

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1910

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. NEWPORT

WEAK CITY TEAM EFFECT BIG SURPRISE

GLOUCESTER FORWARDS IN GREAT FORM

NEWPORT LUCKY TO DRAW

Gloucester entertained their old rivals at Kingsholm for the return match, the first game at Newport having ended in a draw of three points each.

As in the previous contest Gloucester were again sorely handicapped, no fewer than six players being on the sick or injured list – Hudson, Johns, Vance, Barnes, Washbourne, and Griffiths – whilst Berry was playing for England at Edinburgh.

In order not to upset the Seconds too much the City sought the services of three Cinderford players (Bradley, Wright, and Redding), and the Forest Club kindly gave the necessary permission though having an engagement with Clifton.

In addition to the above absentees Gloucester were further weakened by Gent crying off, the International being unable to make the journey from Plymouth. Dix filled the vacancy.

Newport fielded a powerful side, eight Internationals being included in the team.

The weather was fine, and the ground in splendid condition. The attendance, however, was hardly up to expectations.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – W. Egerton, back; W. J. Pearce, W. Hall, E. Hall, L. Bradley, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears, J. Wyburn, D. Hollands, G. Holford, F. Pegler, W. Nelmes, A. Redding, J. Wright, forwards.

Newport. – S. H. Williams, back; A. M. Baker*, J. P. Jones*, F. W. Birt, R. C. S. Plummer, three-quarter backs; T. H. Vile*, W. J. Martin, half-backs; C. M. Pritchard*, E. Thomas*, P. D. Waller*, E. Jenkins*, H. Jarman*, J. E. C. Partridge, H. Uzzell, A. Coldrick, forwards.

* International

Referee : Mr. J. B. Minahan (East Midlands).

THE GAME

Vears kicked off for Gloucester from the Worcester-street goal, and after an exchange of kicks the ball went to touch at midfield. From the first line-out Newport got away, but an infringement occurred and a scrum was ordered. Gloucester heeled, and Dix sending out Stephens fed E. Hall, who found touch well inside the Newport 25.

The visitors dribbled out, but Hollands marked from a kick. Egerton had a shot for goal from a long way out, but the kick fell short, and Newport found touch at the centre.

E. Hall made headway with another useful kick, and Newport being penalised Egerton punted high, allowing the forwards to get well under. The ball, however, bounced off a Newportian to Birt who sent down the field to Egerton, who cleverly kept the ball out of touch and got in a good return. Mistakes by Stephens in failing to gather let Newport away, but they were checked.

Newport next tried to open out from a line-out, but it failed, and a kick being charged down Holford dribbled away cleverly. Jones saved, and then some big kicking gave Newport an advantage.

Williams, with a lovely left foot drop, made a big effort to cover the cross-bar, but the ball dropped under the posts. E. Hall was forced to run over his line and touch down, but from the ensuing scrum Dix secured and punted out of danger.

A well-judged kick by Birt put Gloucester right in the corner, but the City forwards with a grand rush cleared to midfield.

Here Gloucester heeled, but W. Hall was collared and lost the ball, which was captured by Jones. The Welshman made a fine run through, giving some of the players the "dummy," and then passing to Baker. The right winger had a dash for the line, but he was upset in the nick of time.

Newport pressed after this, but Gloucester held out, Stephens gaining ground with a useful punt. Newport returned to the attack, but the City set up a good defence. Passing from Vile went astray, and another mistake enabled Gloucester to reach more favourable quarters.

There was a temporary stoppage owing to an injury to Martin, but he was soon able to resume.

Immediately the Gloucester forwards put in a very fine burst, Holford being to the fore. The Newport three-quarters were beaten, but Williams staved off disaster with a good pick up.

Smart work by Dix took the City closer, and then the scrum worker got the ball away to Stephens, who threw out wide to E. Hall. The latter tried to clear Jones, but the Newport centre got well hold of his man, and in the tackle the Gloucester man was laid out, sustaining a crack on the head. After a couple of minutes' delay Hall was able to resume.

The Gloucester forwards were again prominent with a sharp rush, and Hollands gathering in the loose he punted across finely, but the touch-judge had his flag up, and the ball was brought back.

From a scrum Newport heeled, and Vile passed out to Martin. Dix, however, came through and snapped up the transfer beautifully, and was past Jones in no time. Williams alone stood between the second teamer and the line, but Dix dodged his man beautifully and went over the line with a grand try amidst a tremendous outburst of cheering. Egerton failed at goal.

Newport dropped out, and getting the better of a kicking duel, gained a footing in the home half. Some passing by Newport went astray when Birt was looking dangerous, and then a lovely kick by Dix found touch some 30 yards down the field. A knock-on by Egerton lost the valuable ground gained, and play settled in the home half. The City backs, however, with neat passing got back, E. Hall finishing up with a nice kick to touch.

Gloucester were then penalised for an infringement in the scrum, but Egerton, with a good return, kept play at the centre. Holford made headway with a nice dribble, but he was robbed of possession by Jones, who found touch. Newport went close after this, but Stephens gained relief with a neat bit of work.

In a scramble Vears effected a fine save, but he was kicked on the ground by an opponent and laid out. The play, however, went on, the Gloucester forwards not being checked until their opponents' 25 was reached. Vears soon recovered and resumed play, Gloucester doing finely in all phases.

W. Hall was collared in trying to break through, and the ball getting loose a visitor kicked down to Egerton, who got in a fine reply. Here W. Hall marked under difficulties, and Egerton had a shot for goal from near the centre. The attempt was a good one but unsuccessful, and Newport punted out to well beyond the quarter flag, where operations were being contested when the whistle went for the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 try
Newport	Nil

Pritchard restarted, Hollands replying nicely to touch. The same player made further ground a minute later, and then a superb rush by the Gloucester forwards took them down to Williams, who, however, brought off a marvellous save. Newport worked out with a passing bout, but Plummer essayed a short punt which was taken by Hollands, who kicked to touch.

From a mark by Jenkins, Williams gained a nice slice of ground for Newport, but Gloucester soon recovered, thanks to faulty play by Vile.

Scrambling forward work followed until Newport shone with a round of passing. The ball was got across to Plummer, who tried hard to score, but he was finely tackled by Egerton.

Gloucester eased the pressure, but some more passing by the visitors looked all over for a try. Plummer did actually cross, but the final transfer was ruled forward, and Gloucester escaped. Then from a punt over the line by Plummer, Egerton touched down.

On the drop-out there was some fast play at the centre, Gloucester sticking to their opponents extremely well to the delight of the crowd. Newport tried their hardest to work out an opening, but the tackling was deadly in the extreme. Marks followed to either side in quick succession, but little ground was made in consequence.

Then Dix feeding Stephens, the latter punted and found touch a few yards inside the Newport half. Off-side by the City forwards gave Newport a big slice of ground, but Hollands more than made amends with a fine touch-finder.

In some loose play Gloucester gained an advantage, but it was soon lost, and midfield play followed. At length Newport opened out and Birt put in a fine run. In endeavouring to cut inside, however, Birt was collared and lost the ball on the line. Gloucester cleared by the aid of a free, and then for some infringement Gloucester were penalised, and Birt taking a drop for goal equalised the points with a lovely kick.

Gloucester resumed, and Birt receiving raced round and passed to Jones, who made further ground. Gloucester, however, by good tackling, saved the situation.

Next came a brilliant run by Jones and pass to Baker, but the wing man went to touch and the try was disallowed. Working desperately Gloucester cleared from a dangerous position, and Dix intercepting ran and punted across, but Williams saved.

The City, however, secured a good footing in their opponents' half, and Dix opening out, Stephens sent out a well-judged transfer to W. Hall. The latter fielded nicely on the run and went through in good style, but Jones came across and floored the Gloucester centre in the nick of time.

For legs up in the scrum Newport were penalised, and Egerton had a place for goal. A grand shot just went wide of the posts. Both teams were now playing an extra man outside the scrum, but in ensuing play Gloucester held the upper hand.

Loose kicking by Newport eventually changed the venue to the centre. Here Vile and Plummer with pretty combination looked dangerous, but E. Hall marked cleverly from Plummer's cross punt. Egerton, however, kicked poorly.

A good effort by Pegler led to Gloucester making a lot of ground, only a wonderful pick-up and punt by Plummer saving his side. Sneaking away on the blind side of the scrum, Dix made a splendid run, but Williams this time smothered his man a dozen yards from the line.

Gloucester played up desperately for the winning points. Newport just staved off disaster from a sharp burst, and a minute later Bradley just failed to drop a goal with a shot from near the touch-line, a minor resulting.

Newport restarted, but the end arrived immediately afterwards.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 try (3 points)

Newport 1 goal (p) (3 points)

REMARKS

Newport were a very lucky team indeed in escaping defeat to-day, as they were in the first match at Newport. With the powerful team placed in the field by the Usksiders it looked any odds on a severe reverse for the City, but football is a funny game, and serves up some big surprises. We had one this afternoon with a vengeance. The score represents a moral win for Gloucester, for whereas the City crossed their opponents' line, Newport had to be satisfied with equalising by a penalty goal. Well done, Gloucester !

It was a big achievement to share honours with such opponents, and to accomplish the same twice in one season under a similar handicap stamps the performance among the best in the history of the club.

To the forwards – and here at the outset let us pay a special tribute of praise to the sterling work of the two Cinderford scrummagers, Wright and Redding – Gloucester owed in a great measure the satisfactory results gained to-day.

From the start the City eight were on top of their opponents, and never once did the men flag. In the scrums the players were a magnificent force, all of them working with great energy, and controlling the ball continually.

It was indeed a surprise to everyone to see the Newport Internationals outpointed for possession, for Welsh teams pride themselves on being masters of the art of heeling.

Again and again, however, the Usksiders were beaten for the ball, and the times they did get it were due often to the very questionable way in which Vile put the ball in the scrum.

In the loose Gloucester were equally as good. Some of the combined rushes were splendidly carried out, the ball being kept well under control, and the players backing up well. Twice especially only the wonderful cleverness and daring of Williams saved the Newport lines.

In other departments the Gloucester front displayed grand football – the work in the lines-out was first class, and the following up and tackling of the very best. To individualise is a hard matter, but besides the two Cinderford men, Holford, Hollands, Vears, and Nelmes came particularly under notice for special mention.

Newport possess a fine pack, and the men under Pritchard put out their hardest and best this afternoon. But as an eight they were not equal to the City representatives. Outside the scrum Newport had the pace of the home players all round, and their kicking was always great. But the combination of the visitors was often sadly at fault. Jones brought off several strong runs, and was a terror in defence, but not much was seen of the other players in the third line.

At half-back Dix was the hero. He continually got the better of Vile, and his try, following one of the smartest interceptions imaginable, was a neat piece of work.

The way he doubled Williams, too, was a masterpiece, and the Welsh International reserve custodian has never, perhaps, been beaten so cheaply, and by such a midget, too! Apart from this effort, Dix was always doing something special, and towards the close he nearly repeated his performance in the first half.

Stephens was not so certain as usual in handling, but the veteran frequently contributed useful bits of play, and was quite a match for Martin on the other side. The Gloucester three-quarters were sound rather than brilliant. The Halls' played with good judgment, and with a little luck the younger of the two brothers would have pierced the defence on one occasion. Pearce kept a sharp look out on Baker, and on the other wing Bradley, with few opportunities, did all that was asked of him.

At full-back Williams put Egerton in the shade altogether. The City custodian appeared slower than usual, and his kicking was very poor in comparison with the Newport man's. Considering the meagre support the City forwards got from Egerton, the way they lasted such a strenuous game was remarkable.

GLOUCESTER A v. NEWPORT A

Played at Newport. The City Seconds had to supply several players to the senior team, but a useful fifteen turned out.

Gloucester were first prominent with good forward work, but Newport gained headway with fine combination, but were not finished enough to score. Hamblin sprinted cleverly through the centre, but was well stopped. The Newport forwards dribbled well, and Booth scored an unconverted try. Fine combination by the home quartet resulted in Jones scoring a converted try.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Newport A 1 goal, 1 try
Gloucester A Nil

After the interval, several Newport combined three-quarter movements were seen. From brilliant runs tries were scored by Jones, Dennis, and Rowlands, all unconverted.

The Gloucester forwards dribbled several times finely, but failed to gain any score. More tries were added by splendid combined runs by Newport, but towards the end Gloucester had the better of matters, and almost scored on time.

RESULT :

Newport [A] 17 points
Gloucester A Nil