

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1906.

TO-DAY'S MATCHES.

GLOUCESTER v. NEWPORT.

CITY BEATEN AT KINGSHOLM.

NEWPORT WIN BY SUCCESSFUL GOAL KICKING.

This was Gloucester's first important match at Kingsholm, and the visit of the Newportonians proved a big attraction.

With one exception – Hudson for Butler – Gloucester played the same team that defeated London Welsh, but Newport made several changes.

The teams took the field at 3.10 as follows : –

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

Referee : Mr. F. W. Nicholls (Leicester).

## THE GAME.

The ground was in capital condition, and the attendance was easily the largest of the season. Newport won the toss, and Parham kicked off from the Worcester-street goal. Jenkins marked under pressure, and with his return Romans sent to touch inside the home half.

After a couple of scrums Newport heeled, and Vile sent out to Francis, who ran some distance. He was, however, tackled, and losing the ball, F. Smith kicked down. Stephens followed up and gathered the ball, sending a pass to Johns, who kicked to touch. Parham broke away a little later, and Vile was forced to kick out of play.

Gloucester heeled, and tried passing, but a Newport man intercepted, and had a clear field with the exception of Romans. Running to the City custodian, he handed to Gould, who raced home from the centre and planted the ball behind the posts. The try was one of the luckiest imaginable, but Newport were smart in seizing their chance. Vile kicked an easy goal, and Newport had a five points' lead in less than five minutes' play.

Gloucester re-started, and at once took play to their opponents' end. Hesitation in the open lost ground, and then the visitors dribbled right away, C. Smith saving a few yards outside. Newport pressed, and exchanges between Vile and Francis nearly put the latter over. For an infringement Newport were penalised. The kick went to Thomas, who, though fumbling, recovered, and dodging a couple of opponents, got in a clever kick to touch.

Play was fast in the home half, but at length Stephens and Romans gained ground with fine kicks. Griffiths replied to a big punt by Romans to C. Smith, who returned with interest. The ball being fumbled, the Gloucester men were put on side, and H. Smith securing, he put in a splendid run and scored in the corner amidst applause. Romans failed at goal. Newport were playing one short, Adams having missed the train.

Resuming, the Gloucester forwards heeled cleverly, and a long pass was sent out to Hudson, who with a magnificent burst reached the full-back, before being checked. Immediately after the Gloucester backs were off again, and from a pass by Stephens, F. Smith made a gallant effort to round the opposition, being collared a few yards outside. Newport gained relief, but were penalised, and Romans had a shot for goal, a fine attempt going wide.

Gould ran out and punted to A. Hall, who allowed the ball to roll to touch at the centre. Hudson failing to pick up, the Newport forwards rushed away, but Romans saved grandly, though at the expense of a knock out. He quickly recovered, and the Newport three-quarters started an attack, but Thomas failed to take his pass. Gloucester soon cleared, and kicked down to Griffiths, who was collared before he could reply.

Further headway was made, but Gould picking up, he ran across the ground. "Whacker" Smith, however, brought off a superb tackle, amidst applause. Ensuing play was in the Newport half, where the Gloucester forwards shone in a terrific burst. Holder marked under difficulties, but the City did not gain much by Roman's kick.

Marks fell to either side, which kept the game pretty even. At length the Newport halves opened out and Thomas dashed away only to see Stephens throw him to touch in fine style. Hall beat Vile at the scrum and dribbled away, but he kicked too hard, and Jones fielding, he kicked to touch.

A dashing rush by the Gloucester forwards was well saved by a visitor, and then from a kick by H. Smith, Griffiths marked. Romans, however, returned to touch nicely. Some close scrummaging ended in the City forwards heeling, and Hall, H. Smith, and Hawker took part in some neat exchanges down touch. The latter punted high to Griffiths, who failed to take, and the home men were nearly over. Adams now appeared, and played at centre, Jones going into the pack. On the Newport 25 the visitors heeled but Francis' kick was charged down by H. Smith, and Griffiths luckily sent to touch with a flying kick.

Soon afterwards Romans forced a minor with a drop at goal. The drop out was received by C. Smith, who put in a good return to Thomas, who was forced to touch. Subsequent play was very keen, the forwards on both sides working with great vigour. Hall got the ball away cleverly to H. Smith, who fed his brother. Hudson eventually received, but he was too closely hemmed in to do anything.

Gloucester continued to hold the advantage, and a forward was nearly through with a mighty burst. He eventually succumbed to numbers a few yards outside. Newport relieved the pressure, and then the interval was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Newport ..... 1 goal  
Gloucester ..... 1 try

Pritchard resumed with a big kick which Romans took on the line, and running round punted to touch near the quarter flag. Hall and Stephens gained ground for Gloucester, but the visitors replied with a passing bout, and Davies was only pulled to touch in time by Hudson.

Newport still attacked and rushed to the line, where the forwards saved. From a scrum Hall got hold and punted out to Griffiths. The latter, with a splendid kick, dropped a fine goal, giving his side a valuable lead of six points.

Gloucester resumed, and play was fast and furious. Hudson, after a scramble, lost possession of the ball, and W. Thomas securing, he went off at a great pace. "Whacker" Smith, however, got in one of his smothering tackles amidst great enthusiasm. Gloucester soon worked down, and feeble passing by the visitors saw H. Smith dribble through and pick up. He tried to dodge Griffiths but was held up, where a pass to Hall would have given the latter a try.

Some exciting scrimmaging work followed in the Newport 25, out of which the Gloucester men came out best. With a determined rush the ball was taken to the line, and Stephens credited with a corner try. Romans failed at goal.

Newport resumed, and Griffiths made his mark off Romans' return. Gloucester went close again, but a wild pass lost the position, and Thomas ran well down. He subsequently punted over Romans' head, and Hudson, who ran back recovered, was upset on the line.[sic] Matters looked dangerous for the City, but Romans eventually cleared with a timely punt to touch.

Gloucester made further progress with a passing bout, but Hudson could not do anything when he received. Good work in the lines out by Newport took play to the home half, where operations waged for some few minutes. Newport tried to open out, and Adams cross-kicked, but F. Smith proved his usefulness at a critical moment.

The forwards hereabouts got warm, and the referee stopped play and addressed the players, his remarks being cheered by the crowd. Resuming, H. Smith and F. Smith combined in some neat work down touch, but they were stopped at the centre. For an infringement Gloucester were penalised, but the shot at goal fell short, and Hall punted to touch beyond midfield.

Gloucester held their position splendidly, but a faulty pass allowed Newport to get through to Romans, who saved in good style. From this point Newport set up a hot attack, and Gould, with a strong run, nearly beat the defence. Directly afterwards Vile set his backs going, and Adams feeding Davies, the wing man rounded the opposition and scored wide out. The place kick failed.

Gloucester resumed, and the City worked hard to reduce the margin against them. Near the centre the City forwards broke away, and beating Griffiths the ball was taken over the line and Parham scored. Again Romans failed at goal.

The last five minutes were contested at a great pace, and twice Gloucester looked likely to gain the coveted opening.

Just before the end there was a lucky kick down by Newport, and Gloucester fumbling on the line the visitors scored another soft try. A goal resulted. Soon afterwards the end was sounded.

RESULT :

Newport ..... 3 goals (1d) 1 try (17 points)

Gloucester ..... 3 tries (9 points)

REMARKS.

It was an extraordinary game, but Gloucester contributed in a large measure to their own defeat. Taking play throughout the City had quite as much of the game as their opponents, but silly mistakes in passing gave Newport several openings which the visitors were not slow in taking advantage of.

The first try came through an interception of an ill-judged transfer, but the Newport man who fielded clearly knocked the ball forward, and the referee made a mistake in allowing the movement to continue.

On numerous other occasions Gloucester were sadly at fault, and in more than one instance the mistakes resulted in the home team losing a good attacking position. The final try to Newport was a very soft affair, and Romans apparently allowed the ball to roll between his legs.

Analysing the scoring, it will be seen that each side scored three tries, but Newport's successful conversions and the dropped goal by Griffiths – a fine effort from near the touch line – gave the visitors a substantial lead of eight points. That Gloucester did not deserve to lose by such a large margin will be readily admitted. Newport certainly had the pace of the home team in nearly every department, but Gloucester stuck to their opponents in fine style.

Forward it was a rare tussle for supremacy, and there was precious little to choose between the rival packs. Pritchard and Holder, in the lines-out, were great for their respective sides, and both players had to submit to a considerable amount of mauling.

The City players were not quite so effective in the loose, taking the game through, as the previous week at Leyton, but at times they let themselves go with a vengeance. Two of the tries scored came from superb bursts, and if the men had played on Griffiths a little more they would have added to the list. Johns, Parham, Collins, and Matthews were splendid workers for Gloucester, and the veteran Boots, Dowell, and Partridge were equally distinguished for Newport.

In the scrums Newport were the heavier set, but the home pack got the ball a fair number of times, even heeling when they were being pushed off the ball. As before mentioned it was a rousing struggle forward, and if the men got warm at times there was some slight excuse. Mr. Nicholls, however, controlled the game with a firm hand, and allowed an occasional "breather" for the men to cool down.

At half-back the rival pairs were well matched, though individually Hubert Smith was the most conspicuous. He scored his try very smartly, and his kicking was very judicious. Hall marked Vile very effectively, and he got the ball away from the scrum very cleverly.

In the three-quarter line Newport were the better combination, and all the men were faster than the Gloucester players. Still there were far too many mistakes in handling on both sides, and these discounted a lot of the good work done. In the centre, "Whacker" Smith was immense in tackling, whilst Stephens played a really useful game. Hudson made one glorious run in the first half, but he was at fault more than once later in the game. F. Smith, on the right wing, made the best use of his opportunities, and with another five yards to operate in he would have beaten the Newport defence on one occasion.

Newport might have done better with the chances they had, but the players were inconsistent. Wyatt Gould showed speed and judgment occasionally, but his transfers were not always accurate. Thomas displayed dash on the wing, and Davies was very nippy when properly fed. Adams, who came on the field late, was not particularly prominent.

Griffiths, who deputised for D. Boots at full-back, was very shaky at times in defence. When given plenty of room he kicked well, but his tendency to mark at every conceivable opportunity showed decided weakness. Romans did a lot of excellent work, and his fielding generally was beyond reproach. That mistake at the end, however, rather spoiled his display.

GLOUCESTER A v. NEWPORT A.

CITY SECONDS LOSE BY A GOAL.

At Newport in dull weather. Newport started and Gloucester immediately attacked, and gave Newport a hot time. They started a bout of passing, but Butler knocked on. The Gloucester forwards were prominent for some fine footwork and forced a minor. Day got away on the left, but was grandly tackled by Jones. Soon after Butler got away, but was held. Gloucester still held the advantage in the scrum, but failed to score.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

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

Newport improved in the second half and attacked, but the Gloucester defence was sound. Soon after, however, Martin scored a try for Newport under the posts, and Rowlands converted.

Gloucester took up the attack again, and Dix and Arthur worked smartly together and fed their three-quarters, but the latter failed to hold the ball. Welshman at back was very safe, and brought off some fine saves, his kicking also being good. The end came with Gloucester pressing.

RESULT :

Newport II ..... 1 goal (5 points)  
Gloucester II ..... Nil