

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

OCTOBER 19, 1901

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. NEWPORT

THE HOME TEAM MAKE A DRAW

About 4,000 spectators assembled on the Kingsholm Ground at Gloucester to witness the meeting between these famous teams. The weather was dull, but the turf was in fine condition.

The game was most stubbornly contested, play being chiefly confined to the forwards, in which department both packs were evenly matched, but the home team were superior to their opponents in the back division.

Newport started, and Hodges, Boots, and Lloyd, transferred play to the Gloucester quarters, where several hard-fought scrummages took place. Smith, however, relieved the pressure, and G. Hall gained further ground by kicking into touch near the half way line. By the aid of a free kick Newport returned to the attack. Goddard got possession, and after warding off several opponents he passed to Oswell who passed inside to Smith, the latter being almost over the line before being tackled.

A mis-kick by Romans almost let Newport in, but Gloucester worked out by the aid of C. Hall, Miller, Click, and Watkins. Pritchard got away for Newport, and Adams gained ground before Romans floored him when looking dangerous.

Play alternated between mid-field and Newport quarters, the home team putting in some brilliant bouts of passing, but Newport's defence was impregnable. When the interval arrived nothing was scored by either side.

Soon after re-starting, a long kick by Cook caused Newport to touch down. Lloyd kicked to Romans, who made his mark, and transferred play to near the visitors' line. From a kick by Clutterbuck, Walker ran back over his own goal-line, play being fought out just outside. Hodges, C. Thomas, Boots, and Gould were prominent, but they were unable to break through the home defence.

Lloyd got away, and his transfer to Gould saw the latter hauled down by Romans when becoming dangerous. Smith was injured, and C. Hall was knocked out for a few minutes.

Towards the close Newport made strenuous efforts to score, but Click, Hall, Miller, and Spiers, came away with a rush, and Miller dribbled down the ground. Play became exciting, and was of a fluctuating character, and when the end came, the score-sheet was blank, a draw representing the relative merits of the teams.

Players : –

GLOUCESTER. – G. Romans (capt.) (back), J. Cook, J. Stephens, G. E. Clutterbuck, and C. Smith (three-quarter backs), G. Hall and R. Goddard (half-backs), C. Hall, C. E. Miller, J. Lewis, A. H. Click, F. Westbury, T. Spiers, B. L. Watkins, and F. Oswell (forwards).

NEWPORT. – A. W. Walker (back), D. P. Jones, J. Williams, C. Pritchard, and E. W. Gould (three-quarter backs), G. Ll. Lloyd (capt.) and J. Hillman (half-backs), C. Thomas, G. Thomas, G. Boots, J. J. Hodges, S. Adams, T. Beard, N. S. Brown, and H. Thomas (forwards).

Gloucester worthily maintained the honour of English football against Newport. Pointless draws are (says "Dux" in the "Sportsman") far less common in these days of the skilful three-quarter back system than they were when only a ding-dong battle was supposed to prove energy and endeavour. Both Gloucester and Newport are essentially attacking units, and the result in question, therefore, says not a little for the defensive capabilities in emergency of both.

The "South Wales Daily News" says the game was one of the old ding-dong character. Taken all round the teams were most evenly balanced, for Newport's superiority forward was more than neutralised by the advantage which Gloucester had in the three-quarter line, and the half-backs appeared to be about evenly matched.

The pointless draw properly indicated the character of the play. Romans was not as brilliant as usual, whilst Walker did well for Newport.

As indicated, the Gloucester quartette were superior to their opponents, but it was not a three-quarters day. When the backs had opportunities, however, the City boys showed to best advantage, and during the progress of the game they put in a few pretty bits of combined play.

Gloucester, no doubt, are an excellent team, and it will have to be a very strong combination to overthrow them on their own ground. Their forwards did not shine by comparison quite so much as usual, but perhaps (says the "Newport Argus") that was because of the exceptional form shown by Newport.

It was in the all-round matter of their back play that Gloucester showed an advance upon previous years. Their halves got the ball away with real cleverness, and their handling was smart and often very tricky. Fortunately, Newport's defence was excellent.

Romans was not quite at his best. Several times he failed to field, but these were only occasional blemishes. On the whole, his kicking was excellent.

The game was exciting from start to finish, and the result was a fair indication of the way in which the teams were matched. There was really nothing in it from start to finish, and lacking the brilliant efforts which occasionally snatched victory out of defeat, or just turned the scale in an even contest, a draw was the proper result.

GLOUCESTER A v. NEWPORT

These reserve teams met at Newport, and after a hard game, the City boys won by a try to nothing, Rooke being the scorer.

JC