding. Times out of number Stephens dashed in and broke up passing movements, and his tackling was of such a character as to put fear into the hearts of the visitors. Stephens worked well with James, and on the other wing McCanlis and Abbey had W. Davies and Nicholas well in hand. If Gloucester did not get so much of the ball they were frequently dangerous on the move, and Newport were lucky more than once in escaping disaster.

Newport were best served by Vincent Griffiths, who exploited the reverse pass with consummate skill, but the visiting captain was none too well supported. Faulty handling and hesitation were frequently noticeable, and the majority of the movements were far too orthodox. As a line Newport were especially disappointing in attack.

At full-back, Boughton gave an almost perfect display, and he has never tackled with better effect. He far outshone Everson in every department. Boughton again added materially to the City's score with his goal-kicking – nine points. The penalty goal was a beauty; but the gem of the afternoon was the goal he dropped in the second half. Is a dropped goal worth four points? There would be unanimity at Kingsholm this afternoon that his special effort fully deserved the maximum points.

Next week : Gloucester v. Swansea, at Swansea; Gloucester Juniors v. Cardiff Juniors (2.30) and Gloucester A v. Bath A, at Kingsholm.