

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1933

AFTER FIFTY-ONE YEARS !

GLOUCESTER'S DOUBLE VICTORY OVER NEWPORT

EX-WYCLIFFE BOY'S SUCCESS

CITY FORWARDS IN GREAT FORM

FROM W.B.'s NOTEBOOK

A 51 years' record was broken last Saturday, when for the second time in one season Gloucester defeated Newport. The last occasion the City secured the double over their famous rivals was in 1881-2, under J. F. Brown's captaincy.

In January last Gloucester won at Newport by 10 points to 6; last week Newport were beaten pointless (10-0), and if the score had been doubled it would not have over estimated the City's superiority.

The Welshmen were outclassed, especially forward, the Gloucester pack giving one of their best performances of the season.

Saturday's triumph recalled two previous notable victories of Gloucester over Newport at Kingsholm. In 1898 the City gained their first success over the Welshmen for 11 years. It was Arthur Gould's last match for Newport, and Gloucester won by 11 pts. to nil.

In 1920-21, Newport lost a wonderful record by 12 pts. to 9 – a memorable match in many respects.

The gate receipts totalled £768 – easily the club record for a fixture at Kingsholm.

## NEWPORT'S BAD PATCH

Newport have experienced a bad patch this season, and the continued absence of A. R. Ralph, the captain, has been severely felt. Recently the team showed signs of a recovery, but they disappointed again last week and were a well beaten side. Outplayed forward for three-parts of the game the visitors' backs were rarely in the picture, and except for an occasional burst by Watkins and G. V. Jones never looked like scoring. The constructive play was very moderate, and the clean, smart handling one always associates with a Newport side was completely absent. Everson, at full-back, redeemed the reputation of the team with a sound display, but he could not accomplish the impossible.

## SPLENDID CITY FORWARDS

The Welshmen had hopes of obtaining the mastery forward, but they were sadly out of their reckoning. The visitors had the weight in the pack, and there were individuals in Evans and the two Shiners, who played with tremendous vigour, but their combined efforts failed to bring success against an opposition superior in practically every phase of the game.

For the first quarter the play did not rise above the ordinary; in fact the exhibition of football was very disappointing. Then Gloucester settled down, and there was no holding the City eight afterwards. Newport were continually beaten for possession in the scrums and in open play and close dribbling the Gloucester men were at times irresistible.

## EFFECTIVE TACTICS

I have not seen the City eight better together in any match this season. There was purpose and determination in every movement, and when a player broke away from a line-out or from a snap pass in the loose, support was always at hand. This display revealed the Gloucester forwards in a new light, and its effectiveness was at once apparent.

The City will be at Twickenham against the Harlequins next Saturday, and I am looking forward to a repeat performance against the Londoners. If this comes about the Harlequins will have to pull out something extra to check Wadley and his colleagues. We want a victory at Twickenham, and Gloucester are capable of establishing the supremacy of the West if the team show their best.

#### HORDERN OUTSTANDING

There was some very fine individual work on the Gloucester side against Newport, with Hordern outstanding. The old Oxford Blue has played some fine games since his connection with the City club, but he was at his very best against his old team. In all the raids made by the Kingsholm men Hordern was generally to the fore, and he finished off Meadows' sensational run perfectly. Welshman and Williams gave the International splendid support in the back row; both were lively in aggressive movements, and frequently made headway with determined bursts.

#### MORRIS DEVELOPING

Morris was another keen worker, always well up and rendering fine service in the close exchanges. Morris has fully justified the opinions formed of him when he was drafted into the senior ranks, and if he continues to improve he is going the right way to gain further distinction. Ken Smith shared in the honours, but there was one occasion when, after breaking clear away to Everson, he held on instead of passing to Roy James, who was in close attendance, with an open field.

The front row of the Gloucester pack – Wadley, Carpenter, and Comley – did their work admirably, and to the captain especially congratulations are due in having the distinction of leading such a fine side to victory. Carpenter is a veteran in service, but he shows no sign of loss of form. He was one of the liveliest players on the field, and at the end of a gruelling 70 minutes was among the fittest of the two teams – a splendid tribute to his stamina.

## CLEVER HALF-BACKS

Behind the better heeling pack, Fifield and Meadows had opportunities provided which they made full use of. Tovey (Newport) tried hard to smother Fifield's service, but the Gloucester scrum worker was too quick for his opponent, and on the whole came through a keen contest with great credit. Fifield started several attacks with the reverse pass, and had the subsequent handling been ordinarily accurate, the Newport defence would have experienced a more difficult time.

Meadows served up more of those remarkable runs which have featured Gloucester's home games, and the second try came from one of these solo efforts. He had earlier in the game just failed to clear Everson after an equally brilliant run. On the second occasion the Newport custodian was completely beaten, and with Hordern ever on the alert, up to take the pass, a brilliant try was recorded.

## CENTRE OF GREAT PROMISE

Gloucester's superiority was no less convincing at three-quarter, despite the absence of Tanner and Brooks. The vacancies were filled by Edwards and McKay, and both did splendidly. McKay had not played since the Cardiff match on February 11, and was evidently short of running practice, but he was as difficult as ever to tackle. The opening try was provided by the right wing, and covered three-parts of the ground – a glorious effort in which Edwards and McKay (the scorer) equally shared. Edwards impressed me when I first saw him for the United against Hereford, and Saturday's display convinced me he is good enough to take his place in any senior fifteen.

Strong in attack, with a keen perception of an opening, he is faster than he appears to be, and has certainly been schooled in the art of giving and taking a pass. Edwards' defence was given a severe test on Saturday, but he never failed, and he kicked with excellent judgment. Altogether a very satisfactory performance, and his coach (J. C. Brooks), who had to play the part of onlooker for this match, must have been extremely pleased with his display.

Sheppard and James, on the right wing, were too strong for the opposition, though the vice-captain spoiled a lot of his work by failure to accept his passes. Sheppard suffered in consequence, but when served he ran strongly.

#### EXCELLENT FULL BACKS

Boughton had a good match at full-back, his safe fielding, touch kicking, and general ability afforded every confidence to his colleagues in front of him. The two conversions he made were from easy positions; a fine shot from a penalty was carried out of direction by the wind. On the other side, Everson had hard lines with a penalty kick from some 40 yards out.

#### UNITED FALL AT NEWPORT

Gloucester United had a chance of completing a set of four victories at the expense of the Newport club, for Newport United had been defeated earlier in the season at Kingsholm. The City Seconds, however, failed in the task, and went down for the second week in succession.

Six of the 14 points registered by Newport United came from penalty goals, both kicked by A. R. Ralph, the Welsh International half-back, who was making a re-appearance after a long absence from the field. Ralph had a big hand in his side's victory, his presence in the back division making a vast difference in attack. Gloucester, on the other hand, was weakened at centre owing to Edwards being called on to assist the premier team at home. The Gloucester forwards demonstrated their superiority in the scrums and loose, but the backs were beaten for speed.