

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1907

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. LYDNEY

There was only a moderate attendance at Kingsholm to witness the first of the two fixtures arranged between these clubs, the dull weather and threatening outlook no doubt keeping many away.

There were no changes in the advertised teams, the players lining up as follows : –

Gloucester. – A. Wood, back; C. Smith, G. Cooke, E. Hall, A. Hudson, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), W. Johns, B. Parham, G. Matthews, H. Collins, D. Hollands, R. Craddock, H. Quixley, forwards.

Lydney. – J. Tingle, back; A. A. Lewis (capt.), H. Huzzey, G. E. Ellaway, E. Bayliss, three-quarter backs; Jack Miles, Jim Jones, half-backs; G. L. Jones, T. Downing, W. Probert, J. Nelmes, W. Stinchcombe, F. Sleeman, W. Wilcox, W. Biddle, forwards.

Referee : Referee : Mr. J. Ford

THE GAME

Gloucester won the toss, and Lydney started from the Worcester-street goal. Hall received, and with his return the City centre found touch at mid-field. Gloucester broke away with a loose rush, but they were nicely stopped by Miles, and the visiting forwards dribbled back.

Lydney were early awarded a penalty, but the kick was well returned, and midfield play followed. Lydney heeling, Miles passed to Lewis, but the ball went to touch.

The home team gained ground with a forward burst, but were stopped inside the visitors' half. In some loose play Collins gathered and opened out nicely. Stephens, Cook and Hall and transferred the other way, a knock-on resulting. The Gloucester backs were immediately set going again, but a forward transfer was given.

Play hovered in the Lydney 25, and a series of neat exchanges promised well. Again, however, the final pass was slightly forward. Clever work by the Lydney halves, and a cross-kick by Bayliss, sent to Wood, who was hotly pressed and eventually collared in possession.

Lydney went closer with a useful kick, but E. Hall cleared luckily after stumbling. From a line-out on the 25-line the Gloucester forwards went clean away, and Tingle was beaten. A visitor got back, but lost possession, and Parham picked up. The ball was juggled about by several players, ending in touch being given a few yards from the Lydney line.

The visitors worked out of danger, and later profited by a bad pass from Hall to Cook. Bayliss intercepted and kicked down to Wood, who was tackled directly he gathered. Things looked ominous for the home side, until Gent retrieved with a wonderful effort. He eventually passed to Hudson, who punted beyond the centre flag.

Lydney soon returned and called upon Wood, who got in a fine touch kick. A loose rush by the City gained considerable headway, and Cook recovered a mistake in good style.

Lydney got back with forward work, and Huzzey had a good chance, but made a feeble attempt to drop at goal, a minor resulting.

Following the drop-out there was some even play at mid-field, but mistakes were not infrequent. For off-side by Miles Gloucester got a free, and with the kick Wood put his side in a good position. Lydney, however, changed the venue and tried passing.

Cook, however, intercepted cleverly, and with a beautiful run beat the opposition cleverly. Lewis, however, came across and tackled the City player a dozen yards outside. Gloucester worked hard for a score, and Hudson looked likely to get through, but he was stopped in time. Parham was prominent with a couple of good bursts, but Gloucester could not get the necessary opening.

Miles was penalised again for off-side tactics, but Tingle replied splendidly to Wood's kick, and Gloucester profited very little. Stephens, receiving from Gent, punted across for Hudson, but both the latter and Lewis missed. Hall, however, came up and punted to the centre of the field, but Johns could not take the ball. At this stage there was a stoppage for an injury to Gent.

Resuming, Huzzey marked, and with the kick, Lewis made some 30 yards. Lydney went close to the line after this, and Gloucester had a narrow escape. The visitors lost ground in attempting passing, and Cook was instrumental in securing a more favourable position. Johns, with a fine dribble, further improved matters. From a knock-on in a throw-out, however, a Lydney player was allowed to proceed, and the visitors reached the home 25 before being checked.

Subsequent play was scrambling, but slightly in favour of Lydney, who were playing a hard, bustling game. Huzzey tried another drop for goal just before the interval, but only a minor resulted.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester Nil
Lydney Nil

Vears resumed, play settling at mid-field. A smart bit of work by Stephens sent the game to Tingle, who, however, effected a good clearance. The forwards principally controlled the game, but the play was very scrambling. At length Hudson put in a strong effort, and Cook also had a dash, but he was stopped outside. Then from a line-out Matthews secured, and ran over the line and behind the posts, for Wood to convert.

Lydney re-started, and the visitors gained a footing in the home half. Stephens punted out well, and Bayliss in reply failed to find touch, the ball going to Johns. Some neat exchanges looked promising, but mistakes occurred, and the outcome of a scramble was a clearance by Lydney to the centre. The visitors played up strongly, and Lewis, with a splendidly judged kick, found touch a yard from the Gloucester line. The City worked out a few yards, but from a line-out a visitor scored a good try. No charge was allowed, but Tingle failed with the place-kick.

Gloucester played up desperately on the resumption, and following a bout of passing Hudson was set going. The International had a rare dash, but could not beat Tingle. The ball getting loose Cook ran over, but was called back for a forward pass. A score, however, was not long coming, for after a splendid dash down touch “Whacker” Smith crossed in the corner – a very fine try. The kick at goal failed.

After this Gloucester settled down to some fine football, and the visitors were outplayed. The City forwards heeled continually, and the backs handled smartly, but the defence was good. Picking up in the open, Hudson brought off another strong run, being only tackled a few yards outside. Lydney cleared from a dangerous position, but from a long punt by Wood a touchdown resulted.

Following the drop-out Gloucester attacked strongly again, but the City could not break down the defence. Neat play by Bayliss led to Lydney improving their position, and Gloucester had a narrow escape. Johns was conspicuous with some good footwork, but the home forwards lost the ball, and Lewis regained the ground with a clever kick. A mis-kick by Hudson made things look ugly for the City, but the situation was saved. Some desperate work followed, both teams working hard, but there was an entire absence of finish. Gent got the better of a long kicking duel, but subsequently Lydney secured an advantage. They were beaten off, and Wood, with a big kick, transferred operations to the visitors’ end. Gloucester appeared certain to score in the next few minutes, but Lydney saved on the line.

Subsequent play was wholly confined to the Lydney end, and only superb defence prevented a score. Cook and then “Whacker” Smith made great efforts to get through, but failed. Eventually, from a long throw-out the ball got to Johns, who with a clever feint beat the opposition and scored a good try. Wood was unsuccessful at goal.

Before the end Gloucester worked out another beautiful opening, Hudson being well placed. Hall, however, after beating his man, tried to cut inside and was collared.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal, 2 tries (11 points)
Lydney 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

It was a hard, bustling game, and Gloucester by no means had an easy journey. From a spectator’s point of view it was not an exhibition to enthuse over, play being very scrambling, and far too many mistakes occurring to make it interesting. For three parts of the game Lydney gave considerable trouble, but the visiting forwards failed to last, and in the final quarter of an hour Gloucester did all the attacking.

That only two tries were scored during this period the City had themselves to blame in a measure, though one must give the Lydney men credit for close marking and sound tackling. Gloucester started so well that it looked as if the home men would pile up points, but things went wrong at the critical moment, and failure to score in the early stages caused a general falling off.

Things brightened up in the second half, and at times some fine bits of play were witnessed. Forward, Gloucester did not maintain the standard shown in previous matches. The men appeared put off their usual game by the rushing tactics of their opponents, and more than once the play was wild and erratic. Lydney were smarter in the lines-out and in the loose, but in the scrums matter were fairly even. Johns was again greatly in evidence, and Collins, Matthews, Parham and Hollands caught the eye most in the open.

The visiting pack were a good level lot. Downing was very prominent in the loose, and in line-out play, Sleeman, Jones, and Probert were seen to advantage. At half-back, the Gloucester pair gave the more finished display, Stephens' handling again being very smart.

Miles still retains a fondness for off-side tactics, and he was pulled up several times again to-day. It is a pity the Lydney man cannot rid himself of this defect, for otherwise he is a really useful scrum worker. Jim Jones was not particularly prominent at outside half.

The Gloucester three-quarters put in a lot of aggressive work, but they were not rewarded with the success deserved. G. Cook made his debut in the premier ranks, and the ex-soldier created a most favourable impression. His work all through was characterised by smartness and ability, and he evidently knows what is required of a centre. Cook made several pretty runs, took and gave his passes well, and kicked beautifully when opportunity served.

“Whacker” Smith operated on Cook's wing, and the veteran played on of his best games of the season. His try was a particularly fine effort, and he was nearly through on other occasions.

Hall and Hudson, on the right, accomplished good work, and only deadly tackling prevented the International scoring twice at least.

The Lydney quartet did not do much in attack, but they all tackled and kicked well. Austin Lewis showed a return to his form of three years ago, and he was the saviour of his side on several occasions.

Lydney have discovered a worthy substitute for Meek at full back in Tingle. The visiting custodian was severely tested, but he was seldom at fault, and his kicks were of good length and well judged.

Wood was in capital form for Gloucester, his defence and saving being of the best.

GLOUCESTER A v. LYDNEY A

At Lydney. The visitors played up well in the opening half, their forwards doing the best in the scrum, thus affording their backs good chances. Pegler and Bailey scored unconverted tries.

In the second half Gloucester scored through Dix.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 3 tries (9 points)
Lydney A Nil

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