

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1909

## FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. NEWPORT

CITY'S SPLENDID FIGHT

NEWPORT WIN BY FIVE POINTS

For their return match with Newport on the Uskside enclosure Gloucester were minus the services of Johns (engaged for England against Scotland, at Richmond), but otherwise the team was representative, Stephens, Hubert Smith and Berry returning to the side.

Newport, who won the first game at Kingsholm by 8 points to 3 – the only defeat sustained by the City at home this season – had selected a powerful fifteen and form pointed to another triumph for the Welshmen.

The teams lined out as follow : –

Gloucester. – C. Cook, back; F. Smith, W. Hall, T. Elliott, H. Smith, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), W. Johns, G. Holford, B. Parham, G. Griffiths, D. Hollands, S. Hayward, J. Wyburn, forwards.

Newport. – S. H. Williams, back; D. P. Jones, F. Birt, J. P. Jones, M. Baker, three-quarter backs; T. H. Vile, W. Martin, half-backs; J. Adams. P. Waller, C. Evatt, E. Jenkins, Dr. Smythe, H. J. Pritchard, A. E. Hockey, G. Staite, forwards.

Referee : Mr. T. L. Williams.

## THE GAME

Newport were without Beddoe Thomas and H. Jarman (forwards) whose places were taken by Jack Adams and C. Evatt. Gloucester soon broke away with good footwork, and obtained a footing near the Newport line. A kick by Martin relieved somewhat, but Gloucester, who adapted themselves to the conditions finely, kept up the pressure. Vile improved the position for Newport with a fine kick, which found touch in the Gloucester half.

Rain began to fall heavily, and Newport, adopting the Gloucester tactics, put in dangerous footwork and got a footing near the Gloucester line. Three times they attacked, but each time their passing broke down. Playing quickly on the ball when Newport attempted to start passing, Gloucester rushed up to half-way. Newport attacked again, and twice Cook brought off great saves. Hall and Elliott both intercepted well when Newport were attacking.

A useful punt by Gent transferred play to the Newport half, and Berry, kicking from a line-out, got to within fifteen yards of the Newport line. Newport attacked by cross-kicking, and Hall saved the situation with a wonderful mark. His kick found touch at the Newport 25 – a useful relief.

Gent did some useful dribbling, and the Gloucester forwards were very quick on the ball and clever with their feet. Try as they would Newport could not get away. Tested by a cross-punt, Stephens made a fine mark, and his punt relieved the pressure. Gloucester got up to half-way by useful kicking, and though Newport broke away with a forward rush they were checked and penalised for off-side play. Two useful kicks by Stephens enabled Gloucester to invade the Newport half. Hubert Smith got on to the ball when Newport mulled and dribbled up to the Newport 25.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... Nil  
Newport ..... Nil

Gloucester immediately upon the restart obtained a footing in the Newport half. Gloucester, led by Berry, went away with a great rush to the Newport line, but Birt fielded in front of his own goal, and passed back daringly to Stanley Williams, who with a great kick found touch at half-way. Newport attempted passing again, but it broke down, and Hall and H. Smith dribbled cleverly.

Next Gent got the ball away well, and Elliott receiving ran grandly, beating Jack Jones and Birt, and then passing to F. Smith, who was promptly tackled, however.

Newport went back to half-way, and then came another great rush by Gloucester, which was only stopped inside the Newport 25. A splendid run by Baker removed play to the Gloucester half, and there Newport kept it for some time.

Gloucester tried hard to relieve the pressure, and Gent managed to gain a little ground with a dribble, but Newport went back, and several times Gloucester were saved through the bad condition of the ball.

Relief came at last through Newport attempting passing, and being driven back in consequence of the keenness with which the Gloucester men followed their men. A rash pass gave Berry a chance to intercept and he broke away, but was well tackled by Stanley Williams. Then came a great rush by the Newport forwards, who carried the ball over the line, and Martin scored a good try, which Vile converted.

On the restart a grand dribble by Dr. Smythe was the chief cause of relieving pressure for Newport, and once having a footing they kept up a repeated but unsuccessful attack till Stephens relieved with a dribble.

Kicking and a brilliant piece of passing, in which the Newport full-back joined, ended in nothing. Martin ran and passed to Birt, who punted over the full-back, but Gloucester just managed to touch down.

RESULT :

Newport ..... 1 goal (5 points)

Gloucester ..... Nil

## REMARKS

Our Newport correspondent says : – The game was spoilt to a great extent by the conditions of the ground and ball. The Newport ground has seldom been worse. Gloucester were the first to adapt themselves to the conditions, and in the early stages they rather took Newport by surprise by their dashing footwork, Newport, from first to last, endeavoured to play a back game, but not once did their passing turn out successful.

Gloucester used their feet splendidly, and Berry was especially prominent. All the backs defended finely, and their catching, marking, and kicking were admirable. Cook did some wonderful things, while Elliott was the most prominent of the three-quarters, who put in two or three good runs in addition to useful defence.

Hall, F. Smith, Hubert Smith, Stephens, and Gent all did finely. Gordon Vears led his forwards in grand style. They showed any amount of dash, and once or twice it looked as if Gloucester would win the game.

The P.A. Remarks : – Play was spoilt by the fearfully muddy condition of the ground. Newport had much the better of the game, but the passing broke down repeatedly. The forward play on both sides was excellent.

### GLOUCESTER A v. NEWPORT A

#### CITY SECONDS' REVENGE

#### HANDSOME VICTORY AT KINGSHOLM

Played at Kingsholm. Newport won the first game by 11 points to 4, this being the only defeat sustained by the City Seconds this season. Gloucester were anxious to avenge this reverse, and a good side fielded under the leadership of A. Hawker.

Gloucester A. – H. Hancock; A. Pegler, J. Hamblin, H. Barnes, and H. Smith; W. Dix and W. Egerton; A. Hawker, W. Nelmes, F. Pegler, R. Craddock, H. Kirby, J. Hall, H. Aston, and F. Welshman.

Newport A. – A. H. Fisher; J. G. Preece, W. Priest, W. J. Winfield, and H. J. Rowlands; Archie Thomas and W. Bennett; G. Boots, C. Hews, A. Bell, A. Jenkins, W. Hulbert, E. Power, A. Attwood, and Gus Jones.

Hawker kicked off for Gloucester, defending the Dean's Walk end, before a small attendance, and centre play followed for some time. A misunderstanding between Dix and Egerton gave the Newport outsiders a chance, but Winfield made an attempt at a drop goal – and a poor one at that – while Rowlands was waiting on the wing.

Barnes tackled Rowlands nicely a minute later, and the Gloucester boys went away but over-ran the ball. Newport were getting the ball nicely from the scrum, but the home tackling was keen. Newport then showed a bit of real form, Bennett setting his three-quarters in motion, and after Preece had cut out a nice opening, all the others handled, and Rowlands completed a pretty movement by scoring in the corner. The same player failed at the kick.

Fisher misfielded, and let Gloucester into the Newport 25, but Bennett ran back and saved by throwing into touch. Gloucester then had a beautiful opening, but the passing was slow and clumsy, and no ground was gained. The Gloucester forwards then went away, but off-side spoilt the movement, and they were fetched back. They maintained their footing in the Newport 25, however.

Newport continued to get the ball from the scrum, and by useful kicks they worked out. Egerton gave Gloucester a good position with a smart touch-finder, and again a moment later, after Newport had dropped out, he put Gloucester well up with a capital kick. From the succeeding scrum the Newport halves muffed a pass badly, and Bennett losing the ball, Dix dashed up and notched a smart try. Egerton failed at the kick.

A minute later a very fine piece of opportunism gave Gloucester another try. A. Pegler attempted to break through, but being tackled passed out to Egerton, who beat his man cleverly, and missing Hawker, who was well marked, gave the ball to Dix, for the popular little half to dive over with his second try. Egerton put in a good kick, but it just failed of its object.

Gloucester kept up the pressure well, but in a hot rush Hawker was disabled for a minute or two. He quickly resumed, however, and Gloucester attacked again. Archie Thomas brought relief with a long kick which bounced into touch, and play was at the centre at half-time.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A ..... 2 tries  
Newport A ..... 1 try

Boots restarted for Newport, and early on Hawker tried a drop, but it was a poor effort. Gloucester, however, obtained a footing in the Newport quarter, and Thomas being penalised for off-side, Egerton landed a splendid goal from the neutral line – a very fine kick.

A bad breakdown in the Gloucester passing gave Preece a chance, but he passed forward to Rowlands, who had practically a clear field. Then a good kick by Hancock put Gloucester once more in a favourable position. A. Pegler broke through from the line-out, but his pass to Aston was forward, and a good chance was lost. Gloucester were penalised, and Fisher kicked out, but Egerton returned, the ball rolling dead.

Then both sides marked in turn, the ball going into touch at the centre. An exchange of kicks left matters much as they were. Gloucester then opened out nicely, and Barnes went for the line at a great pace, but Fisher tackled him, and he went into touch just a yard out – very hard lines.

From the succeeding scrum the ball came out to Egerton, who, feinting to pass, beat the opposition, and with a lovely kick landed a dropped goal – a very smart move.

Gloucester were soon busy again, and a long kick forced Fisher to touch down. Winfield put in a brilliant run for Newport, dodging through his men very cleverly, but A. Pegler at length fetched him down on the Gloucester 25 line.

After a long spell at the centre Newport heeled nicely, and Thomas passed out, but Barnes intercepted the pass beautifully, and tricking Fisher with a clever feint beat him pointless and ran in under the posts with a lovely try. Egerton goaled.

Gloucester held the advantage in the concluding stages.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester A ....	3 goals (1p 1d) 2 tries (18 pts.)
Newport A .....	1 try ( pts.)

#### REMARKS

With only one more home match on the card, Gloucester A may now feel pretty secure in retaining their home record. Unhesitatingly it can be said that they thoroughly deserved and well-earned their handsome victory to-day over their old rivals, who are always regarded as one of the most dangerous combinations met during the season.

After the first ten minutes, when they received a rare shaking up, the Gloucester forwards settled down and played a really very fine game, worrying away all the time, with the result that Dix and Egerton were kept busy, and that the home outsiders profited is shown by the score.

Egerton had "a day out," and has never been seen in better form at Kingsholm, as apart from his clever kicking he played a sterling game throughout.

In the front Hawker, Pegler, Craddock, and Aston were always in the van, and at three-quarter Barnes showed to conspicuous advantage, though his confreres all put in good work.

Dix was as nippy as ever, and although Hancock failed to find touch sometimes, he was very safe and tackled fearlessly. The stand-off half was Newport's weakest spot, and Rowlands (the flyer) did not get much to do.

JC