

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1907

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. LYDNEY

CITY'S LAST MATCH

GLOUCESTER FINISH WITH A VICTORY

For their closing match of the season at Lydney, Gloucester were again weakly represented. Stephens came in at half, but Hudson, "Whacker" Smith, Hawker, Pegler, and Vears were all absent. Lydney, encouraged by their victory over Bristol last week, had great hopes of repeating the success against Gloucester, and on the City's form at Cinderford the visitors' supporters were anything but confident as to the result. Hudson only cried off on Friday evening, and his defection necessitated a re-arrangement of the three-quarter line, West going centre, and Bloxsome filling the wing position. Lydney, who played seven forwards and eight backs, had a strong side out. W. Vance, of Gloucester Old Boys, played vice Austin Lewis in the home team.

GLOUCESTER	Positions	LYDNEY
A. Wood	Backs.	W. Ellaway
F. Smith	Three-Quarter	W. Vance
T. West	Backs.	A. Huzzey
H. Smith	"	T. Wild
F. Bloxsome	"	L. Powell
D. R. Gent (capt.)	Half-Backs.	E. Bayliss
J. Stephens	"	G. Ellaway
—	Extra Back.	J. Miles
B. Parham	Forwards.	G. W. Jones
W. Johns	"	T. Downing
W. Holder	"	F. Sleeman
H. Collins	"	W. Probert
A. Purton	"	G. Charles
D. Hollands	"	J. Nelmes
W. J. Pearce	"	W. Biddle
J. Wyburn	"	—

Parham kicked off for Gloucester, Jack Miles returning well over the centre line to touch. A rush by the Gloucester forwards followed, but they were soon sent into their own half by Miles, who broke away from a scrum. The home halves handled on the right, but there was little room for the wing man. The Gloucester forwards then went away in a body and tested Ellaway, who, however, proved equal to the occasion, and cleared in smart style.

Gloucester heeled well, but Hubert Smith failed to take, and Lydney breaking through were all but over. Then Frank Smith put in a strong dribble on the right for Gloucester, but he failed to take, and a good chance was lost. Grand play by Lydney took the game back again, Wild showing up well. Sleeman broke away from a line-out, Wood saving a yard from the line.

Splendid passing by all the Gloucester backs looked promising for the City, but F. Smith failed to take the last pass, and Bayliss stopped them. Still the Lydney forwards were playing a fine game, and play was chiefly in the Gloucester half. Powell and Wild tried hard to get clear, and the Gloucester backs were always dangerous when they got the ball, the two Smiths doing very good work.

Bayliss dribbled from a scrum, but he kicked too hard and Wood was able to touch down. Gloucester profited by the kick-out, and Frank Smith, after a sharp run, cross-kicked to Bloxsome, who, however, knocked on in trying to pick up. The ball from succeeding scrums came out nicely to the visiting backs, but Bloxsome was again at fault, and Wild removed to safer quarters again.

Lydney were not long in danger, Jones and his colleagues again dribbling smartly to Wood, who was, fortunately for Gloucester, in his best mood. Huzzey then made a magnificent run, beating several men before being brought down just in time. Gent saved his side in marvellous style, but Lydney were soon attacking again. Jones put in a fine kick.

The City backs this time eased the pressure with a fine bout of passing, which was checked by Wild, who tackled H. Smith in a very sound manner. Gloucester got dangerously near the home line, and Parham scored near the posts, the Lydney tackling being at fault. Wood easily converted.

This was bad luck for Lydney, who up to this point had had much the better of the game.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 goal
Lydney Nil

Jones restarted for Lydney, and Powell fumbling Parham's return, Gloucester found a footing in the home half. The visiting backs got going, and Frank Smith had a good chance, but passed instead of going for the line.

Lydney were soon on the attack, a good combined movement taking play to the Gloucester end, where Wood made a remarkable save. Gloucester rapidly reached the homesters' half again, and Johns tried hard to force his way through. Jones made a grand run, but was unsupported, and his pass went astray, a good chance being lost.

For off-side play the visitors were penalised, and Bayliss gained ground with the ensuing kick. The game was keenly contested, Gloucester having more of the play than in the first half. The Gloucester backs showed up well with pretty handling, West and Hubert Smith interchanging neatly. The defence, however, was not caught napping, the tackling being very effective. Charles headed a movement by the Lydney forwards, the ball being taken down to Wood, who again proved equal to the occasion.

Creditable handling by both back divisions took place, but several knocks-on by the Gloucester backs were allowed to go unnoticed by the referee. Hubert Smith marked, and Wood tried a shot at goal, the ball rising nicely, only to go wide of the uprights, and Wild touched down.

Charles, Miles, and Downing ran down the touch-line in good style, the game being taken well into the Gloucester half. Bloxsome, however, neutralised matters with a grand run, but he failed to beat Ellaway, who effected a very fine tackle. Still, this mattered little, as the ball came out nicely to the visiting backs, and West made a grand opening, which ended in Frank Smith scoring a grand try in the corner. Wood failed to convert.

Parham soon afterwards tried a drop at goal, and the effort being unsuccessful Lydney cleared easily. Powell raised the hopes of the home supporters by a good run. On reaching Hubert Smith he passed to Vance, but the latter was grassed before he could get into his stride. Back towards the Lydney line the ball was driven by the Gloucester forwards, and Ellaway was called upon to save, which he did in a very clever manner, beating several of his opponents and then getting in a fine kick to touch.

Lydney now made a desperate effort to reduce the lead against them, and Jones ran strongly and started a bout of passing, which was only stopped just in time by Wood and West. Shortly after the whistle was sounded for the final.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)
Lydney Nil

REMARKS

(By our Lydney Correspondent)

The game was a very interesting one to watch, but the result was disappointing to the supporters of the home team, as the Timplaters did not really deserve to be beaten on the run of the game. In the first half Lydney had practically all the play, Gloucester being on the defence most of the time. The Gloucester backs defended grandly, and try how they would, the Lydney men could not score.

However, the homesters ought to have had a lead of at least ten points at the interval, and with just a little more finish at the critical moment this would no doubt have been the case. After the interval Gloucester were no doubt the better side, and the three-quarters put in a lot of good work. Still, except in scoring, they did not have so much of the game as Lydney had in the first half.

Forward, the Lydney seven more than held their own with the visiting eight, but they made the mistake frequently of kicking too hard, thus giving Wood time to clear. Jones played a fine game, and of the others, perhaps Parham, Johns, Hollands, Downing, Sleeman, and Charles were the most prominent for their respective sides.

At half honours were easy, the pairs being very well matched. Of the home quartette Huzzey, Wild, and Powell did well, and Vance was very useful on several occasions. The visiting quartette played very well indeed, their handling being distinctly good.

West played a very fine game, and Frank Smith was the better of the Gloucester wings, although Bloxsome put in a few good runs. Wood played grandly at back, and to him Gloucester were chiefly indebted for their victory. Ellaway also gave a creditable display, and made some plucky saves. Jack Miles, as the extra back, was hardly as prominent as against Bristol, but did a lot of useful things.

GLOUCESTER A v. LYDNEY A

CITY SECONDS' HANDSOME WIN

This match followed immediately after the boys had finished, the teams being as follows : —

[teams not published]

Gloucester started, and Dix feeding Robinson, the latter brought off a good run, but the subsequent pass was missed. F. Miles changed the venue with a neat bit of play, but the Gloucester forwards returned to the attack in some fast play.

Lydney soon worked out of danger, but Robinson, with a fine corkscrew run, beat a number of opponents, only to see his final pass go astray.

The Gloucester front made tracks for the line, but one of the players was held up outside. From a throw-out Griffiths secured, and jumping the full-back, scored a good try. Perry added the extra points.

Following the restart the Lydney backs combined in some clever exchanges, but Perry marked nicely from a cross-kick. The visitors, playing well together, attacked with vigour, but the Gloucester defence proved equal to the occasion.

Dix was instrumental in bringing relief to the home side, and the City Seconds subsequently rushed to the other end. A visitor being at fault near the line, Butler took advantage and registered a try. Perry failed at goal, though the attempt was a good one.

Resuming, the Lydney backs brought off a nice bout of passing, but they were stopped on the 25 line. Here a Gloucester forward marked, and with the kick found touch at midfield.

Arthur opened out nicely from the scrum, and a passing bout looked promising, but Robinson's transfer to Beard went wide.

Lydney responded with some neat work, and ensuing play was of a fast and interesting character. From a pick up Robinson broke through with a clever run, but held too long, and, losing the ball, the visitors dribbled back to the centre.

A big kick by a Gloucester man was well followed up, but Ellaway knocked on with a good opening for the home team. Lydney came away with some very neat football, Meek doing good work. The Gloucester lines narrowly escaped on two occasions, relief being found by conceding a minor.

A good dribble by the City forwards on the resumption gave the home men an advantage, and Arthur cross-kicked cleverly to Butler. The latter fielded and handed to Robinson, who re-passed to Egerton for the latter to run over easily. Perry kicked a good goal.

Ensuing play favoured Gloucester, and before the interval Dix crossed for Perry to add the extra points.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A 3 goals, 1 try
Lydney A Nil

Meek resumed for Gloucester, but a good kick by Miles put Lydney in a good position. Robinson cleared well under severe pressure, only to see a visiting forward break away from a throw-out and rush to the line, where he lost the ball. Dix eased the pressure with a smart kick, and later close following up beat the Lydney custodian.

The ball was subsequently directed to the visitors' goal, where Royal gathered and punted to touch. The Lydney forwards broke clean away with the ball at their feet, and were not checked until Perry was reached. Arthur ran back in tricky style, but Beard failed to take his pass. Immediately after Arthur was fouled by an opponent, and from the resultant penalty Perry dropped a fine goal, giving Gloucester a 21 points' lead.

Heavy rain was now falling, and made the ball difficult to handle. Perry shone for Gloucester at full-back, and the play of both teams was above average. A mistake by the visiting custodian nearly gave Gloucester another score, but the home players over-ran the ball.

A couple of minutes later, however, Arthur and a colleague tricked the visitors in a line-out, and the half-back, skipping over the full-back, scored behind the posts. Perry again converted.

Subsequent play was spoiled by the rain, and mistakes were numerous. Gloucester went very near another score, but they were beaten off.

Then near midfield a miss by Dix enabled the visitors to kick down, and the ball being taken past Perry, Lydney were credited with a try. The place-kick failed.

Just before the end Dix added to Gloucester's score, Perry failing at goal.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 5 goals (1p), 2 tries (29)
Lydney A 1 try (3)

REMARKS

The City Seconds wound up the season with a surprising win, but Lydney were by no means the outclassed team suggested by the score. At times the visitors showed really good football, and experienced hard lines on several occasions.

Gloucester started off in promising fashion, and forwards and backs were both conspicuous for capital work. Until the rain fell the game was exceedingly interesting, and was in striking contrast to the display the previous week.

Blackford, Griffiths, and A'Bear were very prominent of the City front line, and the former should be heard of in the future. At half, Dix and Arthur showed some pretty play, and the four three-quarters were all seen to advantage.

Perry gave a capital exhibition at full-back, and his goal kicking was distinctly good. Lydney had one or two smart players behind, and a resolute pack of forwards.