

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1902

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. NEWPORT

DEFEAT OF THE CITIZENS

With recollections of the disappointing display given against Blackheath last week, Gloucester's chances against Newport on the latter's ground were not very rosy.

The City team have never been able to record a victory at Newport, and with the famous Usksiders in splendid form this season it was too much to expect Gloucester to come out on top this afternoon. Still it was hoped the visitors would provide a good game, and show that their form in London the previous Saturday was altogether wrong.

Newport, who had won all their previous matches, turned out a powerful side, the forward ranks being strengthened by the return of J. Hodges (the International) and S. Adams, neither of whom played against the Old Merchant Taylors.

C. E. Lewis stood down owing to an injured knee, and T. W. Pearson appeared in his place.

The Gloucester team underwent alteration from last Saturday, Rooke giving place at centre three-quarter to A. James (of Bream); whilst A. Hawker and A. Purton appeared in the forwards vice Click and Oswell (on the injured list).

The cheap trip in connection with the match by the G.W.R. was largely patronised, but the fixture did not arouse the usual excitement and enthusiasm.

The following were the teams : –

GLOUCESTER	Positions.	NEWPORT
G. Romans	Backs.	D. J. Roots
C. Smith	Three-quarter	T. W. Pearson
A. James	backs.	C. C. Pritchard
G. F. Collett	"	E. W. Gould
L. Smith	"	R. B. Griffiths
J. Stephens	Half-Backs	G. Ll. Lloyd
F. Keys	"	J. Hillman
A. Hawker	Forwards	G. Boots
F. Goulding	"	J. Hodges
F. Westbury	"	E. Thomas
A. Purton	"	S. Adams
G. H. Smith	"	H. Uzzell
Bert Parham	"	J. E. C. Partridge
E. Essex	"	A. G. Brown
W. Johns	"	H. G. Thomas

Referee : Mr. W. BOWEN (Welsh Union).

THE GAME

The weather was dull and threatening, but there was about 4,000 spectators present. Newport won the toss and Goulding started the game for Gloucester.

There being only a poor return play opened in the home 25. Keys got away from the first scrum neatly, but Lewis Smith passed wildly and Gould, coming through, picked up and got to Romans. He then yielded to Pritchard, who, however, slipped with a clear run in.

A couple of scrums followed, from the last of which Hillman secured, and darting round sent out neatly to Griffiths, who beat Romans, and scored a fine try. Lloyd converted with a splendid kick.

Resuming Collett showed up with a strong run, but he was pulled down on the centre line. Here Hillman dribbled away cleverly, but lost possession, and Stephens finding touch gave Gloucester a good footing in the Newport half.

The City forwards were prominent with a smart burst, but they were beaten back, and were forced to defend. From a penalty Lloyd caused Stephens to touch down, but grand play by Romans took the game well inside the Newport 25. Working well together the Gloucester forwards rushed right up to the line, and Westbury had a good opening, but passed recklessly. Gould secured and punted out to Collett, who failed to gather, and Newport easily cleared.

Some pretty combination by the Newport backs looked dangerous, but the tackling was sound. A dashing run by Lewis Smith was promising for Gloucester, but though beating Griffiths he could not clear Boots. From a loose scrum the Newport backs came away, Pearson making a fine run. Then beautiful work between Lloyd and Hillman completely nonplussed the opposition, the latter scoring easily. The place-kick failed.

On the drop-out the home backs were again seen to conspicuous advantage, but they could not break through the defence. By dint of good forward work Gloucester made headway, and Lewis Smith, with a useful kick, sent the ball into touch at the centre. The same player, with another smart effort, caused Newport to defend, but off-side play lost the position.

A grand run by Pearson nearly resulted in a score, but Gloucester saved by touching down. Afterwards the City forwards, with a splendid rush, gave Newport some anxiety, but they quickly relieved, and Pearson was nearly in at the other end.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Newport 1 goal, 1 try
Gloucester Nil

Boots started the second half, and Newport with dashing forward work at once pressed. In a scramble the ball was rushed to the line, but Romans saved. For off-side play by Keys, Gloucester were penalised, but Lloyd's drop for goal went wide, and Romans touched down.

Immediately after resumption Gloucester had to defend again, and their line narrowly escaped. From a scrum Hillman easily beat Keys, and passing at the right moment sent Adams over cleverly. Lloyd kicked a fine goal, and Newport led by thirteen points.

In subsequent play Gloucester did better, and held their own fairly well. There were one or two attempts at passing, but little ground was made.

Newport at length was set going again, and the Gloucester quarter was reached before they were checked. Here Lloyd brought off a marvellous run which looked certain for a score, but Griffiths was pushed out of play by Romans, and only a minor was allowed.

The game continued to go in favour of Newport though the visitors stuck pluckily to their work. They were, however, beaten by the clever combination of the home backs, who were repeatedly in evidence.

Hillman was exceptionally good at half, and from a smart effort on his part the ball got across to Pearson, who went over in the corner with a try in his old style. Lloyd failed at goal.

The drop-out brought no relief to Gloucester, who were again hard pressed. The visitors gained slight relief by the aid of a mark by Collett, who kicked into touch at half-way. Newport quickly sent the game back, and the City team's defence was again sorely tried.

A brilliant break away by Lloyd received due recognition by the crowd, but Adams, who received his captain's pass, was brought down on the line by Romans and C. Smith.

Gloucester had a very hot time for a couple of minutes, but C. Smith and James dribbled out of danger. Then Keys sneaked away from a scrum down the touch, but there was no-one to back him up, and his kick was taken by Pearson, who returned.

Play settled at mid-field for a short time, but Gloucester could never raise an attacking movement. In the last few minutes Newport tried hard to increase their lead, but this effort did not meet with success, though the Gloucester line had a couple of narrow escapes.

RESULT :

Newport 2 goals, 2 tries (16 points)
Gloucester Nil

REMARKS

The result was about in accordance with expectations. On the whole the Gloucester forwards did well, and with a little more discretion at the critical moment might have notched tries on two occasions. On the general run of play, however, Newport were an infinitely superior team.

Lloyd and Hillman played beautifully together at half-back, Keys and Stephens being outwitted repeatedly. To their efforts mainly Newport owed their success, though the three-quarter line was very effective in combination.

Pearson was as good as ever, and took most of his passes in wonderful style. Romans was far superior to Boots at full-back, the City captain playing his usual fine game on the Newport ground.

The three-quarters put in a lot of defensive work, but Lewis was the only player who caused Newport any trouble in attack.

Forward, Golding played a sterling game, and Smith, Hawker, Johns, and Purton were prominent for good work.

GLOUCESTER A v. NEWPORT A

NEWPORT WIN ON THE CALL OF TIME

The first match between these teams, the meeting between which always produces a keen contest, took place at Kingsholm before a fair crowd. The Gloucester team was the same that defeated Barnwood last week with one exception. Newport came up full strength, and when the teams lined out it was easy to see that the visitors were much the bigger and heavier.

The teams were : –

Gloucester A. – A. F. Pugh, back; A. Hudson, F. Rooke, L. Rudge, and L. Vears, three-quarter backs; B. Dix and E. Keys, half-backs; T. Spiers (capt.), W. Phelps, W. Jones, G. Bland, A. Pyart, R. Cole, G. Vears, and A. Pegler, forwards.

Newport A. – S. Lloyd, back; H. Chapman, J. L. Williams, G. P. Geen, and W. Bennett, three-quarter backs; F. W. Huggett and T. H. Vile, half-backs; C. Jenkins, G. Spillane, D. Climo, N. A. Pugh, F. Wilkes, J. H. Dunn, C. M. Pritchard, and Conway Williams, forwards,.

Newport started from the Dean's Walk end, and quickly came free in a good position, but an essay at goal was not taken. Gloucester made ground with good forward play, but after an exchange of kicks Newport dribbled dangerously near, and had it not been for a very fine save and kick by L. Vears the Gloucester line would have been crossed.

Newport soon after had an excellent opening and the backs passed well, but the home tackling was good. The visitors were heavier and cleverer in front, and for a long time kept Gloucester on the defensive, and claiming a free nearly obtained first points, still keeping the home men penned in their own 25.

Vears started a nice passing movement, Rudge, Rooke, and Hudson handling, and the latter kicked well. Rudge followed up but for some reason the referee pulled him up.

Gloucester were doing better now. They followed up kicks well, and were all over the visitors' outsides for a moment, keeping the game well in the Newport 25, where the visitors again were awarded a free-kick. Rooke returned, though tackled, and play was centred.

The referee again penalised Gloucester, and the crowd gave audible vent to its resentment. A lot of trouble ensued in trying to get the ball into the scrum, and the Newport half (Huggett) asked the referee to have the ball on his side of the scrum, but the referee shook his head.

The visitors pressed again strongly, but Rooke brought temporary relief. Hudson, however, let his side down, and Newport pressed again. The game degenerated into a scramble in the home 25, the visitors' weight and cleverness telling its tale. Rising to the occasion, Gloucester forwards made a supreme effort, and with a good rush reached neutral ground. Huggett left the field owing to a blow on the head.

Some good work by Dix and Gordon Vears put Gloucester in a favourable position, and the visitors coming under the bann of the referee, Pugh narrowly missed a goal. Newport worked out, and Hudson put in a good return, play being in the Newport half when the whistle sounded half-time. Huggett came back to the game just prior to this.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A Nil
Newport A Nil

On restarting, Lloyd was prominent with a fine save and he ran half through the Gloucester team[sic] and passed to Chapman, who was hauled down by Hudson, but not before he had passed the half-way. Pugh put in a good touch-kick, though tackled, and the game was fought out again in neutral ground.

Dix held too long when Keys had worked out a nice opening, and immediately after Gloucester were penalised, Chapman making a good shot for goal. Newport were in turn penalised, but not much ground was gained. Rooke had a fine chance from a line-out, but he hesitated, and before he had recovered, Hudson, to whom he passed, was marked. Centre play followed, then Keys broke away, and rushing straight at Lloyd made that player kick towards his own goal. Pugh again kicked well, but play remained at the centre, where J. L. Williams was hurt and had to retire.

Rooke put his side in a better position with a good run and kick, and Rudge following up saved a return. Gloucester kept at it hard and gained a footing in the Newport 25, where Chapman claimed a mark, but put in a feeble kick. Newport were then penalised, and Pugh tried for goal, but without effect. The game again came back to the centre, and Rooke got going nicely. He passed to Rudge, and the latter handed to Vears, who, however, could not get clear. Geen kicked to Pugh, who was collared, Newport thus gaining a good slice of ground. The ambulance men were called out again to a Newport man – Huggett this time – but his injuries did not necessitate his removal.

Some pretty passing between Geen and Bennett looked promising for Newport, but Hudson effected a good save. The game was fiercely contested once more at the centre. Then a fine movement was seen in which Rooke, Rudge, and Vears took part, but Rudge could not get away. However, Gloucester got in a good position, but Newport got out of difficulty and the ball went up and down the ground at a great pace, eventually settling just inside the Gloucester 25.

Newport gained ground with a free, and the ball getting loose from a scrum came out to Bennett, who made a great attempt to score, and though he was tackled he managed to ground the ball over the line in the corner. Chapman goaled with a fine kick. The whistle then sounded no-side.

RESULT :

Newport A 1 goal (5 points)

Gloucester A Nil

REMARKS

Newport were no doubt the better and heavier combination, but after making such a plucky fight of it Gloucester had very hard lines in losing the game on the very call of time.

The visiting forwards were very fast and keen and held the upper hand, Dunn, Pritchard, and C. Jenkins being continually conspicuous. Spiers and Phelps were the most prominent of the home eight. Huggett and Vile, behind the winning eight, had the most opportunities, and Keys and Dix, though playing up hard, were at times slow in getting the ball away.

Of the home three-quarters, Hudson put in some good kicks and saves, but his tackling would be more effective if he went at his man lower. Rooke and Rudge, in the centre, made full use of their chances, and Vears, on the other wing, played a capital game. He was somewhat neglected in the matter of passes, which is a pity, as when he did get the ball he seldom failed to make a good deal of ground. He also tackled well.

Pugh's kicking in the first half did not find touch, but he retrieved himself in the second half, and repeatedly distinguished himself. Lloyd, his vis-a-vis, was very safe.

Stoppages from injuries were numerous, but the only serious sufferer was J. L. Williams, who, it transpired, sustained severe bruises to the neck and shoulders.