

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1911

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v NEWPORT

CITY'S FIRST WELSH DEFEAT

NEWPORT BACKS TOO FAST AND CLEVER

Gloucester were unfortunately placed at a serious disadvantage for their match with Newport to-day, as both W. Hall and Dix, the clever half-backs, were on the injured list.

It was hoped Hall, who met with his accident at Oxford five weeks ago, would have been fit to play at Newport, but further trouble with his knee was set up this week, and he very reluctantly had to stand down.

Dix was crocked against Penylan, his shoulder being damaged.

The vacancies were filled by A. Hall (Cinderford) and J. Hamblin, who were playing together for the first time; whilst at three-quarter Hudson played centre, and Bloxsome, of the Reserves, played on the wing. This latter change was necessitated owing to Stanley Cook not being able to accept his place.

Newport were able to place a powerful side out, the only absentees being F. W. Birt and W. Onions in the three-quarters, the latter's place being filled by Roy McGregor, the old Scottish International half-back.

On paper, therefore, Gloucester had little chance of breaking the long record of defeats against them at Newport, and the best that could be hoped was that the Usksiders would be given a good game.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – C. Cook, back; F. Bloxsome, A. Hudson (capt.), L. Hamblin, W. Washbourne, three-quarter backs; J. Hamblin, A. Hall, half-backs; G. Vears, G. Holford, S. Smart, A. Lodge, F. Pegler, J. Meadows, S. Millard, H. Berry, forwards.

Newport. – H. Wreford, back; H. C. Plummer, R. Hicks, R. McGregor, G. Hirst, three-quarter backs; T. H. Vile, W. J. Martin, half-backs; H. Uzzell, P. Coldrick, L. Trump, H. ...etter, R. Dibble, B. Frederick, J. Williams, R. Edwards, forwards.

Referee : Mr. F. Best (Penarth).

### THE GAME

The weather was fine overhead, but heavy rains had rendered the ground sloppy in places. Vears kicked off, and exchange kicking left play in the Newport half. The home forwards early got in a fine rush, and a little later, from some cross dribbling, the ball went over the City line and a minor resulted. Gloucester followed up with some good footwork on the drop out, but Newport replied with passing, Plummer being finely grassed by Hudson. Gloucester worked out of danger, but another pretty passing movement by the home backs saw Hirst go very close. From a scrum near the line Vile and Martin worked the short side of the scrum and the latter crossed with less than five minutes from the start. Wreford failed at goal.

On the restart Hall fed J. Hamblin nicely, and the latter brought off a clever run and pass to Washbourne who, however, was well tackled. Working well together Gloucester attacked, Bloxsome and Washbourne being prominent with smart efforts on the respective wings.

The City still attacked, and grand combination between Hall, J. Hamblin, and Washbourne just failed of a score. A scrum followed right under the Newport posts from whence the home forwards cleared rather luckily. With a good wheel and dribble Newport made further headway, and the game settled at the centre. Here Vile opened out, but sound tackling broke up the attack.

By the aid of some lucky fly-kicking Newport got dangerous. The City defence held out, but the home team were too close to be pleasant. Newport continued to give the ball plenty of air, but forward transfers pulled them up several times.

At length Vile got away smartly, and, after perfect handling, Hicks raced over and behind the posts with a fine try, which Wreford converted.

Vears restarted, and there was a spell of even play at midfield. Plummer, with a dazzling run, gave Newport the advantage, but a free to Gloucester enabled the visitors to change the venue. Hirst ran back for Newport, but a combined effort by the City backs saw Hudson punt nicely to touch. Smart and Pegler broke away cleverly from a line-out, but Gloucester were forced to retire beyond the centre flag.

Fielding in the open Edwards dashed down the field, but was upset by Cook. The ball, however, rolled away, and Hicks gathering, sent it to Plummer, who scored very easily, Wreford again adding the goal points. This gave Newport a big lead of 13 points, but on the play Gloucester did not deserved to be so much in arrears.

Gloucester re-started and some forward play followed. The Newport forwards were very fine in the loose, and when away they took some stopping. The City heeled several times, but there was no sting in the attack, and the extra pace of the homesters served them in good stead.

Hall, breaking away from a scrum, gave to Smart, who with a good opening threw forward to Holford. Cook was loudly applauded just afterwards for cleverly eluding several opponents and getting in his kick. Newport got on the move with clever passing, but Hicks held on too long and was collared by Hudson.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Newport ..... 2 goals 1 try  
Gloucester ..... Nil

Newport were short of Trump when the game was resumed in rain. Berry was prominent with a clever dribble which Wreford checked, but Gloucester maintained a footing in their opponents' half. The Newport backs, however, soon came away, but Hicks hesitated. Hirst, however, cross-kicked to the open, and Edwards fielding passed to Dibble, who ran over in the corner. Wreford failed at goal.

Resuming, Smart followed up smartly and prevented the return. From this point Gloucester rushed away and had a good chance, but lost the ball near the line, and Newport cleared. Passing between Hall, J. Hamblin and Washbourne saw the latter dash for the line, but in trying to swerve he was easily stopped. Newport opened out in their own 25, but Hicks punted with two men unmarked on his right.

Neat handling by the City backs enabled Hudson to burst through, but he was checked in time. Footwork by Hall led to a sharp attack on the Newport line, and Wreford punting out sent straight to Washbourne. The latter received and passed inside to Hudson, who with a glorious chance slipped and fell with the line at his mercy. Immediately after Hall made a desperate effort to cross, only being pulled down on the line.

Newport continued to be subjected to severe pressure, but for a time the visitors could not beat the defence. Success, however, came at length, J. Hamblin scoring a beautiful try near the posts from a pass by Hall. L. Hamblin converted.

Newport, on resumption, played up in dashing style, but L. Hamblin relieved with a clever touch-finder. Good work by the Gloucester forwards brought the City out to midfield, where J. Hamblin recovered and punted high. Wreford, however, fielded and got in a lovely kick to touch at the Gloucester quarter. The City replied in fine style, and the game was vigorously contested near the half-way mark.

There was a temporary delay owing to Pegler being winded, but he was soon able to resume. From the next scrum Newport got on the attack, and, following clever combination, Hicks went over in the corner with Hudson on his back. The place kick failed.

Having scored again Newport took the game in hand. Hirst was only stopped by a great tackle by Hudson. Gloucester eased the pressure by a good forward rush, and smart play by Berry and Washbourne took the game into Newport's half.

In the last five minutes Gloucester played up strongly to add to their score, but though getting very near their efforts were not rewarded.

#### RESULT :

Newport ... 2 goals 3 tries (19 points)

Gloucester ..... 1 goal (5 points)

#### REMARKS

Gloucester's heavy defeat came as a big surprise, but in justice to the City it must be said they were not outplayed to the extent one would imagine from the score against them. It was a splendidly contested game, fast and vigorous, with plenty of open play – and this despite the treacherous nature of the ground.

Newport did their best work in the first half, and some of the passing movements were quite up to their best standard, forwards and backs taking part in the hand to hand exchanges. All the same two of the tries were a trifle lucky, and one ought not to have been allowed, for it was gained from a distinctly forward pass.

Where Newport's superiority lay was in the speed and cleverness of their back division. The Gloucester men tried hard, but could not compare with their rivals in combination. Hirst and Plummer were particularly dangerous on the wings, and Hicks, though occasionally at fault, did well as substitute for Birt. Vile and Martin worked in perfect harmony at half-back, and were too clever for Hall and J. Hamblin. The Cinderford man put in a tremendous amount of work, but his passes from the scrums were too slow to allow of advantage being taken.

J. Hamblin performed very creditably in his new position, and his try was a very praiseworthy effort. The City threes tackled well at times, but there were occasions when the men were out of their places, and Newport were quick to notice this fault. Hudson, in the centre, had plenty to do, and he was all over the field. He saved two or three tries by desperate tackling, but his chances in attack were few. Once, however, he would have had a certain try but for slipping on the greasy surface.

L. Hamblin played soundly, but the wing men were not afforded many opportunities of distinguishing themselves. Cook, though not the outstanding figure as against Swansea and Pontypool, got through a lot of work in good style, and he could not be blamed for either of the tries.

The City forwards played up manfully against a grand all-round pack. In the scrums they had quite a fair share of the ball, and the work, both in the loose and lines-out, were excellent. Holford was a shining light in the phases of play, and Smart and Vears were very consistent in following up. Millard and Lodge were amongst the hardest workers, and the recruit certainly justified his inclusion.

Newport were a man short all the second half, and this no doubt made a difference. Uzzell, Dibble, and Edwards were splendid in the open, but the whole pack played clever and intelligent football.

The game was contested in the best of spirit, and there was not a single incident calling forth a word from the referee. Gloucester were beaten, and well beaten in points, but with a little of the luck that fell to their opponents the City would have made a much closer fight.

With their regular halves for the return match at Kingsholm, Newport will have to be all out to win.

Scorer for Gloucester : J. Hamblin; L. Hamblin converted.

Next week : Watsonians, at Kingsholm.

## GLOUCESTER A v NEWPORT A

### CITY SECONDS UNLUCKY

These old rivals met at Kingsholm on Saturday before a small attendance. There were changes in the home side owing to the calls of the Premier XV.

The teams were : –

Gloucester A. – W. Egerton; W. E. Sysum, H. Cook, F. W. Hayward, and E. Harris; E. Yates and T. Burns; J. Harris, C. Mumford, G. Griffiths, N. Hayes, A. Banner, J. Dovey, P. Simmonds, and A. Cook.

Newport A. – A. Hobbs; H. Jones, C. Lovell, Ivor Williams, and A. E. Morgan, H. Rowlands and I. Pritchard; G. Boots, W. Hulbert, A. Jenkins, C. Heinz, E. Power, M. Williams, C. Bates, B. Summers.

Referee : Mr. J. Davis, Lydney.

Gloucester started, and the opening exchanges were of an even character, but the visitors chiefly by strong footwork gradually worked their way down into the Gloucester quarter. The home forwards, however, broke up a passing movement very smartly, and but for a brilliant save by Hobbs would have gone clean away.

The Gloucester front put in some good work, but they kicked a bit too hard, and Rowlands getting back quickly, gathered and found touch with a good punt.

The Seconds forwards heeled well, and Burns got the ball away, but the tackling of the visitors was very keen, and the movement did not get far.

The Gloucester forwards, working well together, got well down into the Newport 25, but Ivor Williams fielded cleverly, and found touch with a good length kick.

Centre play followed for some time, and then Burns taking the chance of the dangerous expedient of a flying kick, was lucky enough to gain 20 yards. Yates was prominent with a fine break-away, and although he upset Hobbs he lost the ball, and Newport cleared.

Yates worked the "dummy" and gained 20 yards, but a loose rush by the Usksiders put this back again very quickly. A mistake by Yates looked very dangerous, but Burns got back and cleared smartly. Newport opened out the game nicely, and Rowlands and Morgan appeared to have a glorious chance on the left wing, but the pass was forward.

Then Gloucester came away with a strong burst, in which Burns was prominent, and the game was carried right to the other end, a fine passing run nearly letting E. Harris in. Burns injured his shoulder in a tackle, and had to go off the field. Newport were pressing at half-time.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A ..... Nil  
Newport A ..... Nil

Resuming, Newport were quickly aggressive, but twice Mumford, who had come out of the scrum to take Burns' place, sent them back with well-judged touch-kicks.

Rowlands kicked across the field, and the ball was fielded and gathered by Jones, who although he was yards off-side was allowed to go on by the referee, and he put G. Boots over with a soft try, the home men making no attempt to stop the wing man, so palpable was the mistake. The try was majorised amid groans.

The Gloucester men played up with tremendous force after this, and the football was more vigorous than clever. The Seconds gradually forced their way down, and being awarded a free in a good position, Hayward just failed at goal.



Gloucester were now playing up with the utmost determination. Egerton returned a long kick well, but the Newport forwards, working well together, gradually forced Gloucester back.

The home front, however, rallied, and carried the game well into the visitors' quarters, but the work behind the scrum was not good. Towards the close Gloucester attacked desperately, and although they had the ball time after time they were unable to penetrate the defence.

#### RESULT :

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

Gloucester A ..... Nil

#### REMARKS

The City Seconds were distinctly unlucky to lose by five points. They had quite as much of the game as the visitors, in spite of being only fourteen men for more than half the game; in fact, in the concluding stages they had much the best of matters, and narrowly escaped scoring on three or four occasions. Burns played exceedingly well until he was crocked, but as a whole the home backs were weak. Sysum, however, tackled keenly, and Mumford and Simmonds were in good form. Rowlands was the star performer for Newport.