

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1931

LYDNEY 5 PTS.; GLOUCESTER 3 PTS.

LYDNEY'S GREAT AMBITION REALISED

FIRST VICTORY AT KINGSHOLM FOR 27 YEARS

DESPERATE FORWARD GAME

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Lydney, as usual, provided the opposition for the opening match of the season at Kingsholm, and another close contest was expected.

Last year both games between the rivals were drawn – 0-0 at Kingsholm, and 8-8 at Lydney.

Of the last eight matches Gloucester had won three and lost two, the other three being drawn, with the aggregate scoring 45 pts. to 34 in favour of Gloucester.

TEAM CHANGES

Gloucester had to make several late changes owing to the absence of Brookes and Roy James, and the back division had to be reorganised.

Lydney also were severely handicapped in having both their regular half-backs away. Thomas injured his knee last week, and Wellington was unable to get away from work to lead the side. In their absence Lane and Kelsey, the reserves, filled the vacancies.

At Kingsholm (kick-off 3.30).

The revised teams were :

GLOUCESTER

BACK : L. Masters.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. Hook, G. Orpin, V. Sheppard and L. Abbey.

HALF-BACKS : F. Fifield and G. W. Parker.

FORWARDS : F. Wadley, A. Carpenter, F. G. Merrett, J. Hemming, Dr. Steele-Perkins, J. Davies, L. E. Saxby (capt.), and A. Welshman.

LYDNEY

BACK : J. Jay.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. Probert, R. Moore, W. Richards, and E. Pritchard.

HALF-BACKS : R. Lane and E. Kelsey.

FORWARDS : P. Brice, P. C. Taylor, P. C. Anderson, B. Nelmes, J. Willis, Cyril Price, S. Nelmes, and J. Wintour.

Referee : Mr. S. H. Budd (Somerset R.U.).

After a fine week the weather took on an unfavourable turn, and heavy rain seriously affected the attendance.

THE GAME

Following Gloucester's start play settled in the Lydney half, good kicking on either side being the chief incidents at the outset. Hook had a shot from a penalty early on, but sent wide, and a visitor punted out to touch.

Gloucester getting the ball out, Parker started a bout of passing, but Hook was well tackled by Probert, and from his inside pass the visitors kicked away. Play was very quiet for a time, and the difficulty of getting the ball into the scrum showed no improvement with the new rule.

LYDNEY IN DANGER

From a penalty Hook found touch beautifully close in, and Lydney were in danger. A sharp punt, however, gained relief. Gloucester went back with a sharp forward burst, but were checked in time. The slippery state of the ball and surface was proving a handicap to the players, and mistakes in handling were frequent.

THE FIRST TRY

Lydney relieved pressure by the aid of Pritchard, who punted past Masters, but Hook got across and gathered though his punt to touch was a poor one. The visitors attacked with a forward rush, but a penalty to the City brought relief. A big kick made further headway, Jay being tackled in possession.

From this point the Gloucester forwards carried a scrum, and with a determined burst carried the ball over, WADLEY being credited with a try. Steele-Perkins failed at goal.

OPENING MISSED

The restart saw Lydney pay a brief visit to the City half, but they were quickly beaten off, and Parker aided the advance with a nice touch-finder. Good combined work by the forwards tested Lydney, but the final pass was ruled forward. Hook failed with a place for goal from a penalty, and a little later Sheppard dropped a pass with a glorious opening, the ball slipping out of his hands. This was the City's best opening so far for a try.

Lydney luckily cleared, and Probert with a flying kick sent to the Gloucester line. Parker was hotly chased, but the Cryptian successfully cleared with a good punt.

Gloucester were having the better of the exchanges all round, but the football was not inspiring. Saxby led a dribble through and tackled his man, but the ball rolled loose and Lydney sent out of danger.

BAD CONDITIONS

The rain poured down again now, and the conditions were made worse for the players. Off-side by Anderson gave Hook another opportunity for a penalty goal, but his attempt was a poor one. The Lydney forwards showed improvement in subsequent play, the men being well together in several dashing bursts. Centre play followed for a time until Richards, with a neat effort, put his side in an attacking position.

The visitors worked well together, and another clever bit of play by Richards put them close on the left. Mis-kicking and failure to handle lost Lydney ground, and Perkins, with dashing footwork, took play to the other end. But neither side could find an opening, and the interval arrived with no addition to the score.

HALF-TIME :

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| GLOUCESTER | 1 try |
| LYDNEY | Nil |

It had been a ding-dong struggle in the first half, and Gloucester just about deserved their narrow lead. Lydney, however, had improved in the last fifteen minutes, especially forward.

KEEN FORWARDS

Gloucester led off strongly, but the players found it difficult to keep a footing. Wadley was prominent with a good effort down touch, and Hemming later burst through finely, Richards checking. Whenever the ball came to the backs little was done, and only the keenness of the forwards kept interest going.

Of individual incidents there were few, and play continued to be a battle royal with the forwards. Here the players were "all out" on either side, but the desperate work was too close to prove spectacular. Lydney once went through, and looked likely scorers, but Parker affected a splendid save.

The rough and tumble character of subsequent play appeared to appeal to some of the spectators, but it was not football. Each side in turn gained the advantage in loose rushes, but some real constructive work was wanted, and of this precious little was seen.

DISAPPOINTING FOOTBALL

The game proceeded on close forward lines, the respective backs being able to do little except kick. Play went in Lydney's favour and there was more desperate tackling. Richards was laid out in stopping one rush, but after attention was able to continue.

Scrum and line-outs were the regular order, and there was really nothing to write about. Parker, for Gloucester, kicked with judgment, but Lydney putting plenty of dash into their work got the upper hand. Masters was tackled a few yards from his line by Lane, and matters were dangerous for the City.

LYDNEY TAKE THE LEAD

A useful touch finder brought relief, but Lydney were not to be put off, and Fifield being brushed aside, the ball was carried over the line, and MOORE scored a try, which Kelsey converted, giving Lydney a two points lead. Lydney deserved reward for their persistent work, and their success was greeted with enthusiasm by the followers.

Resuming Gloucester at once set up a warm attack, Saxby making a bold bid for a score. But the captain was overwhelmed ten yards out. Lydney came away in dashing style, and the Gloucester line was placed in danger. The situation was saved, but the City could not get beyond the 25 line. There was more life in the visiting forwards, Willis leading the pack well. Gloucester made spasmodic efforts, but they never had another chance, and Lydney left the field victors by a goal kick.

RESULT :

LYDNEY 1 goal (5 points)
GLOUCESTER 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

At last! Lydney achieved their great ambition to-day by winning at Kingsholm – the first time since season 1904-5, when they beat Gloucester by 8 pts. to 6. It was a narrow win – Richards' successful goal kick decided the issue – but Lydney deserve full congratulations on their triumph. Beaten for the major portion of the first half, the visitors recovered splendidly, and there was no question of their superiority in the closing stages.

Of the football witnessed it was keen and desperate, but as a spectacle of the handling game was without a single feature. The conditions in a great measure accounted for this, but even with reserves included on either side better results should have resulted. On the whole I preferred the Lydney backs, with Richards the smartest of the set. Lane and Kelsey were subjected to a big test at half-back in the absence of the captain (Wellington) and Thomas, but both performed creditably, Kelsey doing some serviceable kicking.

On the Gloucester side, Fifield was overwhelmed at times by Willis and his co-wing forwards, but Parker did good service in defence and kicked well. All attempts at opening out, however, had poor results, and combined attacks on either side were almost negligible.

FORWARDS' GRUELLING TEST

It was another gruelling game between the forwards, with Lydney finishing the stronger. Gloucester had their chances of making the game safe in the first twenty minutes, but the necessary skill and finish were lacking, added to which the Lydney tackling was very sound.

Saxby played a strong, dashing game for Gloucester, and Steele-Perkins, Wadley and Hemming gave able support, but all had to "go through it" in those desperate exchanges in the second half. Willis and Taylor were the principal leaders for the winners, but there were no slackers in the side.

Masters, at full back had some trying moments, and was at fault at times, but did not suffer in comparison with other members of the side. Jay did useful work for Lydney.

It was a disappointing opening at Kingsholm, but Lydney have previously shaken the City, and no one will begrudge them their long-delayed success.

Next week : Moseley at Kingsholm; Gloucester United v. Listers, at Dursley.

JC