

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1906.

## TO-DAY'S MATCHES.

GLOUCESTER v. NEWPORT.

THE CITY TEAM OUTPLAYED.

Gloucester paid their annual visit to Newport to-day, this being the return meeting between the teams. Gent did not think it wise, after such a long absence, to make a restart in such an important fixture, but "Whacker" Smith and Matthews returned to the City ranks. W. Johns, however, had to stand down, and A. Purton came in as reserve forward.

Newport were stronger than at Gloucester, and fully expected to repeat their success at Kingsholm.

The teams were : —

| GLOUCESTER.       | Positions.    | NEWPORT.                |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| G. Romans         | Backs.        | D. J. Boots             |
| A. Hudson         | Three-Quarter | A. Davies               |
| H. Smith          | Backs.        | S. Adams                |
| C. Smith          | "             | W. H. Gunstone          |
| F. Smith          | "             | W. Thomas               |
| A. Hall           | Half-Backs.   | T. H. Vile              |
| J. Stephens       | "             | C. Francis              |
| B. Parham (capt.) | "             | C. M. Pritchard (capt.) |
| A. Purton         | Forwards.     | G. Boots                |
| G. Vears          | "             | W. Dowell               |
| H. Collins        | "             | E. Thomas               |
| G. Matthews       | "             | E. Jenkins              |
| W. Holder         | "             | W. Johnson              |
| F. Peglar         | "             | W. Webb                 |
| A. Hawker         | "             | G. Jones                |

Referee : Mr. E. A. Johns (Welsh Union).

## THE GAME.

The weather was fine but bitterly cold, and there was only a moderate attendance for Newport. The ground was in grand condition for a fast game. Newport started short of D. Boots, Gunstone playing full back and G. Jones three-quarter.

Parham kicked off, and early on Hall and Stephens dribbled through and kicked over the line, a minor resulting. From the drop-out A. Hall received and started passing, but the ball went astray. A minute later Gloucester heeled, and neat exchanges saw H. Smith break away, but he passed forward to Hudson.

Newport gained ground by the aid of a penalty, and ensuing play was fought out inside the Gloucester half. Boots now appeared, and the teams were equal. The visitors worked out to the centre, where both teams tried to open out, but without success. Gloucester eventually broke away with a good dribble, but Hudson tackled off-side, and the City had to come back.

Heeling by the Gloucester forwards enabled H. Smith to punt down, but Thomas, though partly tackled by C. Smith, wriggled clear, and got in a fine run and kick to the Gloucester 25. Newport got the ball away cleverly in subsequent scrums, but Francis held too long, and was checked. A useful punt by Stephens gave Gloucester an advantage, and later Romans found touch in the home half with a lovely kick.

Gloucester made further headway through Hudson, and F. Smith following up well took play to the Newport half. Pritchard led the Newport forwards in a grand burst, Holder saving well. A passing movement by the home backs looked promising, but Davies was pushed to touch by Romans. Newport, however, had gained a good position, and the ball coming out to Gunstone, the latter dropped a neat goal.

Gloucester resumed, and at once took play to the Newport end, and some close scrummaging followed, ending in Newport being penalised, and with the kick Romans sent to touch near the home 25.

Newport cleared by the aid of kicks, and then the respective backs indulged in some clever work, Hall, Stephens, and F. Smith being prominent for Gloucester. Centre play followed, but at length the Newport backs came away beautifully, and Adams feinting he went clear home with a fine try. Vile converted.

On resumption operations were fought out in the Newport half, but Gloucester could not get an opening. With dashing forward play Newport attacked again, but a brilliant opening by Hall and a fine run by H. Smith sent Hudson over with a grand try, Romans converting.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Newport ..... 2 goals (1 d)  
Gloucester ..... 1 goal

Pritchard restarted for Newport, who early gained a good position, thanks to a fine touch kick by Vile. Gloucester worked out a little, but the home team attacked with vigour. Vile opened out, but Davies missed his pass. Adams, however, recovered, and with a strong burst crossed with a corner try. Vile converted with a grand kick.

Gloucester made a brief visit to the home end, but Newport worked out with footwork, and Romans failing to check, the City were in a dangerous position. The situation, however, was saved.

Newport heeling, the backs were continually in possession, but the Gloucester defence was safe, F. Smith twice bringing down W. Thomas when he looked dangerous. The visitors stuck pluckily to their task, and for a time held their opponents well. Hudson got the better of D. Boots in exchange kicking, and this advantage enabled Gloucester to gain a footing in the Newport end.

The home forwards quickly rushed out, and then a mistake by Holder nearly let Newport in under the posts. A scrum ensued near the Gloucester line, but Romans getting possession, cleared nicely.

Then with a good forward burst Gloucester reached the centre, where play was keenly contested. Through intercepting, the City once had a good chance, but C. Smith could not gather.

The game continued to be very fast and open, Newport especially doing well. Pretty play down touch between Vile and Davies saw the latter race away and cross-kick. C. Smith got to the ball on the line, but mis-kicked, and Francis rushing up scored a rather soft try. Vile kicked a goal, giving Newport a substantial lead.

On the re-start Adams showed up with a good run, but later faulty handling behind let Gloucester down. The visitors were soon repulsed, and but for splendid tackling by F. Smith, Thomas would have been in.

By good loose work Gloucester got out to midfield. A bad mistake by C. Smith, however, let Newport in, and the City were lucky to save near the 25. Francis made a good opening and passed to Thomas, but the wing man was pushed into touch-in-goal.

Ensuing play was evenly contested at midfield, till H. Smith intercepted and fed F. Smith, who cross-kicked, but nothing resulted.

The closing stages were exciting, Newport pressing, but Gloucester gained relief by the aid of a penalty. Before the end Gloucester had a chance, and Hudson dropped a goal, but the whistle had gone for an infringement. Just on time Vile scored for Newport, and converted.

#### RESULT :

Newport ..... 5 goals (1d) (24 points)

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

#### REMARKS.

Newport thoroughly earned their victory, for they played grand football. Gloucester did well up to a point, but behind the scrummage the City were badly beaten in combination. It was a splendid game to watch, and one of the most open displays seen this season.

Forward the City pack played a hard game, but they were not so good as their opponents in all-round work. Vile was very smart at half-back, and in the second half Francis combined beautifully with his partner. Hall and Stephens worked very well, but the support behind was not satisfactory.

"Whacker" Smith was faulty in handling, and few combined movements were witnessed on the visitors' side. Hubert Smith was conspicuous for some good play, and F. Smith tackled in fine style. Hudson also distinguished himself.

Romans was uncertain at full-back, and did not shape any too well at the opposing forwards. Boots, too, was not at his best.

Of the Newport three-quarters, Adams was in splendid form, and the other men were clever and resourceful in aggressive movements.