

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1937

GLOUCESTER 30 Pts., LYDNEY 3

WELSH INTERNATIONAL'S SUCCESSFUL DEBUT

GLOUCESTER BACKS TOO FAST AND CLEVER FOR OPPONENTS

LYDNEY'S PLUCKY DISPLAY

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester opened the season at Kingsholm to-day with a victory over Lydney, whose team included several young players who were making their debut in senior football.

Gloucester fielded a strong side, with Boughton, the new vice-captain, back in his old position in place of Parker, and two new three-quarters in W. H. Hopkin (the Newport and Welsh International wing) and C. J. Dibden (Chepstow). Team practice, however, had been impossible owing to the state of the ground.

Up till Wednesday the odds were strongly in favour of a postponement of the match, but the break in the weather the next day, with hours of steady rain, put matters right, and the "call-off" was not necessary to the delight of the club's followers. The playing surface at Kingsholm was in splendid condition, but naturally, after the long drought, was hard underneath.

Lydney had to make several late changes, and F. Gough and K. S. Scott, now of Gloucester, filled vacancies in the team. The visitors brought a good contingent of spectators and the attendance was about 3,000 at the start.

GLOUCESTER

FULL-BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: R. E. Hook, J. H. Bown, C. J. Dibden, and W. H. Hopkin.

HALF-BACKS: E. R. Day and Don Meadows.

FORWARDS: T. Price, A. Carpenter, C. Harris, J. G. A'Bear (capt.), R. Morris, Dr. Dick, A. Welshman, and E. Bayliss.

LYDNEY

FULL-BACK: J. Lee.

THREE-QUARTERS: I. Hopkins, A. Pollard, E. G. Scott, and D. Kear.

HALF-BACKS: F. Gough and W. James.

FORWARDS: M. Wicks, H. Brown, D. [Remainder of team missing].

THE GAME

From Meadows' kick-off Kear knocked on and the first scrum took place in the Lydney half. Gloucester heeled smartly, but Gough pounced on Day and prevented him getting the ball away. Immediately after Gough was penalised for an offside tackle, and Boughton had a place for goal but sent wide.

The visitors punted out, but Meadows returned finely to touch 15 yards from the Lydney line. Again, the visitors came under the ban of the referee and with a kick from near the touch line Boughton hit the upright, the ball rebounding into play. A Lydney player secured and sent to touch.

HOPKIN SCORES FIRST TRY

Lydney played up strongly in subsequent play, and with useful rushes gained a footing at the home 25. Here Day got the ball away neatly and Boughton coming into the line of attack passed to Bown, who cut through cleverly and raced for 40 yards to Lee. HOPKIN was well in position, and taking a well-judged transfer romped home with the first try. Boughton failed with the goal kick from a fairly easy angle.

Play on the restart was a bit scrambling, but the lighter Lydney forwards gave trouble with loose rushes, and the City were forced to defend. From inside their own half Gloucester started passing and Dibden tried hard to break away but was pulled down in time. Then Glo'ster fumbled and W. James securing ran and punted to the home line. The City had one or two anxious moments, but eventually Boughton cleared with a fine touch-finder.

KEEN TACKLING

Lydney displayed keen tackling in later play but Gloucester, opening out, Meadows dodged through smartly and Bown receiving handed on to Hopkin. The latter ran hard and cross-kicked in front of the goal, but A'Bear just failed to pick up and Lydney saved. A subsequent punt to clear went almost straight to touch, and from the line-out WELSHMAN dropped over with a corner try. Boughton failed with the goal kick, but Gloucester were six points up.

The resumption saw Lydney holding their own for a few minutes, and close marking prevented the home backs making headway. Hook and Bown showed smartness on the left wing, but the former was unable to clear, and then a sharp burst by Lydney was stopped by Boughton. Combination by the Gloucester backs gave Hopkin a chance and the Welsh International sprinted away, but stumbled and fell. Gloucester went close after this, but they were beaten off. Near mid-field the City backs handled and Bown fed Hook, but the latter misfielded and a possible opening was lost.

GLOUCESTER WORRIED

Gloucester were worried a good deal in the loose by the Lydney front, and Pollard made one or two sharp dashes which tested the defence.

The City's combined work was none too effective, and mistakes in handling led to one or two narrow escapes. Boughton, however, was splendid in defence and clearing.

Concentrating on loose rushing Lydney, who were playing with splendid dash, made . . .

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. . . also tackled resolutely. Gloucester displayed smartness at times, but there was a lack of cohesion and the handling was uncertain.

CITY ADD TO THEIR LEAD

Gloucester opened the second half strongly, but Lee, who was shaping well at full back, kicked well. Opening out by Day and Meadows saw Dibden clear the immediate defence and serve Hopkin, who brought off a brilliant run, but was forced to kick and the defence prevailed. Immediately Gloucester were away again, and this time HOPKIN made no mistake, running hard once in possession and scoring wide out. No goal resulted.

Lydney had the better of exchanges on the restart, the forwards displaying great keenness in the loose and following up smartly.

GLOUCESTER'S FOURTH TRY

The City were kept confined to their half for some minutes, but the visitors could not find the desired opening. Exchange kicking followed, ending in Meadows sending Bown on the move, but in trying to cut inside the Old Wycliffian was brought down.

Scott was temporarily laid out in a tackle just after this, and on resuming Welshman shone in a lovely bit of footwork for 30 yards. The ball finally came across to the left, where PRICE fielded and scored a good try. Boughton failed in his fourth attempt at conversion.

Keen forward work marked the play on the restart, with Lydney keeping matters lively with their close footwork. The Gloucester backs, however, were always a danger when on the attack despite the mistakes which occurred.

CLEVER SCORES

Another try quickly followed to Gloucester and the movement covered more than half the length of the ground. Dibden made splendid headway with a delightful swerving run, and after Bown had handled Hook was placed in possession. Cleverly evading the touch line HOOK raced for the line, and crossed with a capital try. Boughton made his first successful goal-kick, giving Gloucester a lead of 17 points.

Lydney fell away after this reverse, and Gloucester put on severe pressure. Hopkin was prominent with another fine dash, and then Dibden, Bowen and HOOK combined in a clever movement which ended in the latter scoring behind the posts. Boughton easily converted.

HOPKIN'S BRILLIANT EFFORT

Gloucester continued to exhibit the more forceful game, and Lydney were placed on the defensive. The visitors, however, offered a stubborn resistance. A splendid touch-finder by Boughton from a penalty, put the City on their opponents' line, and with a sharp push, the ball was carried over and MORRIS credited with a try, which Boughton failed to goal.

The best try of the match followed a few minutes later. From an attack on the left Hook threw out a wide pass to Meadows in the centre of the field, and after Bown had made progress he fed HOPKIN. The Welshman ran brilliantly from just over the half-way line to score his third try, and Boughton added the goal points.

Lydney put in a lot of strenuous work in the concluding stages and their plucky efforts were rewarded near the end, KEAR scoring in the corner. The place kick failed.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ... 3 goals, 5 tries (30 pts.)
LYDNEY 1 try (3 pts.)