

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1907

## TO-DAY'S MATCHES

GLOUCESTER v. PLYMOUTH

CITY TEAM IN DEVON

## PLYMOUTH WIN A SPLENDID GAME

For their match with Plymouth Gloucester had to make the journey into Devon with a disorganised back division, Hudson and Stephens being prominent absentees.

Last season Gloucester beat Plymouth in both engagements, a weak fifteen going under at Kingsholm by 10 goals, 7 tries (71 points) to nil, whilst in the return at Plymouth the City won by 10 points to 8.

Plymouth fielded short of Peters, Hoskings, and Knight to-day, but otherwise the team was a strong one : —

GLOUCESTER	Positions	PLYMOUTH
A. Wood	Backs.	Poole
F. Smith	Three-Quarter	Limpenny
F. Bloxsome	Backs.	De Smidt
H. Smith	"	Mills
C. Smith	"	Beaton
D. R. Gent (capt.)	Half-Backs.	Richards
A. Hall	"	Jones
B. Parham	"	Robinson
W. Holder	Forwards.	Willcocks
G. Vears	"	Blackler
G. Matthews	"	Wheatley
W. Williams	"	Leonard
H. Collins	"	Sandford
J. Merchant	"	Elliott
F. Pegler	"	Leathlean

## THE GAME

The sun shone out brilliantly, but the ground was in shocking condition, consequent upon the recent rains, sawdust having to be sprinkled over the turf in several places.

There were about 4,000 spectators present when Knight kicked off for Plymouth, who opened down the slope. There being no reply, a scrum was formed near the centre, and from this Richards opened out, and after Limpenny, De Smidt, and Mills had handled, the latter cross-kicked for Wheatley to follow up, beat Wood, and score a try, which Mills converted, barely two minutes from the start.

Gloucester pressed from the re-starting kick, and Wood, with a fine spurt, sent to touch inside the Plymouth 25. From the throw-out Parham obtained possession and fell over with a try for Gloucester, Wood failing at goal.

Plymouth attacked from the drop out through the agency of De Smidt, who ran to the dividing line before having to come down to W. Smith. Then fine forward work by Gloucester saw Parham kick away to Limpenny, who was bowled over before he could reply. Plymouth's stay on the defensive was only of short duration, however, as they got the better of some scrummaging, Robinson finalising the movement by punting over Wood's head, but before he could reach the ball Bloxsome swept around and sent dead.

Free kicks to each side availed nothing, and for some time play settled in mid-field. Ultimately Gloucester were forced back through sterling work by De Smidt and Limpenny, but in the next minute F. Smith cut through in fine fashion, but lost the ball. Gent was hurt, but resumed. Plymouth pressed hotly, Mills nearly dropping a goal. Sandford scored another try.

### HALF-TIME SCORE :

Plymouth .....	8 points
Gloucester .....	3 points

On resuming Plymouth were first to become dangerous, a fine kick by Limpenny locating play inside the Gloucester 25. A fine punt to touch by Wood brought relief. A free to Gloucester proved of no advantage, and then the home three-quarters attempted passing, but it broke down.

Inch by inch Plymouth were eventually forced back on the defensive, but Poole and Elliott proved safe. Mills and Limpenny transferred play to the Gloucester end, where Bloxsome checked them. Scrums followed, and Jones opened out to Mills, who missed, but Poole, with a grand kick, prevented Gloucester from getting clear.

Right on the Gloucester line a scrum was formed, but Gent ran out from this. Although he was penalised just afterwards nothing resulted from the free-kick, but Plymouth continued to press. Bloxsome finally brought relief, and reached Poole, who was rolled over after Limpenny missed.

Passing by the Gloucester three-quarters was intercepted by Mills, and once more Gloucester had to act on the defensive. Then from a scrum Smith gave to Bloxsome, who ran forty yards before being forced to touch by Poole. This proved the means of Plymouth having to defend for all they were worth. Gent opened out, but W. Smith passed forward when in a fine position. Then H. Smith dribbled to within a few feet of the home line.

Plymouth relieved, and by fine passing reached the visitors' end, when Bloxsome had to have his head bandaged. Another free-kick fell to Plymouth, but Wood was able to easily save, and from the drop-out play settled down in the centre once more. Then F. Smith made a grand dive for the line, but was held, a similar fate befalling Bloxsome a minute later. The game was stubbornly fought out to the end.

RESULT :

Plymouth ..... 1 goal 1 try (8 points)  
Gloucester ..... 1 try (3 points)

## REMARKS

Despite the heavy and treacherous nature of the turf the game was of a bright, open, and fast character which bordered on brilliancy for three parts of the game. The Plymouth forwards commanded the scrums, and in consequence the home three-quarters were given chances innumerable, but the line proved rather weak, whilst the Gloucester back division, especially Fred Smith and Bloxsome, were absolutely magnificent in attack. Gent also played well, as did Parham and Holder.

### GLOUCESTER A v. NEWPORT A

#### HONOURS EASY AT KINGSHOLM

After a couple of blank Saturdays the Kingsholm ground was fit for the return match between the above teams. Gloucester had the assistance of Hudson, who was unable to go to Plymouth for the premiers, whilst Newport had a strong team out, including W. H. Gunstone and several other players who have appeared for the First team at various times. There was only a moderate attendance of spectators.

Gloucester A. – C. Cook, back; E. Butler, A. Hudson, W. Robinson, and W. Egerton, three-quarter backs; F. Arthur and W. Dix, half-backs; L. Meek, J. Wyburn, D. Hollands, G. Griffiths, W. Blackford, W. Nelmes, W. Bailey, and J. Hall, forwards.

Newport A. – F. W. Burt, back; S. H. Williams, W. H. Gunstone, W. Bennett, and P. Jones, three-quarter backs; W. Priest (capt.), and W. Martin, half-backs; W. Johnson, C. Evatt, H. Thomas, A. Palmer, G. Phillips, J. D. Waller, H. J. Richards, and C. Hughes, forwards,

Referee : Mr. F. Artus.

Newport kicked off against the sun, and opening play was fought out in the visitors' half. The Gloucester forwards were early prominent with a good rush, and the ball being taken to Burt, a clever cross-kick by Butler sent the ball over the line, and Hudson racing up scored a good try in less than three minutes from the start. Cook failed at goal.

Newport dropped out, Arthur replying with a pretty dash down touch. A well-judged kick placed Newport on the defensive, but Williams relieved with a capital run to the centre.

Smart play by Priest gave Newport an opening, and a mistake by a home back allowed the visitors to go very close. Cook, however, saved by carrying the ball over the line. From the ensuing scrum Newport heeled, but Bennett made a poor attempt to drop a goal, a minor resulting.

On the re-start Newport at once got on the aggressive, but Cook effected a daring save under his goal. A free to Gloucester gained temporary relief, but some dashing forward work by the visitors caused the home team some anxiety.

Arthur came to the rescue with a timely punt to touch, but Newport quickly rushed back. Cook made a good clearance under difficulties, but Burt returned well. From the throw-out Newport secured, and a long pass out to Priest saw that player gather and score wide out. The goal-kick failed.

On the resumption Gloucester held their own well, and Dix and Arthur did some smart work at half. Wheeling a scrum the City forwards came right away, and Dix continued the movement with some clever footwork. Burt picked up cleverly, but had his kick charged down, and the home team had a possible chance of scoring. An infringement, however, occurred with Hudson well placed.

Newport worked out of danger, but Dix sent them back with a capital kick. Gloucester tried to open out the game, but Hudson passed forward to Butler. Immediately after the visiting backs were given possession, and Gunstone broke through beautifully. Hudson, however, spoilt his pass to Williams with only Cook to beat. Gloucester, with a good forward rush, got well away, and Martin was injured in trying to check. After a brief delay he retired to the touch-line.

Resuming, the Gloucester half-backs at once got the ball out, but the passing was too slow, and Hudson could not clear. He, however, managed to get the ball away to Butler, who punted to Burt, the latter replying nicely to touch.

A strong run by Williams looked promising for Newport, but the final transfer went wide of Jones. Ensuing play favoured Newport, who forced the home side to concede a minor following a sharp attack.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A .....	1 try
Newport A .....	1 try

Gloucester re-started, and a visitor cross-kicking the Newport backs started passing, but a forward transfer stopped the movement at mid-field. A lot of scrambling play followed, ending in Newport being penalised for off-side. Hudson punted high, and the City forwards getting under stopped the return.

Screwing a scrum the City pack got off with a dangerous rush, and Dix further improved matters with a nice kick. Newport were set going cleverly by Priest, and Williams was sailing away in good style when he was charged over by Hudson, and his pass spoiled. The Newportonian was knocked out, and there was a delay while he recovered. When the game was continued Newport took up a strong position. The forwards heeled well, and only faulty passing prevented a score. Eventually a pretty movement was well carried out, and ended in Jones being sent over in the corner by Gunstone. Burt failed at goal.

Hudson fielded the return to the drop-out, and brought off a strong run through the opposition, finally kicking to Burt. The latter marked, and sent to touch in good style. Newport checked a rush of the home forwards with a lucky kick, the ball rolling to touch near the centre. Here the City backs were set going, and Hudson and Butler made good headway, but the visitors stopped in time. Newport came back to midfield, where they were twice penalised, but the home team benefitted little from the resultant kicks.

The last ten minutes were hotly contested. Newport had a good spell of attacking, but the defence was great, Hudson doing especially well in this department. The Gloucester forwards put in some sterling work, and eased the pressure continually.

A wild pass by Priest enabled Arthur to dribble clear, and the half-back picking up sent to Butler, who was thrown to touch. For off-side play Newport were penalised, and Cook had a shot for goal, but failed to cover the cross-bar.

Gloucester played up strongly after this, and following a splendid rush of the forwards Dix turned the ball cleverly to the centre of the field. Griffiths fielded and passed wide to Hudson, who had a glorious opening. The International, however, failed to pick up, but the ball rolled on to Butler, who went over in the corner after a strong burst. The try was unconverted.

Gloucester made desperate efforts to gain the lead, and just before the end some fumbling by Newport nearly ended in danger, the home team just failing to touch down.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 2 tries (6 points)

Newport A ..... 2 tries (6 points)

#### REMARKS

It was a hard game, in which Newport proved the cleverer side, but the City Seconds finished very strongly and came very near recording winning points.

The Gloucester forwards worked strenuously in the loose, and at times they fairly over-ran their opponents. Finish, however, was lacking. The Newport pack were superior at heeling, and they gave their backs plenty of work.

At times the visitors showed up with some pretty combination, Williams and Gunstone being particularly prominent. In kicking and general play, too, the Newport outsiders were the smarter.

Hudson's inclusion in the home ranks made all the difference, and he undoubtedly was the prime factor in his side sharing the honours. Dix and Arthur got through a lot of useful work individually at half, but they were not happy in combination.

Burt played a capital game at full-back for Newport, and Cook gave very little away in that position for the home side.

JC