

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1927

POINTLESS DRAW AT LYDNEY

GLOUCESTER WELL HELD BY HOME SIDE

A KEEN AND HARD GAME

For their return match with Lydney, Gloucester had to re-arrange the three-quarter line owing to Nicholas, suffering with an injured ankle, not being available. James went to the centre position and Abbey, of the A team, again came into the side on the wing.

Loveridge, though better, is still on the sick list, and was not included in the selected team.

The City's visit, as usual, proved a big attraction locally, and there was every prospect of a keen and exciting game. In the first meeting between the teams this season Gloucester only won by a penalty goal (kicked by Saxby) to nil. Last year Lydney won at home by 6 points to 5.

Lydney made one alteration, C. Williams taking the place of Ray Probert at full-back, the latter nursing a damaged ankle received in a match with Gloucester A.

The Lydney Club Committee took the precaution of covering the ground on Friday, and this enabled the match to be played. Otherwise play would have been impossible owing to the severity of the frost.

The weather was bitterly cold, though the sun shone brightly.

The attendance was about 2,000, easily the best of the season.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. Hough, Roy James, A. W. Lewis, and L. Abbey.

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and Stan Short.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby, J. F. Evans, E. Comley, T. Wadley, J. Davies, G. Foulkes, N. East, and T. Field.

LYDNEY

BACK : C. Williams.

THREE-QUARTERS : E. Pritchard, W. Richards, T. Biddle (capt.), and S. Probert.

HALF-BACKS : T. Wellington and W. Thomas.

FORWARDS : P.C. Taylor, P.C. Morris, F. Fletcher, F. Willetts, P. Brice, J. Willis, L. Howells, and S. Nemes.

Referee : Mr. P. Burman (Bristol).

THE GAME

The kick-off was a quarter of an hour late. Gloucester winning the toss, Taylor started for Lydney. Boughton received and, coming through nicely, found touch with a good kick. Immediately the home team were penalised for off-side, and Saxby had a long shot for a goal, a good attempt falling short. Williams receiving, kicked finely, and with a sharp rush Lydney reached the City line. Close work ended in the ball being kicked forward, and Gloucester conceded a minor.

Following the drop out Lydney started passing, but Biddle failed to handle, and James coming through gathered the ball on the bounce and was well away. Williams, however, effected a splendid open tackle, amidst cheers. Working well together, Lydney got past the half-way, where some passing broke down. Later the Gloucester backs were similarly at fault.

A penalty to Gloucester enabled Boughton to gain a lot of ground with his kick, but the Lydney forwards quickly recovered. Another penalty against Lydney was taken full advantage of by Boughton, but Williams put his side back with a splendid touch-finder. The Lydney forwards were getting the ball in the scrums, but the backs failed to make much headway.

The City forwards shone in a good rush, Wadley leading, and Lydney were placed on the defensive. Twice Gloucester tried to open out, but James and Hough both slipped to the ground and nothing resulted. Boughton picked up from the feet of the Lydney forwards and cleared effectively, following up and presenting a return. Play was keen and vigorous, but the players were finding the foothold a bit treacherous on the surface.

The Lydney forwards heeling, there was a bright bit of passing by the backs, but the inside transfer was not accepted. Clever work by Milliner opened out for Gloucester but James sent an erratic pass to Hough. The wing man, however, gathered and made an attempt to get clear, but was unsuccessful.

Milliner again shone with a breakaway on the blind side of the scrum and fed Saxby, but the City captain was beautifully tackled by Biddle. Then in some loose play James fielded and dropped for goal, but only minor resulted. Gloucester held the advantage for a few minutes but the Lydney backs, with smart handling, made a lot of ground. Gloucester came again, Milliner and Short doing well, but the passing behind broke down.

With a combined dribble, the City were dangerous, but with the line in sight Davies picked up and attempted a futile drop at goal – bad tactics. Subsequent play was confined to the home half, but Gloucester could not find an opening. From a penalty Boughton tried a place for goal, but his shot went wide of the upright and Williams touched down.

The Lydney full back held his own in some exchange kicking with Boughton, and later a fine rush by the home forwards placed the City on the defensive. One hot attack was repulsed but Lydney returned, and the City were hard pressed to keep their line intact.

Combination between Wellington and Thomas saw the latter make a strong effort to burst through, but he was pulled down in time and the ball getting loose, Boughton gathered and found touch at the centre with a splendid punt. Soon after the interval was called.

HALF-TIME :
GLOUCESTER Nil
LYDNEY Nil

It had been a keen and sporting struggle with very little in it. The forwards were particularly well matched, though Lydney, perhaps, had a bit the better of matters in heeling. Behind, the home backs showed good form at times, and on the whole were smarter in handling. The defence on both sides, however, was very sound.

Saxby restarted for Gloucester, but Thomas's return found touch at the centre. The Lydney forwards had the better of the opening exchanges, and one loose burst looked promising, until spoiled by off-side. An exchange of kicks left play in Gloucester's hands, but failure to field by Thomas allowed Short and a couple of forwards to dribble some thirty yards and pass the full back. Probert, however, managed to get the ball to touch.

At mid-field the Lydney backs combined nicely, and Pritchard burst away on the left and cross-kicked over the line, but Boughton managed to touch down.

Following the drop-out Boughton was prominent with a fine pick up and kick half the length of the field. This led to a sharp Gloucester attack, and after some loose kicking Saxby gathered and made desperate bursts but could not get through.

Lydney cleared from a dangerous position but Williams failing to take advantage from a penalty the City got close again. Lydney, however, marked closely, and with useful rushes worked out to beyond the twenty-five. Lewis, from a pass by Milliner, went up the centre, but Abbey missed the pass and the ball was captured by Probert. The latter punted back, but Boughton fielded with Willis almost on top of him and got in a wonderful return.

The game was desperately contested forward, and there was some very hard tackling, but for the next few minutes there was little of interest. Gloucester once tried to open out, but the passing was too slow and erratic to prove effective. Lydney, too, failed in the same respect, and the football except for its keenness, lacked incident. Rush and counter rush followed with regularity which became somewhat monotonous.

At length Milliner got the ball away. Abbey however, was quickly upset, and a Lydney man kicked near the 25 flag. From this point, the Gloucester forwards broke away with a passing run, Saxby twice handling, but Wadley, the last to receive, was collared.

Lydney, with desperate rushes, reached favourable quarters, and close forward play followed at mid-field. Now and again the ball was got to the backs, but the marking was so deadly that players in possession could not travel far. The Gloucester forwards lasted well against a determined opposition, but the backs could not break away in possession.

Short and Lewis combined in smart efforts to break through, but the tackling was too good. Just before the end Lydney made one big effort to score. Boughton fell in gathering, and losing the ball the home team took the ball close to the line, where Abbey saved. Gloucester cleared to the 25, where the game was being contested at the finish.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER	Nil
LYDNEY	Nil

REMARKS

A desperate and keen game, with a draw a fitting result. Both sides had their chances of scoring, but all through the defence was superior to the attack.

Forward it was a great struggle, with very little to choose between the rival packs. For Gloucester, Saxby, Wadley, Davis and Evans were great workers, but all took their gruelling splendidly. Lydney were best served by Taylor, Willis and Willetts, but here, again, every man did his full share of the hard work.

Milliner and Wellington had a rare duel at half-back, the Gloucester scrum worker performing wonders in saving. He also tried to open out, but the support accorded was very moderate, and there was no outstanding player at three-quarter for the City.

Lydney outside were superior in their handling, but they, too, made mistakes after promising movements had been initiated. Both full backs did wonderfully well and were seen at their best under the severest pressure. In Williams Lydney possess a promising recruit, who should be heard of in the future. Boughton played one of his finest games for the City. His defence and saving were excellent, and his kicking of splendid length and judgment.

Next week : Gloucester v. Cheltenham; at Kingsholm.

GLOUCESTER A v. CHEPSTOW

MATCH ABANDONED

Chepstow should have visited Kingsholm this afternoon, but owing to the severe frost the ground this morning was found too hard, and an early decision was made to cancel the fixture.